

The indie kid: Matzen vows to run in 2002

Independent candidate John Matzen promises more fun-and-games. UNL hasn't seen the last of Braveheart.

BY SHARON KOLBET

The monkey was there. The small, stuffed toy that was John Matzen's tie — and trademark — during the ASUN presidential campaign wore a kilt at the candidate's Wednesday night campaign party.

Matzen himself was in less formal attire as he waited for the night's election results, surrounded by friends and supporters as well as the more traditional hungry families and coffee drinking college students at the Village Inn restaurant on 29th and O streets.

After two false alarms and a cell phone mix-up, Matzen finally received the official call he was waiting for.

Independent Presidential candidate Matzen, and his first vice-presidential candidate, Holly Flanagan, received 440 votes, 15.61 percent of the total vote. He came in third.

Though he will not be in the run-off election, Matzen said he felt pleased to receive so many votes.

"Four-hundred and forty kids voted for us," Matzen said. "That's incredible."

Matzen said if a person placed a dollar value on each vote, he or she would see that the other candidate spent far more on their campaigns than what he spent on his grass roots effort.

"We got more (votes) than we expected," he said.

Matzen said he felt very happy to garner more votes than two of the more established parties.

"We got a lot of people involved," said Matzen's friend Nick Neary.

Flanagan said she was very satisfied with the results.

"We didn't burst onto the scene until late in the campaign," Flanagan said.

"I think a lot of our success can be attributed to word of mouth," Flanagan said. "John is good at getting attention."

Matzen said while the campaign was over, his involvement in ASUN was just beginning.

He said he plans to stay involved in ASUN after the election.

"I plan to attend nearly every senate meeting," Matzen said.

Promising more costumes and creativity, he said he planned to speak during ASUN senate open forum.

"This year was a great learning experience. Now I am familiar with the rules and regulations," he said.

Matzen said he reached out to students who were not normally involved in ASUN elections. Overall, he said the election process had been "a lot of fun".

"This year I got my name out," Matzen said. "Next year I am going to run again."

Matzen said coming in third place had its advantages.

"Its all the fun and none of the responsibilities."



John Matzen, a junior accounting major, finds out he came in third in the ASUN election Wednesday night. Matzen and his supporters gathered at Village Inn at 29th and O streets. He vowed to run again next year.

Despite loss, NUForce says it brought issues to table



NUForce presidential candidate Angela Clements breaks the news of her loss to a friend Thursday night at Crane River Brewpub and Café, 200 N. 11th St. The election ended in a run off between the No Bull and Score! parties.

BY GWEN TIETGEN

No one would have guessed Angela Clements lost the ASUN presidential election Wednesday judging by the reaction on her face.

Answering curious callers on her cellular phone over and over again, Clements rarely let the smile leave her face, even though she knew the outcome.

The NUForce presidential candidate knew the results of the election, but refused to divulge them until her first vice presidential candidate, Erick Kinyungu, arrived on the scene.

The two wanted to announce the results together.

Even though Clements and her running mate came in fourth with 327 votes, or about 11.5 percent of the vote, she said she felt good about the issues NUForce promoted.

"We didn't get last," Clements said. "I feel good about what we did."

Clements claimed 50 percent of the people who voted for NUForce said they had never voted in an ASUN election before. She announced the results standing in front of a mild bunch of 10 people.

All 10 hugged Clements upon hearing the results.

"The two people who won had strong greek support behind them," Clements said.

The SCORE! and No Bull presidential candidates will be in the ASUN run-off election Tuesday.

Clements said she wasn't disappointed that Score! candidate Nathan Fuerst made it into the run-off.

"Nathan is a good guy. He's a man of integrity," Clements said.

Most ASUN candidates were at their respective election parties when they heard the election results.

But when Clements and Kinyungu got the call, they were on their way to meeting supporters at Crane River, 200 N. 11th St.

As Clements and Kinyungu heard the results at the side of the road near Kinkos, they looked at each other and smiled.

"It was just him and I when we started the campaign and it was him and I together who finished it," Clements said.

Though Kinyungu was disappointed that a majority of those who voted were from the greek system, he said he was proud of the votes NUForce did get.

"I'm glad for the experience and what we were able to accomplish," Kinyungu said.

Now, Clements said, she needs to catch up on a month and a half of homework and prepare for an interview in Denver as a finalist for the Truman Scholarship, a national scholarship for public service.

Next time, Clements said, she would much rather be a campaign manager than a candidate.

"Then, I can just go home and their name can be in the Daily Nebraskan," she said.

Clements faced controversy during the last couple of weeks of the campaign when her second vice presidential candidate, Rowena Y. Pacquette, was disqualified for turning in forged signatures.

NUForce party members did prove they had the brains to win a trivia game by more than 2000 points at Buffalo Wild Wings. The party moved there from Crane River after it closed.

With the stress of the past month behind her, Clements reflected on her campaign's accomplishments.

"All we can do is plant a seed," Clements said. "I could say screw the system or I could work within it. I chose to work within it."

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