

The past comes back: Yasmin McEwen reflects on the karmic nature of friendship
In Opinion/4

Will Bolt is the spark plug that makes the Nebraska baseball team go
In SportsThursday/10



Willa Cather's got a home in the UNL archives
In Arts/5



Forgery list reveals more to confession

BY MARGARET BEHM

A Daily Nebraskan investigation Wednesday found there may have been more to a former UNL student's confession of forged signatures than he originally said.

The forged signatures, which were due Jan. 31, were found on a form people who are running for student government office are required to file.

The former student, Terrance Batiste, admitted to forging 35 of the 200 signatures that were turned in for Rowenna Pacquette, NUFORCE's second vice-presidential candidate.

Pacquette was ousted from the race by ASUN's Electoral Commission on Feb. 15 because after subtracting the forged signatures, she didn't have the necessary 200 to run.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska Electoral Commission fined NUFORCE \$100 in response to the forged signatures.

Batiste told the Daily Nebraskan on Tuesday that the names he forged were all those of his friends, taken from his Palm Pilot electronic planner.

The Daily Nebraskan obtained the list, which included the forged signatures,

Wednesday.

Sophomore Jerrod Meyer and Junior Tim Watson, whose forged signatures and social security numbers appeared on the list, said they did not know Batiste.

Questioned about the inconsistency, Batiste said he didn't recall saying the forged names were all those of his friends.

Upon examining the list, he said three of the 35 forged names were those he'd never heard of.

In fact, he pointed out Burt Bachrach, the composer and musician, was listed as a UNL student on the form - complete with a forged social security

number.

In all, 22 of the forged names aren't UNL students, Batiste said.

Freshman Tiffany True, who described herself as a high school acquaintance of Batiste and whose name was forged, said it was upsetting he faked her signature.

"I'm hurt that he would do this," she said.

Senior Summer Spivey, whose name was forged, said she was a friend of Batiste, and she would have signed the form had she been asked.

Sophomore Todd Ayres, who said he was a good friend of Batiste, was astonished to hear of

Batiste's actions.

"I can't believe he did this," said Ayres. "It's so dishonest."

Ayres said he doesn't think NUFORCE should be punished for Batiste's actions. But, he said, members of the party should have done their homework on Batiste before trusting him.

"He tends to exaggerate the truth in a lot of areas of his life," he said.

NUFORCE Presidential Candidate Angela Clements said Tuesday Batiste was a friend of hers, but he acted unethically.

She said she asked Batiste to gather signatures for Pacquette in Selleck Residence Hall.

"This is really difficult to deal with," Clements said Tuesday. "We ran as a team, but that was destroyed by the absolute unethicality of someone who isn't a part of NUFORCE."

The Daily Nebraskan learned Wednesday that Batiste and Clements live together.

Ayres said he was confused why Batiste would try to forge the signatures.

"I don't know how he thought he wouldn't be caught for using fraudulent social security numbers," he said. "That was so dumb."

Sarah Baker and Bradley Davis contributed to this report.

Legislature

Bill would add sexuality to protected list

BY GEORGE GREEN

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha aims to level the playing field.

His bill, LB19, would prohibit employers from discriminating against employees based on their sexual orientation.

Chambers said he introduced the bill to aid a vulnerable segment of society that routinely has to tackle unfair obstacles on their way to landing jobs.

Barriers, Chamber said, that heterosexual people don't have to hurdle.

"LB19 is nothing less than a plea for human dignity and social justice," he said.

If the bill passes, sexual orientation will join religion, race and other personal attributes protected under the state's Nondiscrimination Act.

Because the bill broadly addresses "sexual orientation," it would protect heterosexuals and homosexuals.

Tim Butz, executive director of the Nebraska chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, emphasized that the law doesn't bestow a special protective halo onto homosexuals.

Instead, he said, the law assures everyone gets a fair shot when they compete for jobs.

"That's all we're really asking for - that everyone be treated the same," he said.

D. Moritz, a retired Omaha Burke High School teacher, said she felt first-hand the effects of a titled job market. Moritz said she feared she would lose her job if her employers discovered she was a lesbian.

For more than 20 years, Moritz said, she masked her sexual orientation. When the school district finally enacted an anti-discrimination policy, she said, a weight was lifted from her shoulders.

"I could be honest," she said.

Chester Thomas, an Omaha man, said he felt "great compassion" for people like Moritz who have to bear the burden of discrimination.

But Thomas said their suffering is only one symptom of a "falling world."

And to preserve what little dignity the world has left, he said, lawmakers must reject LB19.

Homosexuals do not live within the scope of the "natural" design, he said. Various studies have shown that they suffer from a myriad of mental and physical diseases, Thomas said.

"Homosexuality is abnormal," he said.

The state of Nebraska shouldn't condone or protect these defects, he said.

Doug Evans, a member of Research Associates, a group that monitors public opinion, said most Nebraskans don't share Thomas' view of homosexuality.

