

# Daily Nebraskan

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## Chambers defends qualifications

By Pat Higgins

State Sen. Ernest Chambers wants to be the state attorney general. He is running as an independent candidate against long-time office holder Paul Douglas, who has not been opposed in the last two elections.

"People tell me that Paul Douglas is such a nice guy, that no one wants to run against him. What has happened is that there has been mutual agreement among lawyers not to oppose him. It reminds me of the rackets where they mark off territories. It takes an outsider with no fear, like me, to challenge their system," Chambers said.

Chambers is a graduate of Creighton Law School but he has refused to take the bar exam. Douglas has said that this makes Chambers unqualified for the attorney general's office.

"I've already shown that I understand the law. I've taken Paul Douglas on head-to-head four times and have won," Chambers said.

Among these issues were the multibank holding bill in the Legislature two years ago, he said.

### Action unconstitutional

"The governor didn't want to sign the bill or to veto it because he would alienate one group of bankers either way. Paul Douglas told him that he could send the bill back to the Legislature and it wouldn't be a veto or a signature. I realized this was unconstitutional but I was once again hooted down in the Legislature. However, the bill went to the State Supreme Court and a miraculous thing happened, the state attorney general's office and the Supreme Court adopted my position," Chambers said.

Other issues that Chambers has challenged Douglas on include a housing fraud case in Omaha, Chambers' bill that limits tickets to \$10 for speeding on the interstate under 65 miles per hour, and a plan by Omaha utilities to be compensated by the state because the North Omaha freeway would force them to relocate.

"One overworked, underpaid, quote, unqualified, unquote, state senator has been able to beat the entire attorney general's office, which has two dozen layers working there," Chambers said.

Chambers said the attorney general's office has become politicized under Douglas. The office should be non-partisan and dedicated to justice, Chambers said.

### Actual governor

"The initials 'AG' are supposed to stand for attorney general but ever since Douglas has been having his clandestine meetings with Charles Thone to give him his marching orders, I say 'AG' stands for 'actual governor.' Charles Thone is only the titular governor," Chambers said. Douglas has long been considered one of the major powers in the state Republican Party.

Chambers has challenged Douglas to a series of debates. Douglas has so far refused. Chambers said these debates would be as historic as the Abraham Lincoln-Stephen Douglas debates in the 1850s.

"Not to be boastful, but I don't think that anyone in the state is in my league as a speaker. However, the way I've challenged Paul Douglas he should lose all self-respect if he refuses to debate. I'll debate him at any time or place. He can even plant trick questions if he wants to," Chambers said.

If elected, Chambers said he would emphasize consumer protection. He said there have been abuses in state agencies that need to be investigated.

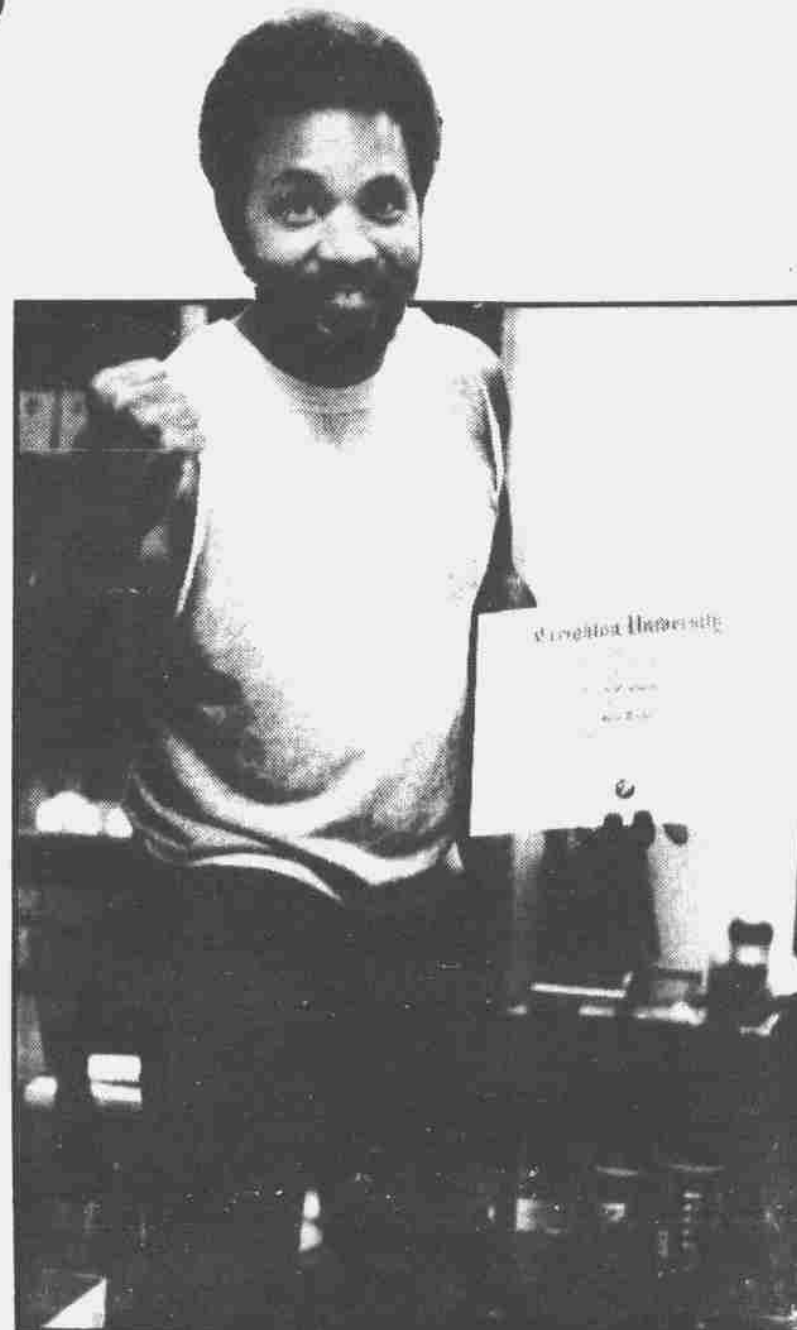
"People think I'm an ombudsman, they come to me from all over the state to blow the whistle on various things. They think that I have more power than I do. They think I can pull a rabbit out of my hat and I don't even have a hat," Chambers said.

