

# OPINION PACKETS

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*Our*  
**VIEW**  
**Time for change**  
*Knapp and Hahn would best serve state*

On Nov. 3, Nebraskans will vote not only for the highly touted offices of the governor and the state and U.S. senates, but also for lesser-known but equally important offices.

The Nebraska attorney general and state auditor offices may not be as publicized as those mentioned above, but both offer interesting choices.

In the attorney general race, the incumbent is Republican Don Stenberg. After eight years of virtually unchallenged service, he will face Democrat Pat Knapp.

Knapp is a private Lincoln attorney who has focused on employment, civil rights and environmental law since she first began practicing in 1984. She is attorney for the Boyd County Monitoring Committee, a group that has stood in opposition to a low-level radioactive waste facility.

Stenberg was first elected to his office in 1990 and has since earned a notoriety that has been fueled by his seemingly constant sparring with Gov. Ben Nelson. To his credit, Stenberg has won 90 percent of the cases his office has encountered, and he has done so with a low budget. But his political motives seem to have overshadowed his job's duties.

He has been an unrepentant hawk for capital punishment and has been working since he was first sworn in to cut down the appeals process in this state. His legal wish list has often leaned toward diminishing the rights of both the accused and the convicted.

In this race, the Daily Nebraskan endorses Democratic challenger Pat Knapp. We believe it is time for change in the attorney general's office, and Stenberg has proven himself to be incapable of providing that change. Even in the most emotional criminal cases, we must not forget the rights of the accused. We believe that Knapp's history as a civil rights attorney will serve the state well.

The state auditor office is an open seat after it was vacated by John Breslow during his unsuccessful run for governor.

The two candidates are state Sen. Kate Witek of Omaha and Lancaster County Clerk Kandra Hahn.

Witek, the Republican candidate, has distinguished herself in the Legislature as an arch-conservative, particularly on social issues. And she apparently intends to serve as a descendant of Breslow, who used his office as a public platform for attacks on spending.

In contrast, Hahn has quietly served as county clerk. She has said she intends to move her office off of the front page and into the state treasury, where it belongs.

In the state auditor race, the Daily Nebraskan endorses Kandra Hahn. We believe she will offer undivided attention to an office that has been diminished by political stumping and an attention-hungry agenda.

Both the attorney general and state auditor offices should be less prominent in the news and more prominent in their fields. We believe Knapp and Hahn will bring those qualities to their respective offices.

**Mook's VIEW**



**DN LETTERS**

**Timing is everything**

Who is the brain-dead bureaucrat whom we must thank for scheduling the installation of an optional piece of sculpture in the center of campus at the BUSIEST time of a mid-week school day?

This inept action caused the closing of three MAJOR UNL intersections, as well as the re-routing of considerable class traffic on a normal weekday morning.

Surely a more efficient and benign time could have been found to install this fine gift in the center of campus. But I know - NOT on Saturday; school can be disrupted, but NEVER football!

Brenda G. Friedman  
lecturer  
Andrews Hall

**Christian intolerance**

Is religion partly to blame for the hostile climate that gays and lesbians face? I think that is stating the obvious.

While there are many Christians who do not believe that homosexuality (particularly a long-term committed gay relationship) is a sin, it's the other side that makes all the noise. Charitable Christians by and large remain silent.

I am reminded of two buttons I saw on sale at a gay pride festival. One said "I love God, it's his fan club I can't stand." The other, "Jesus, protect me from your followers."

The fact that gays, most of whom consider themselves Christian, can find ironic humor in these slogans shows that the gay community feels threatened by those who create a climate of hate and intolerance under the guise of religion.

As the saying goes, all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good (Christian) people to do nothing. Perhaps the brutal death of Matthew Shepard will cause accepting Christians to at last speak out for justice, civility, understanding and dialogue that fosters respect for gay people.

Alan L. Light  
Iowa City, Iowa

**NU's strengths**

It won't be long before high school students are deluged with multicolor brochures from universities across the nation in which they cite their academic standing in different magazine polls and advertise the attractive financial packages.

Before you make your decision, do your homework thoroughly and choose the university best suited for your needs. Ask yourself the following questions: Of what use is it to me if I attend a name brand school in which I meet a "real" professor in class only in my senior year? Do the university's most distinguished professors get personally involved with their undergraduate students, or are they only accessible to Ph.D. students who have passed their comprehensive qualifying exams?

In a recent study by the Boyer commission on "educating undergraduates in the research university" titled

rights: "Expectation of and opportunity for work with talented senior researchers to help and guide the students efforts. Access to first-class facilities in which to pursue research. ..." The authors advice to change undergraduate education is to "Make Research-Based Learning the Standard."

As a land grant institution, the University of Nebraska has kept its doors open to a broad range of high school graduates and can provide the top high school graduates an undergraduate education in most academic areas that is second to none. Long before the Boyer Commission's work was published in April 1998, senior faculty members at NU have involved undergraduate students with their research projects.

As the Director of Academic Program Reviews, I had the opportunity to get familiar with programs offered by my colleagues across campus. It was very reassuring to learn about the numerous outstanding, high-quality programs offered by my colleagues in other units of the university.

Junior and senior high school students should always come to a university with all their options open to them. Ask yourselves: Could time spent working in the stores be better spent in taking challenging advanced placement classes that better prepare you for university life?

Parents should encourage their children to enroll in the most challenging university programs and help their children as much as they can with their financial packages in college. They will appreciate it much more than an inheritance later.

Carefully examine NU's outstanding programs, such as the newly endowed computer center that will be "home" to the best students across the United States and the newly created department of architectural engineering. You may be in for a pleasant surprise!

Ezekiel Bahar  
George Holmes Distinguished  
Professor  
electrical engineering



MATT HANEY/DN

"Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America's Research University," the authors state that "The research universities have too often failed and continue to fail their undergraduate population."

In a section titled "An Academic Bill of Rights," the authors state that "by admitting a student, any college or university commits itself to provide maximum opportunities for intellectual and creative development, including opportunities to learn through inquiry rather than simple transmission of knowledge ... careful and comprehensive preparation for whatever may lie beyond graduation."

Furthermore, the student in a research university has these additional

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