

# Readers address NU football, abortion

## Bereuter's attitude lacks compassion

Congressman Doug Bereuter's decision to vote against the expenditure of public funds for abortion in cases of rape and incest suggests a real lack of compassion and concern for the welfare of the medically impoverished women impregnated because of such abuse. It further suggests political opportunism may have influenced his vote, rather than concern for funding a procedure that only a certain segment of our population finds objectionable.

I have never been a one-issue political supporter or voter, but before the next election I am going to need to seriously rethink my position.

I fully respect his right to oppose abortion. I hate abortion and long to see it minimized. However, I also believe that physical life is revered as God's gift and our responsibility, but it is not absolute, to be preserved under all conditions. In a world like ours, I believe fervently that abortion must continue as a legal option. It is a hard choice that should be made honestly, without pretending, in the awareness that potential life is being ended for serious and compelling reasons. In the faith context, to be pro-life means to be in favor of being human in every sense. It means being concerned about a healthy environment, political and religious freedom, economic justice, peace that is more than absence of conflict -- all the myriad factors which contribute to, or detract from, fullness of life.

The congressman's vote on this issue is not a pro-life vote in accordance with this understanding.

It is truly tragic that poor women, impregnated through the violence of rape and incest, must continue to have their choices severely restricted through this type of discrimination. Although pregnancy as a result of rape or incest may not be a life and death matter in pure medical terms, it nevertheless very often has severe consequences for the victims. We

should not continue to victimize them further.

Ina May Rouse  
Lincoln

## Abortion financing could be abused

Lest the DN's readership conclude that those of the pro-life persuasion have a bent desire to oppress poverty-stricken rape victims, Lee Rood's editorial "Abortion on Fine Line" (DN, Oct. 26) begs for a response.

The issue is whether to allow federal financing (through Medicaid) of abortion for victims of rape or incest. On Wednesday, Oct. 25, the House of Representatives failed to override President George Bush's veto of such a proposal.

In her editorial, Rood criticizes anti-abortion activists and Bush for a lack of compassion. After all, they, unlike indigent women, will never have to face the consequences of the president's veto.

Rood's view of compassion is an ironic one. After all, women (indigent or not), unlike aborted unborn children, do not have to face the true consequence of an abortion. I would argue that true compassion values life, regardless of how it is conceived.

However, the true drawback of this bill is its potential for abuse. The bill states that for indigent women to qualify for a government-funded abortion, they must report a sexual assault promptly to a law-enforcement agency or public health service. Supporters failed to define clearly what is meant by a "public health

service," or what frame is meant by a requirement to "report (a sexual assault) promptly."

Conceivably, an abortion clinic or pro-abortion agency (such as Planned Parenthood) could be construed as a public health service. In addition, a requirement for "promptness" in reporting a rape is ambiguous. The last time in which "prompt reporting" of a rape was defined was during the Carter administration; then, "prompt reporting" meant within 60 days of the rape. Lastly, the bill makes no distinction between first degree and statutory rape.

Obviously, evidence of a rape rarely exists 60 days after the fact. Women who have not been raped could easily claim otherwise. A pregnant minor could claim to be a victim of statutory rape. If this bill were to be abused to its fullest potential, any pregnant women receiving Medicaid would be eligible for a government-funded abortion. All American taxpayers would have blood on their hands.

## Cornhusker fan sick of criticism

This letter is in regard to all of the negative sentiments which have been thrown at the Cornhusker football team this year, especially when the topic is the Colorado game. I simply can be silent no longer.

This entire semester has been filled with ill words, due to the fact that we have not rolled over every opponent by at least 75 points.

Granted, our schedule was not an AP top-10 season, but isn't a check in the win column just that? I know that if I were a member of the team, I would be sick to death of these statements. And yes, I am referring to the fact that the team has spoiled its fans.

As for the progress the team has made this year, the teamwork which outside linebacker Jeff Mills speaks about, and the expertise of "the" coach, I am not conceding to Colorado just yet. I am expecting one dynamic game, one in which I'll be rooting for the Huskers all the way.

Being born and reared in Soonerland, just some 90 miles southeast of Norman, I am very proud to be a Cornhusker. "Our" team travels to Boulder this Saturday, and they need to know that "everyone" is behind

them. One of the reasons that I did not attend the University of Oklahoma was that of the pathetic attitude of the students and the faculty, in more than one sense. If you don't want to support our team, fine, then transfer to OU where you will fit in, oh so very nicely. But more importantly, get out of the way, so the team will know exactly how the true Nebraskans feel about them. And that is: Skin 'em alive! As for me, I could use a new Buffalo-hide winter coat!

Correct me if I'm wrong, but wasn't everyone saying the exact same thing about the Oklahoma game last year?

Mark R. Stapp  
Russian  
junior

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U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

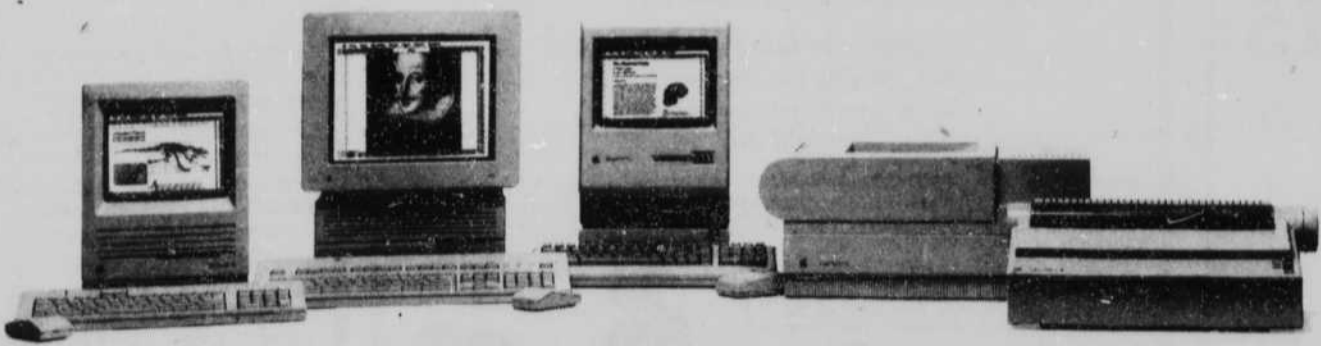
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