There is a difference between power and authority, Chambers said. Authority comes from the position of the office while power comes from personal ability. He said state Sen. John DeCamp and state Chief Justice Norman Krivosha are examples of authority with power.

"I know I could turn things around. Just give the office. If people just look at my color and are reluctant to believe that a black man can be intelligent and therefore don't vote for me they'll be losing a good thing," Chambers said.

Chambers was an independent candidate for governor

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Staff Photo by Dave Bentz

Challenger Ernie Chambers flexes his law credentials in his bid to wrest the attorney general title from incumbent Paul Douglas.

## Dense-pack missile scheme remains 'uncertain'

By Chris Welsch

The dense-pack scheme for basing M-X missiles relies on uncertainty for its success as a defense system, a UNL physics professor said.

Leo Sartori spoke Thursday at the Physics-Political Science Colloquium at Brace Physics Laboratory.

"Nobody really knows how well the dense-pack system would work," said Sartori, an adviser to the Arms Control

and Disarmament Agency from 1978 to 1980.

Although the Soviets do not know if the system would work, they are not willing to gamble probably to find out, Sartori said.

The dense-pack system uses 100 M-X missiles that are located less than a half-mile apart, he said. The missiles, in super-hardened protective cannisters, would rest in a triangular-shaped configuration.

The dense-pack system is different from other systems because its main advantage in "fratricide" by having the missiles close together.

### Missiles protected

Fissioning neutrons, the shock wave and air disturbance from the explosion of incoming bombs would protect missiles in the dense-pack, he said. Dust and debris in the air would play the most important role in impeding incoming missiles by destroying or throwing them off course for the remaining missiles to lift off. As long as half of the missiles can take off, the system would be effective.

All hypothetical situations described were based on calculations because of the strict moratorium on atmospheric bomb testing, he said.

However, estimates indicate that it would take several hours to destroy the dense-pack at a high risk rate, he said.

If the Soviets could develop a "soft-lander" system, where the missiles land before exploding, they could overcome the protective mechanisms of fratricide, he said.

### Cost escalated

The total estimated cost to taxpayers for each year of survivability is \$23 billion, including maintenance costs, but the actual cost could be two to three times greater, he said.

The Soviets understandably would be dismayed if the dense-pack system receives the go-ahead, he said. At this point, the

dense-pack will probably be the basing mode recommended to Congress by the Reagan administration.

The arms-control implications of dense-pack are in violation of SALT II, Sartori said.

SALT II prohibits any more fixed ground-based missiles, but officials may have discovered a loophole, he said.

The United States and Russia have been "quietly observing the treaty," he said. The treaty was signed but never ratified by Congress.

A proposal to claim that the M-X missiles in dense-pack actually are mobile was suggested, he said, since the missiles are in cannisters placed in holes in the ground and could theoretically be moved.

