

ABRAHAM LINCOLN LECTURE SERIES

Lectures by  
**Gerald Early**  
Princes Kept the View:  
America in the 50s and 60s  
7-9 March 2000

7-9 March 2000  
7:00 each evening  
Great Plains Art  
Collection  
215 Love Library  
University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln



Gerald Early will deliver the annual Abraham Lincoln Lectures on March 7, 8, and 9. His program, "Princes Kept the View: America in the 50s and 60s," will feature talks entitled "Muhammad Ali as Third World Hero," "Sammy Davis Jr. as Establishment Rebel," and "The Rise of Black Philadelphia," a look at militant political action in Early's hometown during the 1960s.

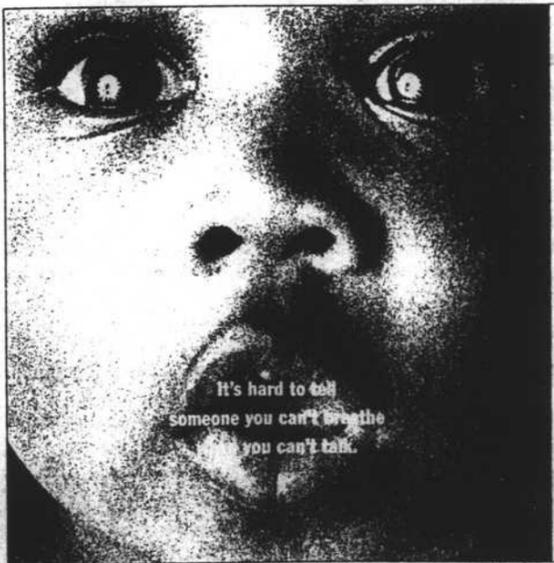
Gerald Early is a professor of English and Afro-American studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Early also serves as Washington University's Director of African and Afro-American Studies and Director of the American Culture Studies Program. A frequent commentator for National Public Radio, Early's books include *The Muhammad Ali Reader* and *The Culture of Bruising* which won the 1994 National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism.

The talks are free and open to the public and will commence at 7:00 each evening in the Great Plains Art Collection, 215 Love Library, on the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln. A reception and book signing will immediately follow Thursday's lecture.

Begun in 1995, this annual series aims to remind the citizens of Lincoln and beyond of the principles that Abraham Lincoln championed: education, justice, tolerance, and union. Each year the University of Nebraska Press invites a noted scholar to deliver a series of lectures, co-sponsored with other University of Nebraska departments. In addition, the press publishes each year's lectures in a single volume.

If you wish to receive further information about the Abraham Lincoln Lecture Series, contact:  
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LEGISLATURE

# Override vote against veto fails

By Jill Zeman  
Staff writer

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha's push for an override of Gov. Mike Johanns' veto failed Wednesday.

Johanns vetoed a bill that would have allowed the attorney general to be elected on a nonpartisan ballot.

Thirty votes are needed to override a governor's decision. Chambers' motion failed by four votes, as the members of the Legislature voted 26-20 on the measure.

"The bill has been through a lot," Chambers said.

LB510 was introduced Jan. 15, 1999, by Chambers and was heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on March 3, 1999.

The committee voted 5-3 to advance the bill to the floor for debate. It was placed on general file on March 9, 1999, and advanced to select file on Feb. 3, 2000.

The bill was passed on a 28-19 vote and was submitted on Feb. 23 to Johanns.

*"I don't believe we need politics in law enforcement, and in my opinion, the attorney general is the chief of law enforcement."*

Jerry Schmitt  
Ord state senator

Johanns said the state has struck a balance between elected partisan officials and the nonpartisan Unicameral.

"Unless there's a compelling reason to disrupt the balance, we shouldn't go there," he said.

"Hopefully, we can go on to other things."

Sen. Jerry Schmitt of Ord said his vote in favor of overriding the veto had nothing to do with Johanns or Attorney General Don Stenberg.

"I don't believe we need politics in law enforcement, and in my opinion, the attorney general is the chief of law enforcement," Schmitt said.

Sen. Gene Tyson of Norfolk voted

against overriding the governor's decision.

"Political views do make a difference, and it's important we understand what views people have," he said.

Chambers said the most important aspect of the bill is that if party affiliation were taken away, the number of individuals eligible for the position of attorney general would be expanded.

"The two attorney general candidates should be put on the ballot because they receive the most votes, not because one is a Democrat and the other a Republican," he said.

LEGISLATURE

# Gambling bill fails to advance to floor

By Jill Zeman  
Staff writer

Hopes of legal casino gambling in Nebraska were shot down Wednesday.