Evans cited a survey his group administered in August 2000 that questioned 328 Nebraskans about their views on homosexuality.

Seventy-seven percent of those surveyed said it

Please see **DISCRIMINATION** on 3



Nate Wagner/DN

He's not full of it

No Bull wants to cut the crap and help students

BY LINDSEY BAKER

For ASUN presidential candidate Andy Mixan, it's all about relationships.

Mixan, a junior political science major from Louisville, said he wants to revamp the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska by re-establishing the relationship between the student body and the student government.

"A lot of people don't think ASUN does anything," he said. "Right now we're at a do-or-die time."

Mixan said students need to feel their government accurately represents them, a concept at which he says ASUN fails.

He said the current ASUN president, Joel Schafer, has done well trying to move ASUN in a new direction, and Mixan said he wants to build on that foundation.

If elected, Mixan said he would dedicate himself to "depoliticizing" ASUN and making it more representational by focusing less on political issues, such as taking stands on fetal cell research, and more on student programs and services.

He said the support of the student body is crucial.

"The student body president sits on the Board of Regents, and without a unified student body behind him, he can't get anything done," Mixan said.

Though he said rebuilding the lost relationship between students and ASUN may take more than a one-year term, he said he was sure that his No Bull Party could implement all of its platform promises in one year.

Through his dedication, Mixan said, he and his running mates - first vice presidential candidate Bill Westering and second vice presidential candidate Alisa Hardy - propose to change Dead Week policies, create new student e-mail accounts and a start a student judiciary advocate program to better protect student rights.

"I'm strong-willed, persistent and dedicated," he said. "I can lead vocally, but I can better lead by example. I'm going to get done what I set out to do."

Junior political science major Mike Echternacht, Mixan's roommate and campaign manager, said Mixan would

do well as president.

"Andy is a good guy," he said. "He can see a lot of people's viewpoints. He can relate to students as well as administration."

Echternacht said Mixan is well-educated on the issues No Bull Party is presenting, as well as ASUN processes.

Mixan said his leadership positions, which included a term as an ASUN senator, have prepared him to take the governmental reins.

He is the sergeant at arms for Farmhouse Fraternity and has been involved with the Committee for Fees Allocation, Student Alumni Association and the University Program Council.

"They helped me (learn to) deal with people, understand people," Mixan said.

He served as an ASUN senator in the spring of 2000 but took a year off from the government, he said, to step back and identify the government's problems.

Echternacht said that year off gave Mixan a new perspective.

Please see **MIXAN** on 3

No Bull presidential candidate Andy Mixan wants to re-establish friendly ties between the student government and student body. If elected president, Mixan said he would focus on spending more time on student programs and services.

No Bull aims to involve RHA

BY LINDSEY BAKER

If No Bull second vice-presidential candidate Alisa Hardy gets her way, residence halls will get a little bit louder.

The volume of the governing voice of residence halls, that is.

Hardy, a junior biology and premedicine major, said one of her main goals as second vice president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska would be to better communication between the Residence Hall Association and ASUN.

"I've lived in residence halls my whole time here," she said.

Please see **HARDY** on 3

NU bioethics committee recommendations fine-tuned

BY JILL ZEMAN

After hearing public testimony in January about stem cell research, members of NU's bioethics committee fine-tuned their suggestions on the controversial research.

The committee met Wednesday to discuss its recommendations in light of public comments made Jan. 23.

Human stem-cell research was the topic of discussion for committee members, which consists of administrators, faculty members and community leaders.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Interim Chancellor Harvey Perlman, who heads the committee, said the group won't make any drastic changes to its recommendations.

Stem cells are the predecessors to all the tissues in the body, such as the heart, brain, lungs or liver.

The cells have the potential to develop into the cell types of the body organs.

The research has drawn fire from anti-abortion activists because it can cause the destruction of an embryo.

Perlman said "not much" happened in Wednesday's meeting, but the com-

mittee is one step closer to sending its recommendations to NU President Dennis Smith and the NU Board of Regents.

The university does not currently conduct stem-cell research, but the committee recommended in November that NU could conduct the research if certain guidelines are followed.

The research must be approved and justified first by a scientific review committee.

According to the recommendations:
■ Cells cannot be cloned or obtained from in vitro fertilization done especially

for the research.

■ Institutional Review Boards should review all research involving human embryonic stem-cell research.

The committee will change descriptions in the recommendations but not the essence of what was decided in November, Perlman said.

"We didn't make any substantive changes," Perlman said.

Four committee members disagreed with the committee's recommendations.

Barbara Engebretsen, assistant professor of exercise science at Wayne State College; Sister Renee Mirkes, director of

the Center for NaProEthics; Dan Parsons, executive director of Family First; and Lawrence Yost, past president of the Nebraska Bar Association submitted dissenting views with the committee's recommendations.

These will be taken into consideration, along with public testimony, for when the committee redrafts its recommendations, Perlman said.

Perlman said the committee members will contact each other via e-mail during the next month, and if an agreement isn't made on the changes, the committee will finalize a report in March.