Winter 2008

A balance of power

Antona Beckman

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/publicpolicyfacpub

Part of the Public Policy Commons

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/publicpolicyfacpub/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Policy Center, University of Nebraska at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications of Affiliated Faculty: Nebraska Public Policy Center by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
Reflection and gratitude from a new U.S. citizen

I remember crossing the border between Texas and Mexico in 1982 in a lime green Volkswagen Beetle, chasing the American dream, which at my young age could be synthesized as smoking Marlboro cigarettes, drinking Coca-Cola and watching "Charlie's Angels" and the Dallas Cowboys on TV. I did not know that one day I would realize the dream, nor did I know that the reality would be much different from what I had envisioned back then.

By LUIS PEON-CASANOVA
Advertising faculty member

The years that followed my arrival were filled with grand adventures, such as graduating from the University of Texas, and grand experiences, such as landing a job at the TV station. I sized it as smoking Marlboro cigarettes, drinking Coca-Cola and watching "Charlie's Angels" and the Dallas Cowboys on TV.

As I grew older and wiser — and it made me realize how much I have enjoyed every minute of the past five years. I have learned so much, and I continue to be challenged to excel every day, just to keep up with you.

We as a nation have gone through what seemed like hours last Friday to start the ceremony in the Federal Building. I actually imagined we were all immigrants in a boat arriving at Ellis Island, separated only by time and circumstance. It was a strange but intriguing thought. Most of your faces are familiar to me before I did, but as I look at you, the newcomers, and you, the Americans, I saw a common bond that transcended time and space. I felt a connection, a sense of belonging like I had never felt before. I hope you did, too, for I imagine it's hard to relate to the actual journey if you are not on it.

After we, the newcomers from Africa, Asia, Europe, North, Central and South America, the Middle East and elsewhere, pledged allegiance to our new country and received our certificates of citizenship from the judge, some of us immediately registered to vote outside of the courtroom.

Bruce Thorson, who documented the event with his camera, asked me, "What were your first American thoughts?"

"Mexican food," I replied, as we headed out to join friends and family at a Tex-Mex restaurant. How appropriate.

I just wanted to express a heartfelt thank you to all who came to naturalize and to let you know that it meant a lot to me to see so many of your faces there. I also want to thank those who wanted to come but couldn't. To all of you, I'm humbled and honored by your presence, good intentions and kind words.

Today I realize that I haven't smoked Marlboros since 1989, and I don't drink pop, either. The original (and still hot) Charlie's Angels are in their 50s, and the Dallas Cowboys still capture my imagination. It seems like a lifetime ago. But I'm a bigger fan of other institutions such as our college. 

LUIS PEON-CASANOVA

A balance of power
Project will spread information on alternative energy sources

By ANTONA BECKMAN

R enewable energy... The phrase sounds good, but many Nebraskans may not know much about what it means. People may have seen those two wind turbines north of Lincoln, but what do they do, and whom do they serve? And what other alternative energy sources are available? Would it be possible and efficient to use one of them? And what exactly are the benefits of ethanol?

In an effort to inform Nebraskans about such alternative energy options, the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, along with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, received a grant of $12,000 to help Nebraskans learn about and be more familiar with the energy options that exist. The project, titled Energy and the Future, started in the fall semester of 2007 with researchers from both the journalism college and the policy center. Project plans call for developing a one-hour information video, a Web site marketing renewable energy and written materials for public distribution.

"The goal of this [program] is to give Nebraskans a sense about what their options are when it comes to renewable energy," Struthers said. "We want to give people in Nebraska talking and get them to be active citizens."

With general information as the key message, all parties involved stressed that they will not be choosing sides. The researchers simply want to help.

Professor Peon-Casanoza wrote this message to his colleagues at the J school after he took the oath of American citizenship on Dec. 7.

ANTONA BECKMAN

The phrase sounds good, but many Nebraskans may not know much about what it means. People may have seen those two wind turbines north of Lincoln, but what do they do, and whom do they serve? And what other alternative energy sources are available? Would it be possible and efficient to use one of them? And what exactly are the benefits of ethanol?

In an effort to inform Nebraskans about such alternative energy options, the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, along with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, received a grant of $12,000 to help Nebraskans learn about and be more familiar with the energy options that exist. The project, titled Energy and the Future, started in the fall semester of 2007 with researchers from both the journalism college and the policy center. Project plans call for developing a one-hour information video, a Web site marketing renewable energy and written materials for public distribution.

The project, titled Energy and the Future, started in the fall semester of 2007 with researchers from both the journalism college and the policy center. Project plans call for developing a one-hour information video, a Web site marketing renewable energy and written materials for public distribution.

"The goal of this [program] is to give Nebraskans a sense about what their options are when it comes to renewable energy," Struthers said. "We want to give people in Nebraska talking and get them to be active citizens."

With general information as the key message, all parties involved stressed that they will not be choosing sides. The researchers simply want to help.

Professor Peon-Casanoza wrote this message to his colleagues at the J school after he took the oath of American citizenship on Dec. 7.

By ANTONA BECKMAN

The phrase sounds good, but many Nebraskans may not know much about what it means. People may have seen those two wind turbines north of Lincoln, but what do they do, and whom do they serve? And what other alternative energy sources are available? Would it be possible and efficient to use one of them? And what exactly are the benefits of ethanol?

In an effort to inform Nebraskans about such alternative energy options, the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, along with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, received a grant of $12,000 to help Nebraskans learn about and be more familiar with the energy options that exist. The project, titled Energy and the Future, started in the fall semester of 2007 with researchers from both the journalism college and the policy center. Project plans call for developing a one-hour information video, a Web site marketing renewable energy and written materials for public distribution.

"The goal of this [program] is to give Nebraskans a sense about what their options are when it comes to renewable energy," Struthers said. "We want to give people in Nebraska talking and get them to be active citizens."

With general information as the key message, all parties involved stressed that they will not be choosing sides. The researchers simply want to help.

Professor Peon-Casanoza wrote this message to his colleagues at the J school after he took the oath of American citizenship on Dec. 7.

ANTONA BECKMAN

The phrase sounds good, but many Nebraskans may not know much about what it means. People may have seen those two wind turbines north of Lincoln, but what do they do, and whom do they serve? And what other alternative energy sources are available? Would it be possible and efficient to use one of them? And what exactly are the benefits of ethanol?

In an effort to inform Nebraskans about such alternative energy options, the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, along with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, received a grant of $12,000 to help Nebraskans learn about and be more familiar with the energy options that exist. The project, titled Energy and the Future, started in the fall semester of 2007 with researchers from both the journalism college and the policy center. Project plans call for developing a one-hour information video, a Web site marketing renewable energy and written materials for public distribution.

"The goal of this [program] is to give Nebraskans a sense about what their options are when it comes to renewable energy," Struthers said. "We want to give people in Nebraska talking and get them to be active citizens."

With general information as the key message, all parties involved stressed that they will not be choosing sides. The researchers simply want to help.

Professor Peon-Casanoza wrote this message to his colleagues at the J school after he took the oath of American citizenship on Dec. 7.