There was talk of putting in one additional hole, a total of making 101, so the United States prove the missiles are mobile. The missiles could be switched around by using the extra hole, he said.

"You can imagine the reaction the U.S. would have if the Soviets implemented such a plan," he said.



Staff Photo by Dave Bentz

Leo Sartori

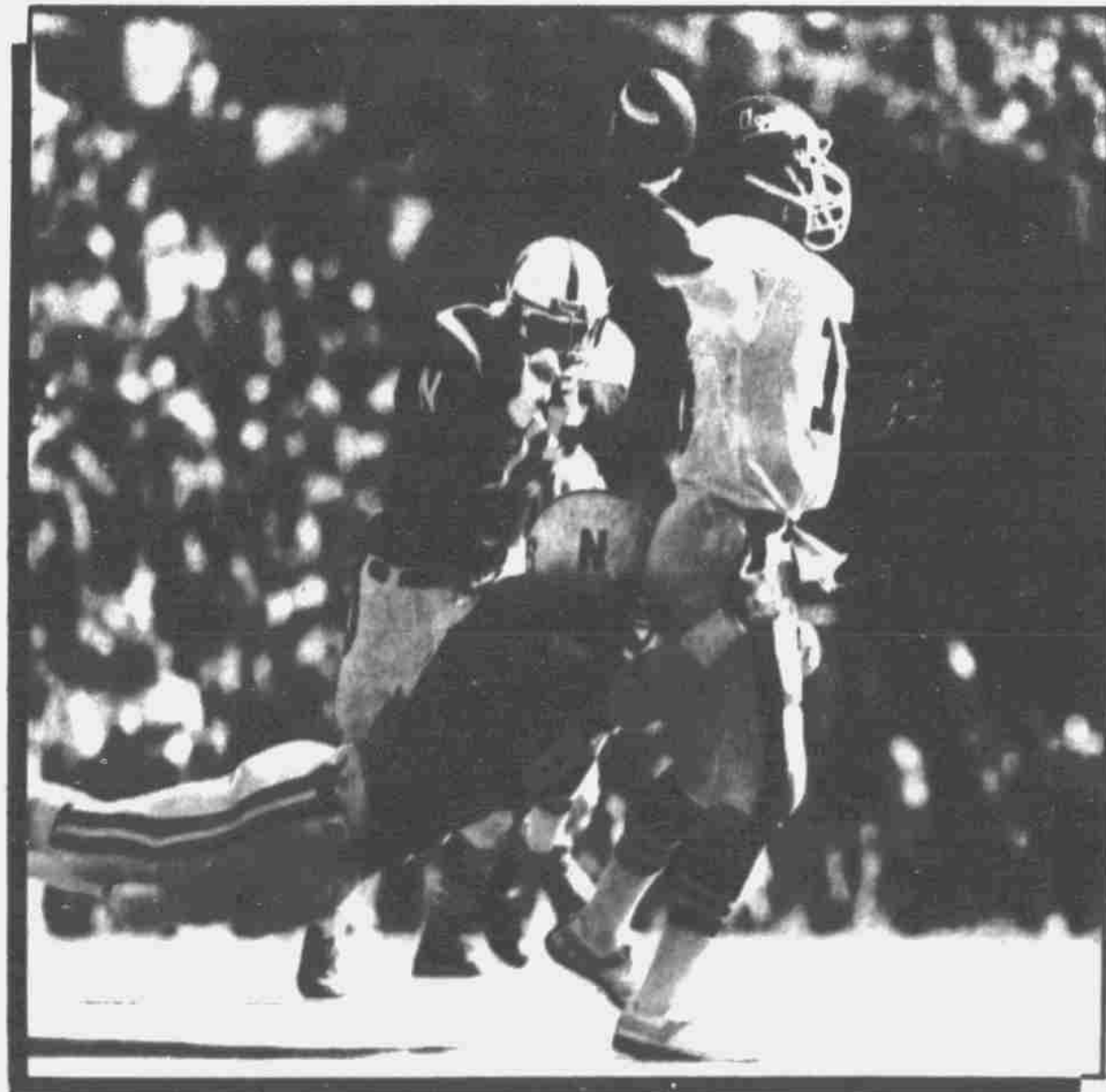


Photo by Dave Bentz

## Cornhuskers sack Aggies

New Mexico State quarterback Jamie McAlister (15) tries to send a pass before being tackled by Nebraska's Dave Ridder (86), while Rob Stuckey (75) looks on 68-0 Husker win in Memorial Stadium. It was a day for the record book as the Cornhuskers broke four NCAA records en route to victory. For details, see pages 10 and 11.