Members of the Legislature voted against bringing a resolution out of committee that would have allowed Nebraska's voters to decide whether casino gambling should be allowed on Indian reservations.

LR289CA was introduced on Jan. 10 by Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln and was referred to the General Affairs Committee, which held a hearing Jan. 24 on the bill.

Members of the eight-person committee voted 4-4 on the resolution, leaving it deadlocked in committee.

Schimek declared LR289CA her priority bill and filed a motion Feb. 25 to pull it from committee to the floor for debate.

Twenty-five senators must vote for a bill in order to pull it from committee to general file, and the senators voted 23-24, leaving the motion dead for the session.

A similar bill was debated in 1993, and Schimek said she voted against it.

She changed her mind when she realized the issue was about economic development and sovereignty of American-Indian tribes, not the morality of gambling, she said.

Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln said she supported the resolution

because it is a fairness issue.

"Normally, I don't vote for gambling bills or anything that advances gambling, but the state is already in the gambling business because we have a lottery," she said.

Sen. Jim Jensen of Omaha said he opposed the bill, because to him, the issue was about gambling, not sovereignty.

Senators discussed whether portions of casino revenue could go to a fund that would aid compulsive gamblers, but Jensen disagreed with the idea.

"Giving money (from casino revenue) to help compulsive gamblers is like giving them a disease and then giving them a cure later," Jensen said.

If the resolution had been pulled from committee, it would have been debated on the floor of the Legislature. If approved, it would have appeared on the ballot in the November election, Schimek said.

The resolution wouldn't have needed the approval of Gov. Mike Johanns, but he voiced his opinion on the issue Wednesday.

Johanns said he opposes the expansion of gambling, and if the issue would have been placed on the ballot, he would have voted against it.

"Building an economy on casino gambling is not very helpful in the long run to anyone," he said.

"We will work with tribes on their social and education developments."

# Johanns backs China in WTO

By Veronica Daehn  
Staff writer

Gov. Mike Johanns voiced his support for three national issues on Wednesday.

Johanns said he supports China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Members of the WTO will decide soon if China should join. Its entry would lower the tariffs on exports to China, Johanns said.

Because Nebraska is the fifth largest exporter of agricultural goods in the United States, the lower taxes would benefit Nebraska residents, he said.

"This agreement would be good for agriculture," Johanns said. "My hope is that this will be approved, and we will get the benefit of trade with China."

Johanns said he also supports efforts to use ethanol as an alternative to gas. There are seven ethanol plants in Nebraska, Johanns said, and five in Iowa.

"I continue to be optimistic that there will be a place for ethanol in the clean air effort," he said.

Johanns also said Wednesday he has joined the Governor's Biotechnology Partnership, an alliance of state governors who want to get information to citizens about biotechnology.

Johanns is particularly concerned with circulating good scientific information about food safety issues, he said.

# Lotter's lawyer files for a stay of execution

By Michelle Starr  
Staff writer

Though it has not become an argument, a difference of opinion exists about John Lotter's motion for a stay of execution.

On Feb. 24, the state's high court set April 26 as an execution date for Lotter, but he is scheduled for a post-conviction hearing May 2 in Richards County.

In Monday's motion for a stay of execution, Jerry Soucie, Lotter's attorney, addressed two issues.

First, Soucie said a stay of execution should be granted because of the pending post-conviction hearing. Second, he questioned the Nebraska Supreme Court's jurisdiction in setting

a date for the execution.

Lotter and Marvin Nissen were convicted for the 1993 murders of Teena Brandon, 21, Lisa Lambert, 24, and Philip DeVine, 22, in a rural farmhouse near Humboldt.

Nissen received life in prison, and Lotter was sentenced to death for Brandon's murder.

Assistant Attorney General Kirk Brown did not dispute the argument for a stay based on the May 2 hearing, but he did not understand why Soucie questioned the court's jurisdiction.

Brown submitted a response Tuesday to the court stating opinions and concerns about Monday's motion, he said.

The Attorney General's office submitted the response not to create a fight, but to allow the court to know what it

thought, Brown said.

"We didn't dispute his right to a stay," Brown said. "But (the defense) got off into other legal issues."

Soucie asked the court if the date should have been decided by the District Court instead of the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Brown responded to the motion and said a state statute allows the Nebraska Supreme Court to set a date; it was in its jurisdiction to make the decision, he said.

The decision is left to the court, and he didn't know why the date was scheduled when litigation is pending, Brown said.

It is unknown if the court knew about the May hearing, Brown said.

"We don't know what level of knowledge the court had," he said.