

## UNL: Coke got fair opportunity in beverage contract negotiations

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cials and asked them if they'd care to bid on an additional two years at the university, so that they might have 10 years to advertise in Memorial Stadium after the NU Athletic Department's contract with Coca-Cola expires in summer 1999.

Pepsi agreed to extend its bid for another two years and serve as the Athletic Department's sole beverage

provider for 10 years and serve as UNL's sole beverage provider for 12 years.

That contract, worth about \$24.2 million over 12 years, was soon accepted by the NU Board of Regents and took effect July 1, Main said.

The university will hold a celebration on Sept. 18 in honor of the contract signing, he said.

## Bereuter decides against governorship

By BRIAN CARLSON  
Assignment Reporter

Doug Bereuter will seek re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives in November 1998 rather than run for governor of Nebraska.

Nebraska's 1st District Republican congressman said in a statement that he could wield the greatest influence by remaining in the office he has held since 1979.

"Upon very careful reflection, with the seniority I have now developed, the additional leadership opportunities said to await me in Congress, and my ability to work well with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the U.S. House seems the best place for me to continue elective service to Nebraskans," he said.

Bereuter had expressed interest in the governorship and spent the summer weighing his options. A statewide poll of Republicans in June showed him to have nearly a 40-point lead over the two announced Republican candidates.

But Bereuter, a former Nebraska legislator, said he enjoyed his opportunities in Congress to work on

national and international issues in addition to state concerns.

Andy Abboud, executive director of the Nebraska Republican Party, said he wouldn't have been surprised by Bereuter's decision either way.

"We're glad he's going to be running for the House again, but at the same time we felt he would have been a very strong candidate for governor," he said.

Abboud said he still was confident about the Republican Party's chances in the gubernatorial election.

State Auditor John Breslow and Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns have announced they will seek the Republican nomination.

State Treasurer Dave Heineman, state Sen. Dave Maurstad of Beatrice and Secretary of State Scott Moore have all expressed interest in running as well.

Abboud said there is room for more candidates in the May primary — the more the better, he said.

"We want to run strong, qualified Republican candidates, and it's our job to encourage them to run," he said.

Abboud said he expected the Republican ballot to be set by October.

To this point, the governor's race has been defined by those who are, not running.

Lt. Gov. Kim Robak announced in June that she would not seek the Democratic nomination for governor.

The Democrats have not yet announced a candidate to succeed Gov. Ben Nelson, who cannot seek re-election under a state law limiting governors to two four-year terms.

Bill Hoppner, a Lincoln businessman who lost to Nelson in the 1990 Democratic primary by 42 votes, has expressed interest in a campaign.

Asked if Bereuter's decision would increase the likelihood that the Democrats would run a stronger candidate, Abboud said the Republicans still like their chances.

"They would still have to raise over \$1 million, would still have to run in a Republican environment in Nebraska and would have to face a very qualified Republican candidate."

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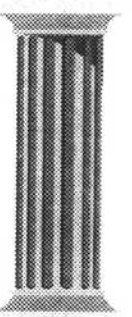
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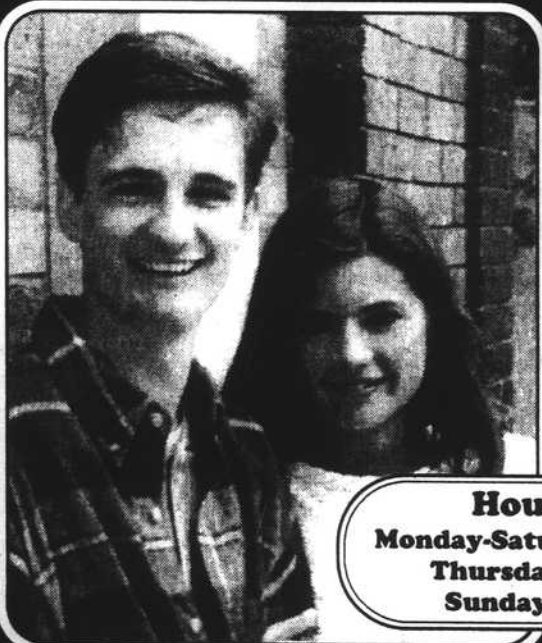
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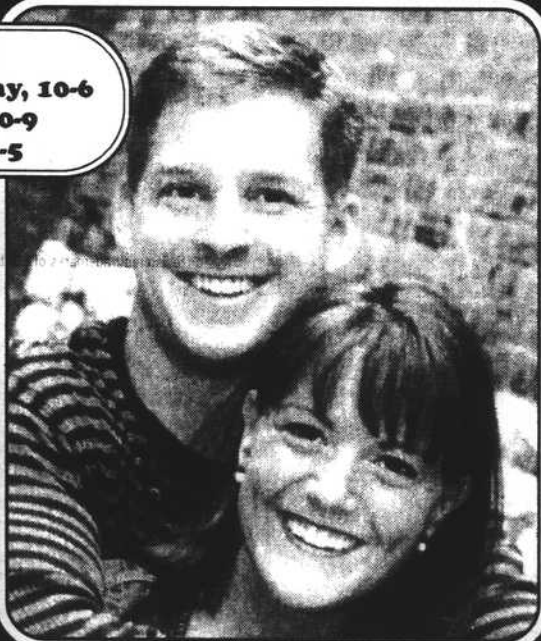


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