

# Editorial

Daily Nebraskan  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Boosalis endorsed Experience gives her edge

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Helen Boosalis should be the people's choice as their next governor of the state of Nebraska.

Based on her experience in city and state politics, she overshadows her Republican opponent Kay Orr.

For the record, she was a member of Lincoln's city council, served two terms (1975-83) as the mayor of Lincoln and was an advocate for the state's elderly as director of the state Department of Aging.

As Lincoln's mayor, the number of businesses expanded at a rate twice the national average. She created 98 new or expanded businesses and added over 12,000 new jobs, and the city had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.



Boosalis

If one looks downtown, the development and completion of the Centrum and Atrium, the Cornhusker Hotel/Convention Center and the trees lining the

downtown streets are a result of Boosalis' leadership.

In terms of education, the candidates are even. Both favor cuts in the university budget. Boosalis emphasizes undergraduate education, Orr research. Both aspects are important at a continuously growing state institution.

Boosalis realizes the agricultural problems facing the farmers of this state. If elected, she has devised a plan that would alleviate those problems. Among her ideas are the formation of a regional organization for agriculture, the restructuring of the agricultural debt and the establishing of a family-farm technology center at the university to push research for alternative crops and lower production costs.

Our only qualm with Boosalis is that she says she won't raise taxes. As mayor the sales tax remained the same and property tax levy decreased. But the state level is different, and with the number of programs she proposes, she will find it difficult to keep that promise.

Despite that, on the basis of experience and initiative, the Daily Nebraskan recommends voting for Boosalis Tuesday.

## In a paragraph . . .

### More U.S. firms leave South Africa

More and more major American firms are leaving troubled South Africa. Ford Motor Co. set the precedent. Coca Cola soon followed, then General Electric, and now General Motors and IBM have also pulled out. The departure of these firms should signal to the other 280-some American companies still in South Africa that they should leave, too.

Attorney General Edwin Meese clarified something that probably needed clarification: Supreme Court decisions are not the law of the land; the Constitution is law. In a speech at Tulane University last week he criticized a ruling that contained language suggesting that the Supreme Court seemed to equate its decisions with the Constitution.

The ruling, Cooper vs. Aaron, referred to the landmark school desegregation case four years earlier, Brown vs. Board of Education, as "the supreme law of the land." Meese was just setting the record straight.

Friday is Halloween and the Daily Nebraskan would like to urge the campus community to use extreme caution and act responsibly in its Halloween festivities. Since the holiday falls on a weekend, the risks for people getting out of hand increases.

●Syndicated columnist William F. Buckley Jr. and "Firing Line" host teaches at the Buckley School for Public Speaking. Anyone who has ever heard Buckley speak may want to think twice before enrolling in his school. Buckley has a peculiar "Yale" accent and a large vocabulary.

●Also on conservative lines . . . TV star Tom Selleck (Magnum) can be seen on TV in an advertisement for National Review magazine. This might narrow the gender gap down considerably.

●Students may be able to hear the sounds of KRNU filtering through the speakers in the Nebraska Union. The union is considering airing the student station. It would be a boost to the broadcasting people at KRNU if they could get the union audience.

●In Michelle Ebad's letter to the editor in Tuesday's DN, she mentioned "beeflies." DN did some research to discover the word's definition. We believe a beefly is when several people slide an individual on a floor doused in beer. If this is not the proper definition, we would appreciate a letter or a call for an explanation.

## Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the fall 1986 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Jeff Korbelik, editor; James Rogers, editorial page editor; Gene Gentrup, managing editor; Todd Von

Kampen, editorial page assistant and Tammy Kaup, associate news editor.

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The above graphic was submitted by Wendell Leubbe, arts and sciences, junior, and Curt Eberspacher, ag economics, junior, protesting the accounting class taught from videotape.

## Posture, prosperity, puffery Orr knows states' limitations — a responsible approach if elected

In "The Prince," Machiavelli wrote that to become the ruler of a constitutional principality, "one needs neither prowess alone nor fortune, but rather a lucky astuteness." In modern democracies, deciding whom to vote for is essentially an optimization problem. The candidate who will best achieve the set of goals the voter holds. Understanding these goals is the astuteness Machiavelli mentioned.

Private goals writ large are termed the commonweal, and it is Nebraska's commonweal that Kay Orr advances better than her opponent.

