

Daily **Nebraskan**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Quibbles & votes

### DN supports Bereuter, betting amendment

Editor's note: Throughout the week, the Daily Nebraskan editorial board will share its endorsements for the 1988 elections. The DN will publish separate editorials about its decisions on the presidential, U.S. senate and NU Board of Regents races as well as Initiative 403. Today's editorial covers a variety of issues and races on the Nov. 8 ballot.

— Republican incumbent Doug Bereuter earns the DN's support in the 1st District Congressional race over Democratic candidate Corky Jones. Bereuter, who is seeking his sixth term in Congress, has proven himself as a worthy member of the House of Representatives.

Bereuter's educational views are particularly noteworthy. He believes that state and local governments have primary responsibility for education, but adds that the federal government should play a larger role in post-secondary education. He supported a bill that passed through the House recently allowing parents to avoid paying taxes on interest earned from investment bonds used to finance college educations.

Because of Bereuter's support of education, as well as 10 years of experience in the House, the DN gives him the nod over Jones.

— The DN urges voters to "just say no" Initiative 403, which would amend the state constitution to establish a right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes. The amendment would cause more problems than its worth. It could become a legal technicality for the National Rifle Association and other groups to justify their rights to carry handguns.

Secondly, the right to bear arms is a federal, not a state issue. The right to bear arms, at least for militia purposes, is already covered in the U.S. Constitution.

— The editorial board supports both state constitutional amendments No. 3-A and 3-B, which would require registered voters, not electors, to be eligible to sign an initiative or referendum petition.

Changing to the registered voter requirement would help officials keep better track of who's signing the petitions. Accountability has been a problem in the past.

— The DN also urges voters to support state constitutional amendment No. 2, which would authorize wagering by the parimutuel method on horse races run either within or outside of the state if such wagering is conducted at a licensed racetrack.

This amendment would do two things. First of all, it would allow the state to monitor an activity that has been going on illegally for years. Also, it would bring revenue to struggling tracks in the area, particularly Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha, which has received tax breaks to keep the track afloat.

— Mike Reilley  
for The Daily Nebraskan



## Student boos bother Osborne

Classless act also shown by off-field antics of Husker players

It was a cold, rainy day in October 1981, and the Nebraska football team was playing Auburn. Nate Mason was the quarterback for the Cornhuskers and Nebraska had lost two of its first three games.

At halftime, the Tigers led 3-0, and a chorus of boos filled the stadium as the Huskers headed to the locker room.

That was the last time Nebraska football players were booed by a Memorial Stadium crowd—until last Saturday.

As the Huskers left for intermission trailing Missouri 6-0, a spattering of boos cut through the chilly October wind. It seems like it's the thing to do this year. Two weeks ago, fans booed Gov. Kay Orr and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Martin Massengale during the halftime ceremonies of the Homecoming game.

After the game, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne lashed out at the students, apparently even the ones who didn't voice their displeasure.

"Our student section was booing us, which showed a lot of class," he said. "I guess they booed the governor and chancellor a couple weeks ago, so apparently they've got things figured out over there."

Gee, I guess so, Tom. Maybe they've got enough figured out to look at a problem objectively, like that of their school's team resembling Kansas State's, and respond however they see fit. Even if it does lack class.

And as far as booing the governor, that wasn't exactly the case. The students, at least most of them, were booing Massengale for his decision not to move the game to accommodate an ESPN national broadcast.

What Osborne neglected to mention was the fact that 1,000 or so students were booing, not all 15,000. And at least half the boos were coming from older fans—probably even some of the big-money-donating alumni and boosters.

But, of course, Osborne won't criticize them. If he did, where would the money for new practice facilities, meeting rooms and weightrooms come from? Students are easy to criti-

cize. After all, student fees can be raised only so much. Right, Tom?

"We all noticed it," Osborne said Sunday of the crowd's criticism. "Fans have been treated to many years of real good football. If they can't tolerate one half of sub-par performance—that's the way life is."

Yes, that's right. And if Osborne can't tolerate the fans' right to voice their opinions, as negative as they may be, then that's the way life is, too. You can go 'round and 'round about it.



