

Daily Nebraskan

Since 1901

Editor: Sarah Baker
Opinion Page Editor: Samuel McKewon
Managing Editor: Bradley Davis

Four for Gore Vice president is lesser of two evils - with experience

Despite pundits that charge this year's presidential candidates really aren't all that different - two centrist products of the American elite - voters today have two distinct choices: Keep the good times rolling by electing a well-schooled, if not a bit annoying know-it-all, or take a risk on an inexperienced baf-foon.

Certainly, this choice might be made by selecting the lesser of two evils.

That's fine by us.

Because although Al Gore, the Democratic presidential candidate, can come across as smug, stoic and arrogant, his two decades of public service and expert grasp of public policy make him the best man - lesser of two evils, or not - for the job.

Republican George W. Bush, this perennial fraternity boy, has parlayed one of the great family names in U.S. politics into a pseudo-serious presidential bid.

Never mind Bush's lack of experience - he's held the Texas governorship for six years, which has been described by experts as a constitutionally weak office

whose primary role is serving as state cheerleader.

A vote for Gore, while he is not perfect, will be a vote to maintain America's prosperity. After all, eight years of unprecedented growth ... must mean the executive branch has done something right.

Never mind Bush's lack of intellectual curiosity - a seemingly free-wheeler most of his life; and never mind his recent and politically convenient transition to the quiet, Christian family life.

It's hogwash, and Americans will see through that today.

They will see through Bush's promises of "compassionate conservatism," and realize his policies are throwbacks to his father's days of trickle-down economics, rigidly conservative social policies and pandering to big-business and the religious right.

They will see through his canned speeches, his refusal to answer specific questions on many of his proposals and his reportedly seedy past.

And they will realize that a vote for Bush is a vote for a Supreme Court stacked with Clarence Thomas-like legal lightweights whose main qualifications hinge on ultra-conservative positions.

A vote for Gore, while he is not perfect, will be a vote to maintain America's prosperity. After all, eight years of unprecedented economic growth under Clinton-Gore must mean the executive branch has done something right.

A vote for Gore will mean a vote for middle-class and working-class populations. While Gore is far from a bleeding-heart liberal, he realizes more acutely than his opponent the need to include everyone in economic prosperity.

A vote for Gore will choose experience - a storied and respected career coupled with real-world experience in the work force and true academic exploration of society and greater humanity.

A vote for Gore will ensure the Supreme Court mutates not into an "activist" court, as Bush has charged, but one that realizes the Constitution is a living document that must adapt to the times.

While some of Gore's positions are not as liberal as we might prefer - his support of the death penalty and links with some big businesses are examples - he is certainly, as some have suggested of the choice between this year's candidates, the lesser of two evils.

And don't be fooled by Ralph Nader-supporting Green Party followers.

While Nader has raised significant issues in the campaign - mainly decrying big-business influence - he won't attract enough votes to do anything besides detract from Gore's base of liberal followers.

While his stoic campaigning style and stance on the issues may not be enough to warm your heart when you tick the box in the election booth, don't take a risk on anything "more evil." Mark the box today for Al Gore.

Editorial Board

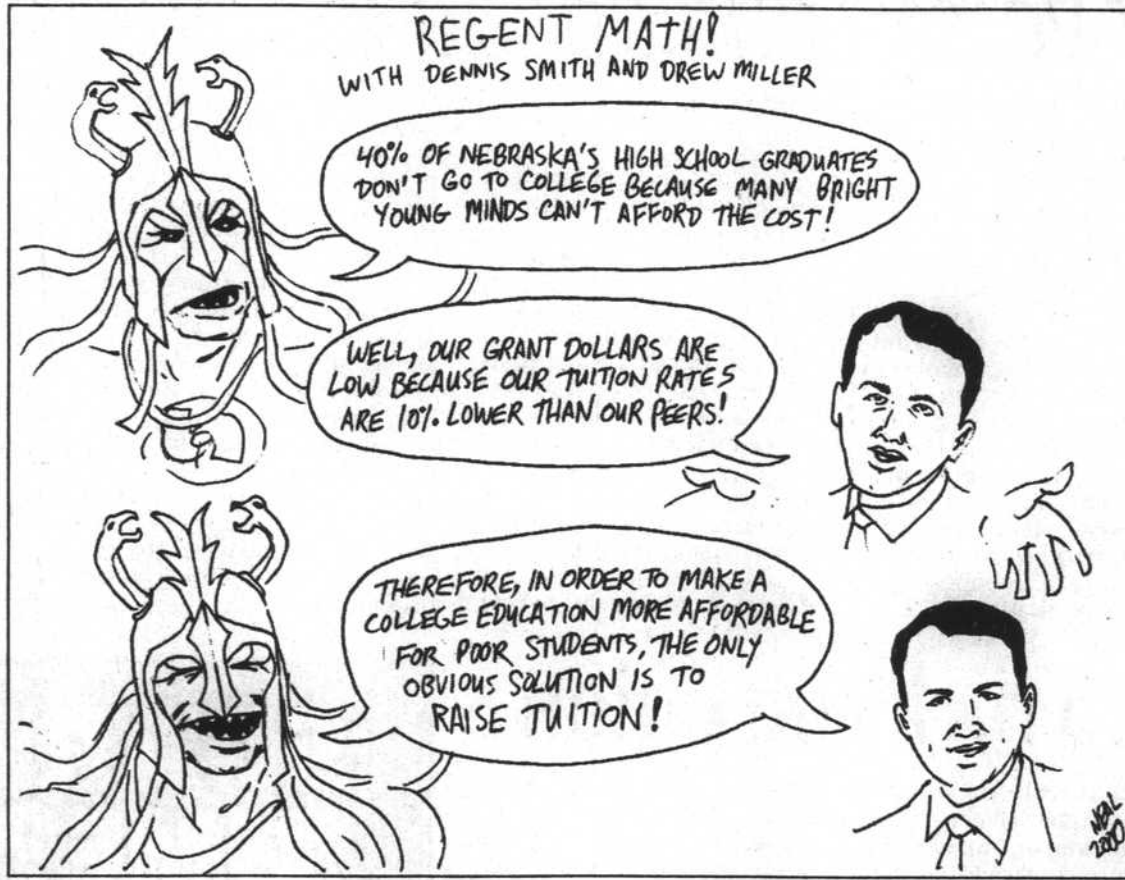
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Neal Obermeyer/DN