This year's campaign has raised a number of issues and too many non-issues masquerading as real issues. Obviously, not all the issues can be addressed in one newspaper column. Nonetheless, a fairly compelling case for an Orr vote can be constructed under the heads of this alliteration: posture, prosperity and puffery.

**Posture.** There is wisdom and realism in Mrs. Orr's conservative posture. Socrates counted himself wise because he at least knew what he did not know. He counted others unwise because they were not aware of their limitations.

In the realm of the political, as in the realm of the philosophical, knowledge of limitations is a virtue. And knowledge of the limitations of the state is perhaps the highest virtue to which a politician can aspire in the era of the modern government.

Throughout the campaign, while Boosalis (in keeping with the requisites of her "new vision") proliferated promises, Orr's pledges always were tempered by her affirmation of the state's limitations. Such temperance is the basis for a responsible approach to governance.

**Prosperity.** Orr's tempered approach to governance has led her to a more integrative approach to economic development. Her ideas on economic

renewal form a cogent whole with her other proposals.

At the core of Orr's proposal is an appreciation of the need for expanding the technological knowledge base in Nebraska. Her ideas for economic renewal and her emphasis on facilitating research at the post-secondary level cannot be meaningfully separated.

The two strands of thought taken together form the foundation to bring

better-trained minds to receive graduate education at schools like M.I.T. Orr's proposals at least hold the possibility of reversing Nebraska's widely noted brain drain.

**Puffery.** Puffery is endemic to laundry detergent ads and political campaigns. Yet even in this sphere (where the extraordinary claim is ordinary) Boosalis's claims about employment in Lincoln tread the tattered edge of excess.

As recently as Oct. 22 Boosalis was repeating the figure that 3,100 manufacturing jobs were created during her tenure as Lincoln mayor. But a Lincoln Journal reporter, after checking "the source cited in Boosalis campaign literature," concluded in an un-bylined Oct. 23 story that Boosalis's claim "cannot be established from the information it contains."

Additionally, the reporter noted that even given several modest assumptions, "there was a net decline of 2,255 manufacturing jobs in Lincoln" during Boosalis's tenure. Also, Department of Labor statistics indicate "a net decline of 1,188 manufacturing jobs in Lincoln." The Boosalis campaign's response was that they never claimed to be using net figures. Now that's rather lame.

"Hey, Boss," the eager employee intones, "the good news is that we grossed over \$100 million last year. Of course, the bad news is that we lost \$200 million."

Is the boss going to dance for joy at this information, or weep in his wine? What would have happened to the employee if she had only shared the good news with the boss and neglected to relate the bad? If Boosalis was your employee and neglected to give you net figures on the companies gains and losses, would you give her a promotion based on a sterling work record?



Jim Rogers

what I term the "M.I.T. effect" to Nebraska. This claim merits brief explanation. Five years ago the New England states formed the eastern edge of what was (disparagingly) called the "rust belt." Today, however, the New England area is in the midst of an economic renewal. Economic commentators consistently point out that the heart of this renewal are the high quality research universities of the area — especially in the Boston area — hence the phrase, "M.I.T. effect."

The combination of "on-the-cutting-edge" research activity and the attractions of the area (qualities which are shared by Lincoln) has sparked the economic rebirth of the entire geographic area.

An emphasis on research at UNL can realistically lay the groundwork for a diversified Nebraska economy, and diversification is the crying need of this state's beleaguered economy.

Boosalis's respective emphasis on undergraduate education lacks the integrative vision of Orr's proposals. At lead to is that Nebraska will send

## Poor deprived Southerners miss spark of the jumper-cable season

While giving a friend a lift to the airport, I pointed out the fall colors and asked if he had ever thought about how fortunate we are to live in a climate where we have four distinct seasons.

"Ah, yes," he said. "I was thinking about that just the other day while playing golf. The foliage on the first hole was spectacular."

Did you play well?  
"I played the first hole OK. But a heavy cold rain suddenly blew in and I was soaked to the skin before I could wade through the puddles back to the

clubhouse. Thought I'd catch pneumonia for sure."

Mike Royko



And I'll bet the first thing you did was order a hearty drink to ward off the

chill.  
"Exactly. A warm rum toddy."  
That's what I mean about the four seasons.

"I suppose so. They'd just keep playing the entire round, with nothing more to look forward to than a cold beer or a gin-and-tonic."

Right. So they don't know what they miss. Not just golfers, but all of those sunbirds. They don't know what it's like to stick your head out the door at

See ROYKO on 5