Chuck Green

And the times Nebraskans have criticized any aspect of the Husker football program—even when the NCAA was on campus investigating it—have been few and far between.

Osborne doesn't truly know what criticism is. If he was coaching in a major metropolitan area—one that doesn't have a media that kisses up to the state's only Division I football program and cater to its every need—he would be under the gun all the time.

Take a look at UCLA, Southern Cal, Illinois and Miami. Criticism is a part of their respective every-day schedules.

Osborne is right on one count, though. Booing a team, especially a college team, does lack class.

But then, the 1988 Nebraska team isn't a "normal" college team. For the last couple years, the team has had a very un-Nebraska look—mostly off the field.

And you can take that any way you want.

Osborne says the UNL student body lacks class. How much class is involved in slashing police car tires with concealed switchblades, beating up girlfriends, kicking in apartment windows, lying to the police and the NCAA, shooting BB guns at cars and

bad-mouthing upcoming opponents for weeks in advance.

Or how about taking a swing at a Missouri player during a fumble return for a touchdown? There's some real class for you.

Let's face it, there have been a lot of times in the past few years that Nebraska football players have deserved boos for off-field antics and have gotten none.

For Osborne to denounce students—all students—for voicing disapproval is unfair. It would be like condemning the whole team for stupid off-the-field mistakes of a few players.

That, too, is wrong. But at least it's much more justified.

All season, Nebraska coaches—namely defensive coordinator Charlie McBride—have complained about fan support. According to McBride, either the crowd hasn't been loud enough, or people that criticize the Huskers for their lack of defense and uninspired play are wrong. Uh-huh.

Nebraska's coaches need to remember that anyone in the public spotlight is going to be in the proverbial "fishbowl" of public scrutiny, themselves included. When Osborne, who earns well over \$100,000 a year (including non-salary earnings) for coaching a college football team, criticizes students for having no class, he's not gaining any friends. He's certainly not gaining any sympathy.

And McBride's complaints about the crowd not adequately motivating Nebraska's defense are ridiculous. The crowd isn't getting paid nearly \$60,000 a year to motivate the defense, Charlie.

If you can't do it, neither can the crowd.

Osborne's comments came at a very emotional time. But so did the boos from a small—very, very small—minority of Husker fans.

At any rate, Osborne owes the UNL student body an apology.

Green is a news-editorial and criminal justice major, and is the Daily Nebraskan's copy desk chief and First Down Magazine editor.

## editorial

Signed staff editorials represent the official policy of the fall 1988 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Curt Wagner, editor; Mike Reilley, editorial page editor; Diana Johnson, managing editor; Lee Rood, associate news editor; Andy Pollock, columnist; Bob

Nelson, wire page editor; and Micki Haller, entertainment editor.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who established the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.

## Reader: Kerrey can do the job

In the midst of a sea of bad mouthing, I would like to offer a lighthouse view of the U.S. Senatorial campaign.

Ernie Chambers, a state senator, has years of experience in the Nebraska legislative process. His support, however, barely extends past his constituency, and his recent allegiance with the New Alliance Party brings many questions to mind. Contrary to what Chambers said in a recent debate, one does not run for office under a party without supporting its principles and condoning its actions.

Dave Karnes, the appointed incumbent, has several months of experience in the U.S. Senate. It would be enlightening to learn of his work as senator, but instead his media revolves around smearing Bob Kerrey.

Kerrey, former Nebraska governor, had many economic crises dumped in his lap, the majority of them caused by preceding governors. Yet, it was Kerrey who erased the

state's \$42 million deficit without permanently raising taxes. This upset my colleagues at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Any competent leader (and anyone who knows simple addition) understands that cuts need to be made in order to balance any budget. I was attending UNL when Kerrey was in office. I came to the realization that the future of our state and our lifeline—the farmers—take precedence over my tuition costs. The loss of UNL's nursing school is much less devastating than the loss of a farm to a family. There are three nursing schools in Omaha. The family leaving the farm has far fewer options.

Fellow students join me in reality. Put our state above ourselves. Our education will endure, without Kerrey's help, our farmers may not.

Erin A. Hahn  
graduate student  
political science