

OPINION PACKAGES

Our VIEW

No opposition Republican candidates clear choices for House

Because their opponents pose no real competition, all three Republican candidates for Nebraska's seats in the U.S. House of Representatives will receive the Daily Nebraskan's endorsement.

Republican Doug Bereuter, who has represented Nebraska's first congressional district, including Lincoln, since 1979, is the only candidate, however, who will receive our enthusiastic support.

Though he represents a landlocked state, Bereuter's vision extends past Nebraska's borders with his leadership in international affairs.

Bereuter, a moderate conservative, stood against the faction of religious zealots in his party that continually tries to mutate the GOP into a religious movement.

During this summer's state Republican convention in Grand Island, Bereuter said Republicans should not be swayed by those in the party who seek to define it by two or three ultra-conservative religious issues.

Returning to the foundations of his party - fiscal restraint and less government - Bereuter represents the best interests and opinions of his district without caving to special interests and religious groups.

Another Republican candidate, Lee Terry, has proven himself in the Omaha City Council.

Terry, who is running for the second district congressional seat, is the only candidate with the experience necessary to represent Nebraska's largest city in Washington, D.C.

Though his opponent, Democrat Michael Scott, may have some good ideas, he has failed to present them to the public in an organized manner using advertisements or speeches.

Scott, a former broadcaster with stints on Entertainment Tonight in Los Angeles, does not have the political experience, clout or support to have an impact in Congress.

As a native Nebraskan, Terry is likely to hold his home state's best interests at heart.

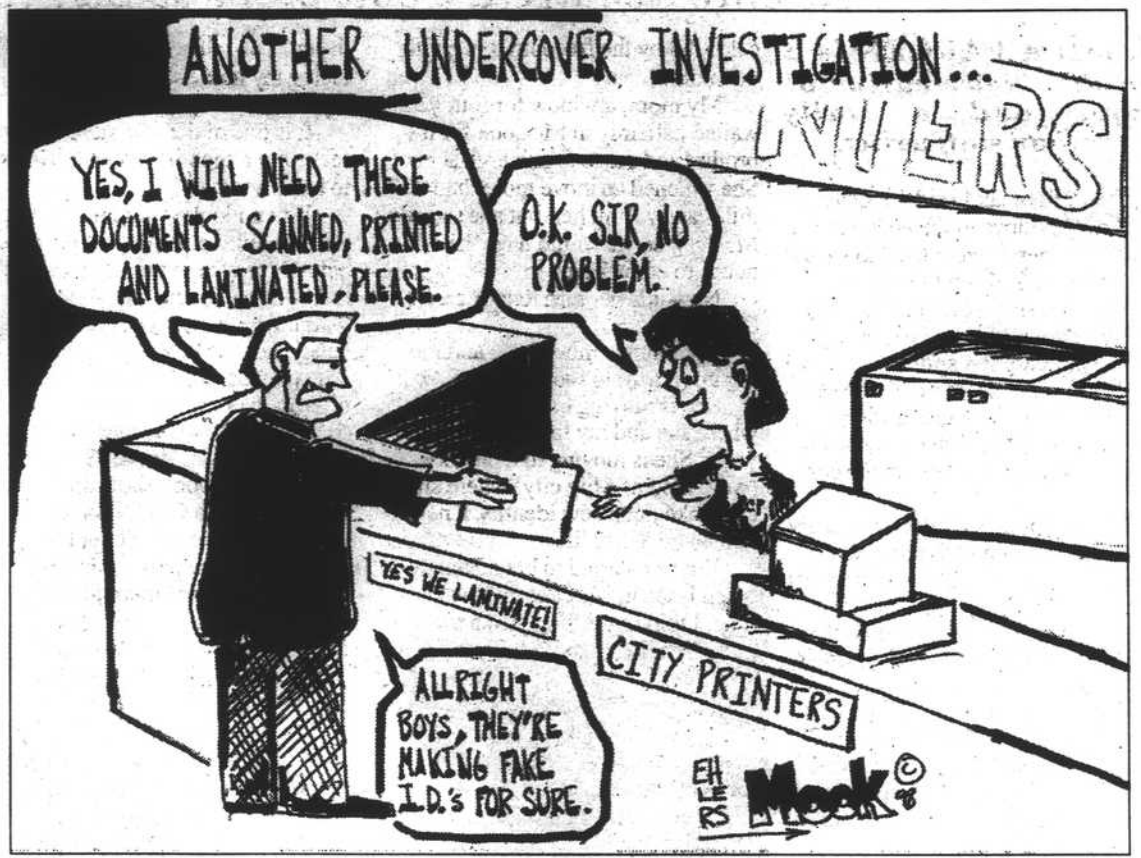
We just hope Terry holds the same strong principles as his first-district colleague, Bereuter, and will not cave in to special interests - including the strong voice of Nebraska's religious right.

Bill Barrett, who has represented Western Nebraskans in district three since 1991, is virtually uncontested though a Libertarian candidate, Jerry Hickman, is running against him.

Because many of Hickman's ideas are invalid, the Daily Nebraskan endorses Bill Barrett, though we hope he will keep the interests of the farming communities he represents in mind.

We can only hope the Democrats will put forth some serious candidates for the next election.

Mook's VIEW



The real American hero John Glenn prepares to relive dreams in space



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Growing up in America, nearly everyone is instilled with the same ideals and beliefs that have been handed down through the generations.

People can do whatever they want to in America.

We can do everything in America and have every opportunity. And Americans don't let their dreams die.

Take 77-year-old John Glenn, who shares the dreams of 7-year-old schoolboys.

