

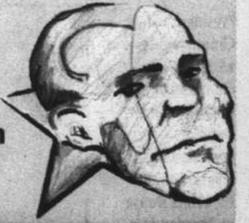
petaluma watson 6: the beginning of the strange plot twist (think ice)
In Opinion/4



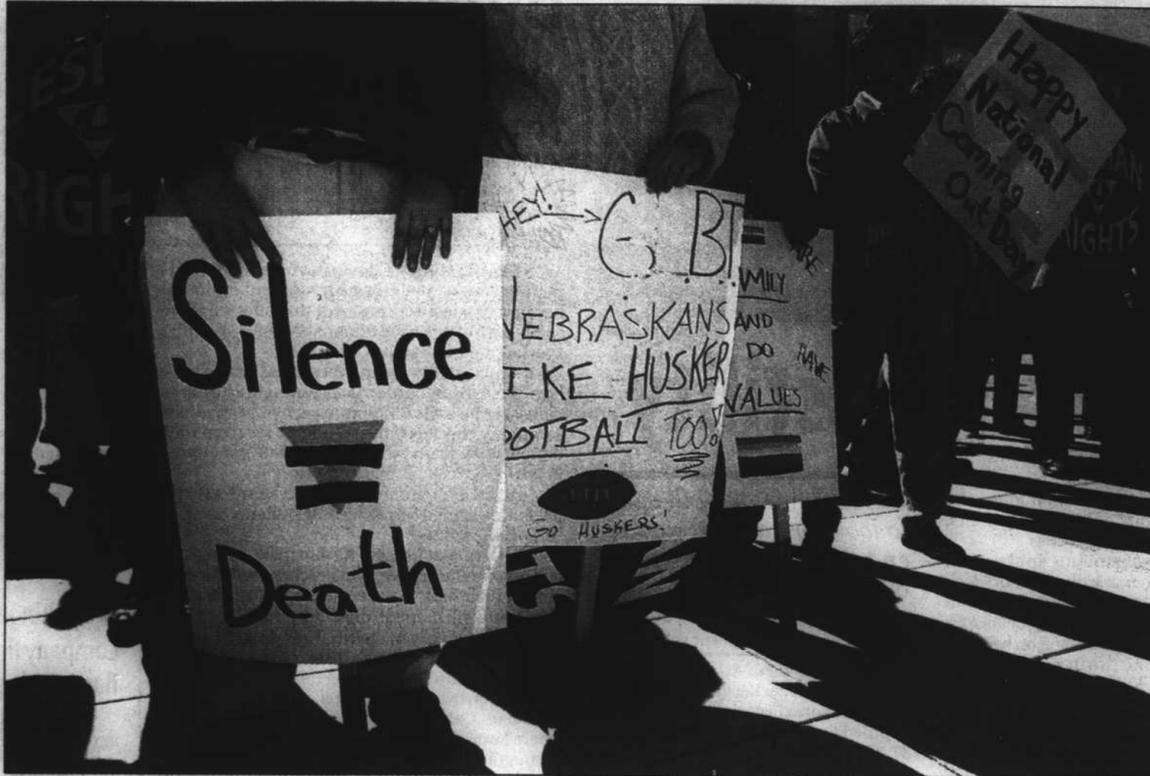
The fate of the college football season remains in the hands of writers and coaches
In Sports Thursday/12



Smashing Pumpkins breaks the rules of the music industry by releasing an online album
In Arts/5



RIGHT: Signs opposing Initiative 416 were prevalent at a National Coming Out Day rally in front of the Nebraska Union Wednesday afternoon. About 100 people gathered to hear speakers that included Joel Schafer, ASUN President, who said he was against the initiative and for gay rights in Nebraska.
BOTTOM: Alex Mason, 8, holds a sign opposing Initiative 416 on the steps of the State Capitol on Wednesday. He said he wanted "416 to go."



Photos by Josh Wolfe/DN

Debate sways few

Election 2000

BY BRIAN CARLSON

With the presidential race in a statistical dead heat, Wednesday night's second debate between George W. Bush and Al Gore had the potential to make a large impact.

"What we've got here is the tightest race since 1960, between Kennedy and Nixon," said Kevin Smith, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln political science professor. "The bottom line is the race is so tight, these debates might actually mean something."

But among a group of a few dozen students who gathered to watch Wednesday night's debate in the Nebraska Union, there was scant evidence the debate made much difference.

Smith moderated a post-debate discussion. When he asked whether any of the group changed their minds after watching, no students raised their hands.

One student, Jean Schumacher, said she entered the debate undecided and still had not made up her mind after 90 minutes of give-and-take between Bush, the Republican, and Gore, the Democrat.

"I'm basically looking for one strong point that makes me trust the candidate, but I haven't found it yet," said Schumacher, a sophomore advertising major.

Said Smith: "You're a small representative sample, but political scientists would probably say most undecided voters would echo your sentiments."

Because this debate was more civil, Smith said, it bore more resemblance to last week's vice presidential debate between Republican Dick Cheney and Democrat Joe Lieberman than to Bush and Gore's first encounter.

"This seemed to me to be more of a debate between grown-ups, instead of two candidates saying, 'Did not. Did too. Did not. Did too,'" Smith said.

At a time when violence has engulfed the Middle East and a democratically elected president has ousted former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, the debate focused heavily on foreign policy and military issues.

Bush generally favored a strong military buildup, but said he was reluctant to overextend troop commitments or ask U.S. forces to participate in "nation-building" activities, as in Somalia and Haiti.

Gore said the United States should defend U.S. values through humanitarian interventions, as in Bosnia and Kosovo. He said the United States has successfully conducted nation-building throughout its history, as in the rebuilding of Europe after World War II.

