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Legacy of Learning

A UNL program is named after a Challenger astronaut who died 14 years ago today. NEWS, PAGE 8

Greek Gods

Two Canadians present an alternative version of a classic this weekend at the Lied. A&E, PAGE 10



Sharon Kolbet/DN

AT A WEDNESDAY morning press conference in his hometown of Hastings, former NU football coach Tom Osborne announces he will run for the 3rd Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Osborne enters political race

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

HASTINGS — It didn't take Tom Osborne long to break a roomful of reporters' suspense about whether he'd make a run for the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday morning.

The former Nebraska football coach walked into the temporary pressroom housed in the student union of Hastings College — his alma mater — as reporters clung to their cell phones, giving on-the-spot updates to their news directors and on-air reports to radio stations.

All wondered one thing: Would he or wouldn't he?

Then, he walked up to the podium to make his announcement.

"The reason we're here in Hastings is because I am announcing my candidacy for

the 3rd District Congressional race," he said.

After making the announcement, Osborne, 62, told the audience he would enter the political arena in a somewhat non-political fashion.

His campaign and potential term would not be driven by party leanings.

"I'm not a partisan person, and I don't understand party politics at all," he said.

His campaign will be closed to individuals and organizations expecting to influence him through large contributions.

"We hear from time to time about campaign reform," Osborne said. "We're going to have a campaign that is already reformed."

If elected, Osborne said he would be faithful to only one thing.

"I want you to feel that whatever side I am on will be simply based on my con-

"I want you to feel that whatever side I am on will be simply based on my conscience."

Tom Osborne

Congressional candidate

science," he said.

Osborne said he decided to run for the spot Bill Barrett will vacate after talking to other Nebraska delegates and determining

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Clinton speech criticized

State of the Union covers taxes, guns, education

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

In his final State of the Union address, President Bill Clinton championed issues such as increased spending for schools and health care, reducing the national debt, tax cuts and stricter gun control laws.

The total bill for his proposals: more than \$364 billion.

"Thank goodness this was his last State of the Union address because we can't afford any more," said Sen. Chuck Hagel.

Clinton spoke for almost 90 minutes on Thursday, and with his new proposals, it cost American taxpayers \$4 billion per minute, Hagel said.

"This was the great granddaddy of speeches in terms of spending," Hagel said.

Rep. Lee Terry of the 2nd District said he was pleased Clinton had an aggressive plan to eliminate the national debt.

However, Terry said, Clinton's plans of expanding government programs and reducing the national debt seemed contradictory.

"I will help him achieve his goal of reducing the national debt by fighting his plans for more government," Terry said.

Sen. Bob Kerrey said he thought Clinton gave a good speech but agreed that some of Clinton's tax breaks could create higher taxes for everyone.

Rep. Bill Barrett of the 3rd District said the government doesn't have enough money for all the programs Clinton suggested, and he thought most of the programs would not be passed in Congress.

Terry agreed.

"We need to adopt the Nebraska value of thrift," he said.

Barrett and Hagel both said they thought the president proposed programs that would make the government too big.

"He's again acting as though big government has

"He's again acting as though big government has all the answers, but that's not the case."

Bill Barrett

3rd District representative

Please see **UNION** on 7

IN NEBRASKA
A LOOK AT THE
CORNHUSKER
EMPIRE

A Major Proposal

Idea of offering athletes chance to study their sport gains interest

By Samuel McKewon

Senior editor

Murray Sperber sees it as all a big conspiracy against the college athlete.

Sperber, an associate professor of English at the University of Indiana and author of *College Sports Inc.*, a book outlining the economics of college athletics, contends athletic departments have been using athletes for years.

"They're guns for hire," Sperber said. "They're professional athletes that don't get paid."

Another movement designed to hurt athletes, Sperber said, is currently being bounced

around NCAA boardrooms. An athletics major, which would allow athletes to more specifically focus on their sports, could become a reality in the next century.

The idea of a sports major is among the numerous issues that surround this question: Just how much of an athlete is a student?

For Sperber, who has written two books about athletes and is working on a third, about the relationship of undergraduates and their schools, athletes are lesser students than they have ever been before.

He spoke of athletes in his classes who performed well below their abilities because of nothing more than a lack of time. Too many

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