

Daily Nebraskan  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Use time more wisely Tax system should be issue at session

The Nebraska Legislature's current special session has been laid back, to say the least. Take Monday, for example. State senators met for less than an hour for taking off a reception. Thirty-three senators spent last weekend at a retreat at Platte River State Park, where they participated in a program called New Horizons.

According to The Lincoln Star, the program is aimed at developing a visionary approach to dealing with the state's problems and getting private citizens to join with senators in finding ways to solve them.

It's not exactly the most intense material in the world. The special session was called this month for a good reason — so the state senators could discuss their long-overdue salary increase. But in the meantime, they're left with a lot of spare time — time that could be spent discussing other important issues.

One of those topics is the state's income tax system, which will definitely pop up when the regular session starts in January.

Sen. James McFarland of Lincoln has pushed to have the issue moved to the current session, but so far has found only seven other senators willing to expand the session to discuss his resolution.

Why the rush? McFarland hopes to adjust the income tax rates before the first of the year. If passed, his proposal would credit the new income tax system being implemented this year with raising income tax liability for Nebraskans by \$60 million, according to an Omaha World-Herald article.

His tax resolution should be debated today or Wednesday. Although waiting until the 1989 session would give senators more time to look at the overall picture of the tax system, they would be wise in following McFarland's lead and start putting the legislative mechanics in motion.

— Mike Reilley  
for the Daily Nebraskan

## opinion READER

### DN ignores UNL bowling team

Football, baseball, volleyball, swimming, basketball. What happened to bowling?

What I mean is that whenever you read the Daily Nebraskan sports page you always hear something about how well all the other teams are doing.

I have only seen one small article about the University of Nebraska-Lincoln bowling team, and that was right after tryouts. There are quite a few people out there who don't even

know we have a bowling team.

I agree that all the other UNL teams are great but we also have a great bowling team. Starting the season, the team was ranked 2nd in the nation. Even though I didn't make the bowling team, I would still like to pick up the DN and read about how the team is doing.

Eric Kirchner  
freshman  
business management

### Equal rights: Equal combat

After reading the story about equality in the military (DN, Nov. 10), I have only one thing to say: Bull!

Military service will never be truly equal until women are forced to serve in combat positions just like men. I realize that federal law prohibits this, but in my eyes, this law makes absolutely no sense.

To all senses out there who are still trying to prove that they can do a job as well as a man, try this: If you ever decide to join the military,

demand a position that may, in the future, require actual combat. If you feel that you have the same ability as a man, prove it.

All the women who demand equal rights without accepting the equal responsibilities that go along with them are just practicing reverse sexism.

Andrew Meyer  
freshman  
pre-med

## editorial policy

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.

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



## Dukakis lost election because . . .

### He played the political game like he'd play a game of beanbag

A judge in Fort Worth, Texas, has summed up nicely the reason why Mike Dukakis flopped as the Democratic candidate.

As the judge put it: "He forgot the first rule of knife fighting — there are no rules."

The judge also summarized the reason why George Bush was successful: "He appealed to traditional American values — bigotry, envy, greed, chauvinism and fear."

That's as accurate an analysis of this election as I've heard, and it's probably more precise than most of the phony reasons people gave to exit pollsters.

Dukakis' problem is that he never did understand what George Washington Plunkett, an old New York Tammany Hall political boss, meant when he said: "Politics ain't beanbag."

He thought he could glide along playing Mr. Nice Guy, staying above the fray, loftily ignoring the kicks in the shins he was getting from Bush.

That might have worked if he had a forceful magnetic personality. But he doesn't. Zorba the Greek talked of having "fire in his belly," which gave him the Greek acted like he had vanilla yogurt in his belly and a zest for reporting time sheets and production reports.

Mario Cuomo might have pulled off the nice guy role because, as an orator, he has the magic gift.

But I doubt if Cuomo would have just stood there, as Dukakis did months ago, letting Bush get away with the cheap, irrelevant shots on prison furloughs, the pledge and the ACLU.

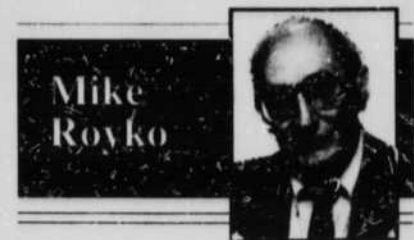
Cuomo has a short fuse, as New York reporters have learned, and it wouldn't have taken him long to slug Bush in the head with the huge federal prison furlough program, with conservative George Will's description of Bush as a "lap dog" and with Bush's feeble claims that, gosh, he

didn't know what was going on during the Iran Arms deal.

But Dukakis and his inept advisers thought he could get away with dropping words as dry as dust and keeping that dopey, Steve Martin smile plastered on his face.

Had Mayor Daley been alive, he would have sat Dukakis down and explained the basics: "When somebody hits you, you hit them right back. If you don't, you look weak. Hit 'em and him 'em now."

Or as another Chicago politician put it: "Two things you can't let an opponent get away with — telling lies about you or telling the truth about you."



Mike Royko

Instead, Dukakis let charges splatter against him and stick like glue. And he looked weak and, at times, foolish.

During the debate, when the clod from cable TV asked Dukakis how he would feel if his wife was raped and murdered, there were any number of effective responses he could have made.

He could have turned on the reporter and barked: "That is a disgusting, inappropriate question." Everybody likes seeing wise-guy reporters put in their place.

Or he could have glared and said: "If that happened, I would have tried to kill the guy with my own hands, as any man would have done. You know that. But it doesn't alter my position on capital punishment, although I respect the views of those who feel otherwise."

Instead, he showed as much fire as if he'd been asked how he would feel

if his wife had been pinched on an elevator. Maybe he should have spent less time reading about housing programs in Sweden and more time watching pop-culture movies like Charles Bronson's "Death Wish."

Meanwhile, Bush got away with the biggest blunder by either candidate — the selection of J. Danforth Quayle, draft-dodger and airhead, as his running mate.

He got away with it because Dukakis couldn't say much, having spent the fighting years of the Korean War in college on a campus deferment. And Lloyd Bentsen couldn't say much because his kids managed to get into reserve units, just as Quayle did.

But by walking the high road, they chose not to use surrogate hitmen to do the job on Quayle. There are Democrats who served and fought and they would have dogged Bush and Quayle on the war wimp issue.

They could have clobbered Quayle on his family's close ties to the John Birch Society, which has far less to brag about than the ACLU. And Quayle's wife's family's devotion to one of the nation's looniest far-right preachers.

But, no, Dukakis went on acting as if politics was indeed the game of beanbag.

It turns out that an old newspaper friend of mine, who has taught for many years at a Massachusetts college, was right. He wrote me last year and said that I should not be fooled by Dukakis' pose as a "true ethnic."

He had watched Dukakis up close and said: "He's what I call a limousine ethnic. He's a cold fish and before it's over, that's going to show."

Dukakis lost because he was a poor candidate and had lousy advisers and ran a second-rate campaign.

But he's a modern Democrat, so what else is new?

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by Brian Shellito

### Campus Notes