Glenn will be making a return trip into space on Thursday, a place he has long dreamed about since his first exploits there more than 35 years ago.

Things have changed since the early days of rocketry and space exploration. The space shuttle Discovery is a far cry from the Friendship 7 module Glenn piloted when he became the first American to orbit the earth in 1962.

Glenn will be operating with six other astronauts in the most complex piece of machinery yet introduced on Earth. He'll be wired from head to toe with electrodes and sensors to record his vital functions and help him complete his mission - researching the effects of space travel on old age.

After his first historic flight, Glenn was never allowed to go back. President John F. Kennedy would not risk America's first space-age hero on another mission.

John Glenn, being the quintessential American and living out those basic ideals, did other things.

He continued his service in the Marine Corps and for the last 24 years has represented his home state of Ohio in the U.S. Senate.

While other men his age are living up the later years of retirement, Glenn, as always, remains active.

He is arguably the most amazing American alive today.

Glenn survived World War II, Korea, space and public office. What do you get for the man who's nearly

done it all?

You get him a chance to fulfill his dreams all over again, and that's exactly what NASA is giving Glenn.

Glenn returns to the outer reaches with the idea of learning more about the effects of aging in our new era and Glenn has accepted that premise wholly.

However, this is a mission dedicated by the people of America as one more test of the indomitable will of John Glenn. It means more to America. It means more to Glenn, but the assignment must be accomplished - this is not a token flight.

Glenn refuses to let this be a mere gift. This is genuine for him, a genuine American.

The technologies that have erupted in the years since the early days of space exploration do not faze him, but rather encourage him.

In an age when space colonization and long-term survival become more possible and not outside the realm of consideration, America needs some sort of bearing on what space does to the physically aged.

Glenn is going to be an experiment up there, once again, a superlative American in high places. This time - the oldest person ever in space.

But with his advancing years, Glenn is facing something that grapples strongly with all Americans approaching the later years of life - his own mortality.

However undaunted he may appear, Glenn knows the amazing strain of space travel on the human body. There's also the rigorous training that he has undergone to get to the point of

physical readiness necessary for the mission. And then, to add to the mystique of the mission, to make this all more triumphant and heroic in the eyes of the American people, for whatever reason, something happened.

In July, Alan Shepard, NASA's first astronaut, and a member of the Apollo 14 mission, died at the age of 74. Along with Glenn, Shepard was one of the original Mercury astronauts.

Glenn mourned his old friend's passing but went right back to the training stages of the shuttle mission.

Glenn has a purpose. He has it for himself and he serves admirably in the name of his colleagues who have gone before him.

He'll do it for the ones like Shepard - the ones who went to the moon, the ones who walked in the dark expanse of space, the ones who pioneered the shuttle mission.

And Glenn will do it for America, a nation that always needs its heroes.

It's the same selfless service that has led him in the military and in government. Glenn for America, America for Glenn.

America owes a lot to John Glenn, but you'd never know by the way he talks. This life has been one big adventure for him.

Try to imagine a more exhilarating and satisfying existence than the one Glenn has experienced. Imagine what luck and what work went into 77 years of living life to the lees.

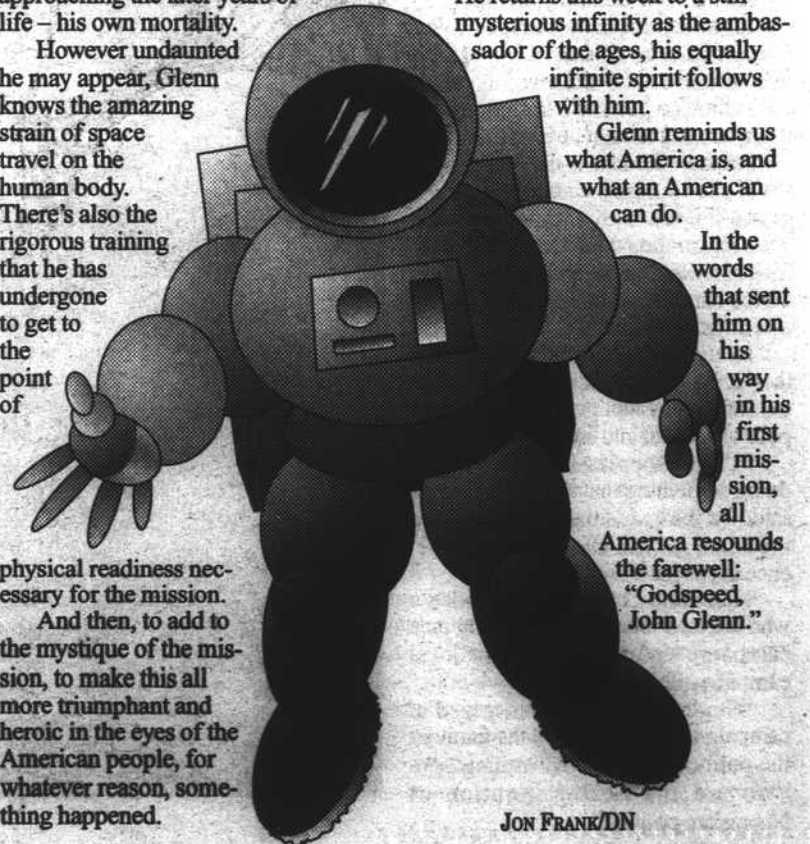
Just going into space would be enough for some, but not John Glenn, not now.

He returns this week to a still mysterious infinity as the ambassador of the ages, his equally infinite spirit follows with him.

Glenn reminds us what America is, and what an American can do.

In the words that sent him on his way in his first mission, all

America resounds the farewell: "Godspeed, John Glenn."



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