Letters to the editor

Feeding the apathy

The implications of Neal Obermeyer's cartoon on Monday truly mocks the honor and prestige that was bestowed upon Jason Mashek and Tracy Prater. Why poke fun at the people who, while at this university, decided to help and make it a better place for you and I?

Personally, I am disappointed that the DN would publish something like that. You are just feeding the fire that already burns with a lack of respect for this university by the student body.

I do realize that it is the opinion page, and I also realize that the cartoon is only the opinion of Mr. Obermeyer, but the DN could have and should have enough respect to not publish something that takes away from this university, and takes prestige away from winning such a sought-after award by outstanding students at this university.

Everyone knows that voter turnout is low for Homecoming royalty. The DN has passed up yet another chance to inspire and instill some spirit in this university by giving little or no media coverage and then continues to mock it?

The apathy that must exist here should and could be taken care of if you, the DN (the paper that is printed so many times that I can't help but pick up a copy because I feel the need to help recycle; and other times I run a little low on toilet paper) would take a little pride in the university.

To Jason Mashek and Tracy Prater ... congratulations and thank you. There are students out there

who do appreciate what you do and what you have done.

James Meuret
political science
freshman

Voting the conscience

Election Day has arrived. Much discussion has taken place about Initiative 416 and, if nothing else, the debate is helpful.

When in the voting booth today, I hope that the debate surrounding 416 has made it so you can no longer vote blindly on this initiative. I hope that you can now picture someone against whom you would be voting by voting for 416. A vote against 416 is a vote for people. A vote for it is institutionalizing discrimination and prejudice and hurting people - real people.

When voting today, be sure you have in mind someone whose life the passage of 416 would hurt. Ask yourself what you have to lose by voting against it.

Ask yourself if you can look in the eyes of someone whose life this affects, and tell them you voted for this hateful initiative. Ask yourself, and vote your conscience.

Andy Schuerman
marketing education
senior

Is it worth it for Christians?

"I could work to legislate morality. I could dream and deny reality. I could fight to defend neutrality. But would that safeguard anybody else?"

-Echo of the Truth
Red Letter Edition



Betsy Severin

Tonight, if all goes according to poll, only marriage between a man and a woman will be legally recognized in the state of Nebraska. Just like before.

The passage of Initiative 416 will be partially in thanks to a group of family-values diehards, homophobics, Christians, and homophobic Christians who worked to pass the amendment.

As a Christian, I question whether the non-homophobic Christians in the group have fully thought this amendment through. If top priority is to help all people come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, do we really think that passing a law prohibiting gay marriage will facilitate that?

Perhaps. Perhaps if homosexuality continues to be seen as socially abnormal, people questioning their sexuality will seek God to find out what He thinks about the issue.

But we also could argue that by allowing gay marriage we free homosexuals to discover what heterosexuals are discovering to the tune of a 50 percent divorce rate: Your spouse can not fulfill your deepest desires. We are created for something more than companionship, success, sex, popularity and stability. Maybe this realization will push people to seek God.

Many Christians, myself included, believe Paul when he says in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB) that "neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God."

But for some reason when he says in Romans 13:1-2 that "there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves," we tend to gloss over it.

The Constitution is an authority in America. Therefore, God has established it. Including the part about separation of church and state.

But then there is Acts 5, where the high priest commands Peter and the apostles to stop teaching about Jesus, and they respond that they must obey God rather than man.

So the question becomes: Is this a situation where we must submit to the authority of our Constitution? Or is this a situation where God wants us to uphold His decrees?

Frankly folks, I've been thinking about this for about a month, reading scripture, praying, twisting it around in my mind and talking to anyone who will listen. I still don't know how to vote.

