

# opinion/editorial

## J.J. Exon the best candidate to head for Washington

Governor J. James Exon is the most qualified candidate to represent Nebraskans in the U.S. Senate.

The most popular political figure in Nebraska, Exon has served the state well in his eight years as chief executive and is now seeking to represent it in Washington.

Unopposed in the primary, Exon has faced charges of unethical behavior from his Republican opponent Don Shasteen since August.

Shasteen's charges of illegal activities against Exon when his office equipment firm sold copy machines to state ASCS offices, were found to be without legal merit by U.S. Attorney Ed Warin.

Exon's ethical conduct also seems to be beyond approach as his company has had no dealing with the state government since three days



after his election in 1970 and he does not take an active part in its policy making.

Exon managed the state government with fiscal restraint before the notion became politically popular.

Although exercise of the veto

power has been criticized by some, he has used it effectively in controlling state spending and eliminating programs which he felt were excessive.

Shasteen brings twelve years of Washington experience to the campaign having served as administrative assistant to Sen. Carl Curtis, whom he hopes to succeed.

However, his negative campaign and his long time away from the state have tended to work against him.

Exon has already demonstrated he can work well with Sen. Edward Zorinsky, whom he hopes to join in Washington, in the Grayrocks dam controversy and Zorinsky has said he will step down from the Senate Agriculture Committee to allow Exon to serve there, utilizing his expertise in

that area.

Although Nebraska has never had two Democratic senators represent it in Washington at the same time, Zorinsky and Exon seem to represent the views of the state well and will work well together.

Exon has demonstrated his support for education in the past, although measuring this support to fit budgetary limitations, and has pledged to continue such support in the future.

His common sense approach to government and lawmaking seems to fit the state well and will aid him in doing his work in Washington.

Jim Exon has said he will serve Nebraska as a "good hired man" in the capitol. We believe he will do just that and deserves to be supported on November 7.

## Republican complaints of issue thefts unheeded by public

Looking somewhat like the cornerkick who gets burned on a long pass and asks "which way did he go coach?" the nation's Republicans are claiming theft of their positions by Democrats.

I. kent wolgamott

"I am well aware Democrats have a great gift for stealing the other party's rhetoric," said Ronald Reagan.

Don Shasteen, GOP senate candidate, said "Democrats are running as Republicans this year and are crowding Republicans over on the right side of the spectrum."

And such complaints cover the entire ticket.

Democrats, on the other hand respond by stating they are not all the free-spending liberals which Republicans try to paint them but are responsive to the people and careful with their money.

The public seems to believe the Democrats as recent polls have shown that

people believe Democrats are more able to correct economic problems and balance the budget than their Republican counterparts.

Perhaps Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., best remembered as Gerald Ford's hatchet man in the 1976 presidential campaign, may have hit the nail on the head when he said Republicans may have been right on the issues but have done a poor job of delivering their message to the people, allowing their party to be thought of as the party of big business, not of the common man.

So, as Democrats continue to have the public confidence, and win offices, Republicans must find a way to get their message to the people, a task that seems to have eluded them so far.

Gov. J.J. Exon may have provided his opponent, Don Shasteen, with a potential campaign issue for the remaining week before the election by his appointment of Norman Krivosha as chief justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Krivosha is a political ally of Exon's serving as chairman of the governor's senatorial campaign finance committee and having worked with Exon as unpaid personal legal counsel in the past.

Republican officials had pointed out the similarity of an Exon nomination of Krivosha and Lyndon Johnson's nomination of Abe Fortas to the U.S. Supreme Court before Krivosha's nomination and such criticism is sure to increase during the next week.



## Halloween takes new meaning as treats turn into tricks

By Pete Mason

Until I was 12 or 13 years old, Halloween was one of the greatest treats of the year, running a close third behind my birthday and Christmas. The phrase, "Trick or Treat" had no real meaning to me. The object of Halloween was to fill up a shopping bag (the kind with handles that old ladies carry) with candy, thus guaranteeing that I didn't have to raid my mother's purse for change for at least a month.

But quite suddenly, in my early teens, Halloween took on new meaning. The "treat" gave way to "trick" and the next few Halloweens were dedicated to trying to frighten people to death, be they young or old.

There was nothing which could compare to the sight of an eight-year-old child abandoning his bag of goodies, screaming with an amplitude which would shatter plate glass and running the mile in under three minutes; or a mature, supposedly sensible grown-up losing control of his eyeballs, his tongue, his legs and occasionally his bladder.

Wanted posters

If my best friend and blood-brother, Bobby, and I had been adults, our faces would be on every post office wall in the state of Maine for the nefarious deeds we committed on All Hallow's Eve. We were calculating, unholy terrors when it came to phantasmagorical pranks in the dead of night.

One of our favorite tricks, which took little time or cost, was "the flashlight to the face" play which was guaranteed to stop the heart of even the most hardened men. One simply hid behind something—a

tree, a bush, a fence—waited for an unsuspecting passer-by, placed the flashlight under the chin (which illuminates only the chin, nose and cheeks, leaving the eyes black and hollow) and stepped out into the view of the victim.

With this trick it is totally unnecessary to scream like a banshee or make disgusting noises with the throat. One only needed utter a subdued, pleasant, "Good Evening."

The effects, though varied, are immediate. Children, 12 and under, tend to



throw anything they're carrying straight up. Generally there follows a gurgling sound, then the sound a cat would make had it been set on fire. The victim then jumps anywhere from three to six feet into the air, legs flailing in an attempt to find solid ground and some traction. Usually the feet are spinning at such speed that when they finally touch down there follows a sound not unlike a dragster burning rubber. The victim then zips off like something out of an old Huckleberry

Hound cartoon.

Grown-ups different

Grown-ups react somewhat differently. It is particularly humorous to watch them grip their chests and stagger backwards, eyes rolling, tongue hanging down to their navels, hair standing straight up like the hackles on a crazed rooster.

Where children usually spring and fly, adults usually root themselves to the spot, occasionally sitting down with a resounding thump, sometimes actually digging deep holes into solid sidewalk like lunatic

inability to sit for at least a week.

But such are the risks one must take when attempting to create a moment. All artists must suffer for their art from time to time. Bobby and I were no exception.

The last prank we ever pulled was on old Mr. Greavy, an octogenarian blinded in one eye and confined to a wheelchair. We used the "illuminated head rising above the gravestone" ploy. As Mr. Greavy rolled by the graveyard, as he was wont to do as he lived next to it, Bobby and I emitted a low, harmonious moan and rose slowly above one of the larger monuments.

Only miracle

It was the only miracle I have ever witnessed. Old Mr. Greavy made a sound like a strangling pig and leaped a full eight feet out of his vehicle. His feet were mere blurs as he came down. In a single bound he leaped the cemetery fence and rushed at us, arms outstretched, hands frozen into lethal claws.

We stood frozen to the spot, mouths agape, eyes bugging out of our heads. "Kill," screamed old Mr. Greavy. "Waaa!" screamed Bobby and I. We spun around and began dodging gravestones on our way to Canada. Occasionally we turned to see old Mr. Greavy hurdling stones like an olympic champion. That only spurred us on with greater determination.

It is a mystery to this day how we escaped the wrath of old Mr. Greavy. The experience shook us to our very foundations. Bobby began attending church with great regularity. I took up needle-point. The following Halloween was just another autumn evening. If I remember correctly we spent it hanging crepe paper for the Fall Ball at the American Legion Hall.