'We're queer - Get used to it'

■ This year's Coming Out Day takes a political tone as gay rights supporters encourage people to step out of the closet and vote against 416.

BY VERONICA DAEHN

In front of the Nebraska Union Wednesday, Lincoln resident James Gaster leaned into the guy next to him, draped an arm around his shoulder and said "This is my boyfriend."

Gaster and his boyfriend, Cozad resident Allen Mladek, were at UNL Wednesday to celebrate National Coming Out Day.

Close to 100 people - student, non-student, gay, straight - gathered to support gay and lesbian rights and to oppose Initiative 416 at a rally in front of the union.

That same group of people then marched to the State Capitol, where speakers protested Initiative 416, the constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex unions.

The human train of marchers held signs and chanted "No to 416!" as they walked.

Gaster called the initiative "evil" and said people needed to accept those who were gay and lesbian.

"We're here, we're queer - get used to it," he said. "We're not doing anything wrong."

Brent McCracken, a junior film studies major, said he was tired of his generation keeping quiet in the face of controversial issues.

"I'm straight, but I promote tolerance and a general well-being and love among all people," McCracken said.

Initiative 416, the Defense of Marriage Amendment, is wrong, he said.

"People are being led astray," McCracken said. "(416) is actually a promise of hatred and bigotry. I'm for all people."

Giuli Chingren, a senior English major, disagrees with homosexuality but marched in the rally anyway.

She is a bit different than most other gay- and lesbian-rights supporters.

Chingren calls herself a straight, Christian Republican who is heavily involved in the campaign against Initiative 416.

Chingren said she was hopeful the initiative, which will appear on the election ballot Nov. 7, would fail.

Nebraska has a large population of conservative people, and Chingren said conservatives believed in equal rights for all people.

They also support maintaining the Constitution, she said, because changing it would essentially increase the size of government.

She said she thought conservative Nebraskans would realize this and vote against the initiative.

"I can't allow myself to think this will pass," Chingren said. "It's too disheartening. I believe people in Nebraska are fair-minded."

Because of her religious and political preferences, Chingren said she realized she might have a stronger pull with those conservatives supporting the initiative.

She has talked to many Christians and has helped them better understand the issue, she said.

"As a Christian, you cannot force your views on other people," Chingren said. "You can love the gay community. God loves them, too."



Please see RALLY on 3

Please see DEBATE on 3

\$90,000 might buy new leader Ethics panel OKs rules

■ A Los Angeles firm will conduct a national search for a new chancellor, though administrators say Harvey Perlman's still in the running.

BY JILL ZEMAN

Finding a new chancellor for UNL costs a lot more than the price of a classified ad in the newspaper.

About \$90,000 more, in fact.

The university hired an outside firm based in Los Angeles, Korn/Ferry International, to help identify and recruit top candidates for UNL's highest position, said Joe Rowson, NU spokesman.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is looking for a replacement for former Chancellor James Moeser, who left last July to become chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Former College of Law Dean Harvey Perlman is acting as interim chancellor.

The \$90,000 paid to the firm is a

standard fee determined by the company itself. UNL also used the company to hire NU President Dennis Smith, he said.

The money comes from the university's human resources fund, he said.

Rowson said Korn/Ferry was qualified to recruit candidates because its employees were involved and familiar with many higher-up university officials in the country.

The firm recruits candidates and convinces them to look at the hiring schools, he said.

"Many times, the most qualified people for jobs don't look at ads," he said.

The university's effort to look outside the University of Nebraska for a possible chancellor does not exclude Perlman from the permanent position, Rowson said.

"We want to know for sure we're hiring the best candidate," he said.

Jim Van Etten, search committee chairman, said the firm would be able to generate a list of candidates faster than the members of the committee

"Many times, the most qualified people for jobs don't look at ads ... We want to know for sure we're hiring the best candidate."

Joe Rowson
NU spokesman

could.

The committee, which consists of students, community leaders and faculty members, doesn't always have the time to recruit and review candidates, he said.

The firm and the committee will work together to find a new chancellor, he said.

An advertisement will be placed in the Chronicle of Higher Education along with other educational publications, he said.

The committee members hope to start reviewing candidates' files by early November, he said.

BY VERONICA DAEHN

Members of a committee formed in response to the use of aborted fetal tissue at UNMC approved several guidelines for use of stem cells in research Wednesday.

The Nebraska Bioethics Advisory Committee looked at recommendations made by the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, a group formed by President Clinton in November 1998.

Nebraska's committee approved a recommendation that said federal agencies should not fund research that would use cells from embryos made specifically for research purposes.

The committee also approved a recommendation that would mandate researchers to provide information to prospective embryo donors before they made a decision about what to do with the embryo.

The recommendation reads: "Prior to considering the potential research use of the embryos, a prospective donor should have been presented with the option of storing the embryos, donating them to another woman or discarding them."

The person requesting the embryo donation should make it clear that refusing or consenting to donate would not affect future medical treatment.

The general nature of the research also needs to be described, and the source of funding should be disclosed, the recommendation states.

The donor should also know the research would involve the destruction of the embryos, it reads.

The Bioethics Advisory Committee was formed by University of Nebraska President Dennis Smith in response to criticism the University of Nebraska Medical Center received last spring for using aborted fetal tissue in research.

Another recommendation approved by the committee prohibits researchers from promising donors that their embryos would be used on a specific subject or patient.

Embryos and other fetal tissue should not be bought or sold, another approved guideline reads.

Committee member John Janovy, a UNL biology professor, said the guidelines were tentative. The wording will be adjusted before they actually go into effect, he said.

But once that is done, the guidelines will be university policy on stem cell research.

The committee's work was worth it, Janovy said.

"We made progress today," he said.