This world and everything in it is passing away. Do we want to spend our time trying to make everyone act morally? Even if we could, what good would it do us?

God isn't interested in a change in our behavior so much as He is interested in a change in our hearts.

And yet something in the back of my brain keeps pricking at me like a needle, asking: "If I vote against 416, am I saying that homosexuality is okay? Couldn't I use the same reasoning to justify legalizing rape, drug use or theft?"

Am I being swayed by the fact that while I can see why rape, drug use and theft are wrong, I don't understand why homosexuality is wrong apart from "God says so"?

Fortunately, one thing is certain: Whether this amendment passes or not, God will still work in people's lives, drawing individuals to Himself. God is not bound by the laws of man. But consider this:

A boat was sinking at sea. Water was pouring in through a hole, and the crew was panicking. As three men looked out into the distant sunset, an old man in a canoe suddenly appeared. "Take these life jackets," he said. "Convince the crew to put them on. I'll be back around midnight with help." Then he was gone.

The three started handing out lifejackets but soon noticed that some of the crew had taken to looting. "If I survive this, I'll be a rich man!" one said. The three took time to set up a court system, try the offenders and make a citizens' arrest. They also drew up a series of laws to govern themselves during their time on the sinking ship. By the time they were through, many had already drowned, it was almost midnight, and the lifejackets lay in a pile, undisturbed.

What do you suppose the old man will think when he comes back?

No more Nader signs, 416 debates

As many of you know, the elections are next week.

That's joke No. 1.

They were actually last week, so I hope you voted!

Cricket. Anti-funny.

Anyone, I have free time on my hands now that the elections will be over tonight, and let me tell you, my hands are large. That may not make much sense, but it simply means that my four months of Nader campaigning and anti-416 debating has come to an end, and now I have to find new and exciting ways to fill 14 hours a day. School? Nah. Let's try some fun ways.

I will start by calling my parents. I will call them "Steve" and "Carolyn" because those are their names. Then, I will call them on the telephone. I would like to tell them that since we last spoke I have passed kindergarten, I made it through rehab (as one of the most productive alcoholics on staff), and I went to Israel and Pakistan to say "Hi" to the troops and bring them Nike sweatshirts and Pepsi to show American support.

The second thing I've done was to go fishing with my grandfather and also to fish for compliments at the same time. I don't really count "You look stupid with green hair" as a compliment, per se, but he hugged me afterward. Later I found out the "hug" was because he wanted to see if I had been eating something besides candy corn and watermelon.

Nope. I also will have time to raise test-tube frogs so I can eat them for dinner. I have a pet test-tube frog aptly named Supper who is getting just about plump enough after five years of me wining and dining him. I wouldn't eat the whole frog, sillies, just their legs.

I'm also going to raise kids for the same reason. They're good on crackers.

I'd also like to start a revolution. Now, I'll need a few things: masking tape, rubber gloves, 14 cans of Silly String, laughing gas (the real way to win a revolution) and a catapult just for kicks.

My revolution would fall along the lines of, say, much what Ralph Nader stands for except I would add that we need to kill anyone who disagrees with our viewpoint and also kill anyone who sneezes in public. Fair 'nuff.

Going along the lines of a "revolution" I'd like to wipe out any parking-ticket personnel in this world. Let me just say you can't tow Jill Zeman's car and ticket mine in one day and not feel the wrath of "Los Angry Estudiantes."

The other thing I think I'll tackle, literally, is cleaning my stinky, nasty room and apartment. I think I have driven my roommate, Robin Kramer, seriously insane. She hates me and my poop on the floor. "It smells, and the toilet's only 23 steps away!" she says. I just grin sheepishly and toss my fried chicken bones at her head.

"Shut up! I'm doing important Nader stuff."

"Like what?" she slyly retorts.

"Like, making a sign, OK?" I snort.

"Well, what does it say? Who's going to read it?"

"It says, 'Nader - Not For Sale,' and everyone is going to see it."

"Well, you spelled Nader and sale wrong, and not everyone lives in Lincoln. Now do the dishes."

"OK, after I go canvass for anti-416."

She groans and slams the door, and I think about how I have to buy her a new dress just to make up for my slovenly ways, but I still won't do the dishes.

Perhaps one of the most important things that I will now have time for is watching the ol' boob tube.

I haven't really watched it at all for six months, but I really feel, after not seeing commercials that cater to the quick-paced, electronically-compact, huge-beverage touting Americans, that I have been thinking too much on my own.

I mean, I want commercials to tell me what smells good, what looks good and what chicks dig (when it comes to sexy soft drinks).

Enough with my own ideas and theories (usually involving plans to deconstruct university toilets and water fountains), I want to be mindlessly driven to laugh at things that aren't really funny, i.e. any sitcom in this world.

I also want to go to the mall 24-7. I really love to window-shop, and I haven't had time. Can you buy guns in the mall?

Basically, I'll be back to my same boring self - unless you call scaling the Andes with basketball great Michael Jordan boring. I just call it a day in the life of someone who will have a few more hours of time on their hands.



Karen Brown

Tell us what you think.
Online or talk to a person.

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