

ELECTION 2000

Osborne vows to be independent voice if elected

By Brian Carlson

Staff writer

KEARNEY — If elected to Congress, Tom Osborne said Saturday, he will be an independent voice and will put conscience above the demands of his constituents or party.

"I believe there are principles that supersede all other considerations," the former Nebraska football coach said.

On Saturday, Osborne and his four rivals for the 3rd District House seat in central and western Nebraska, squared off in a wide-ranging forum sponsored by the Nebraska Associated Press Broadcasters Association.

The candidates touched on an array of economic and social issues, including farm policy, gun control and homosexual unions.

The three other candidates — two Republicans and one Democrat — appear to face an uphill battle against the coach who won three national titles for the Cornhuskers and has a wealth of name recognition.

Republicans Osborne, John Gale and Kathy Wilmot agreed on many issues, reflecting the makeup of the heavily agricultural and mostly conservative district. Their Democratic counterpart, Rollie Reynolds, disagreed on farm policy and other issues.

Gale, Osborne and Wilmot agreed that the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act has been a success in the sense that it restored free enterprise to the farm economy.

However, they said, foreign markets have failed to open as expected. Free trade means fair trade, they said.

"The glaring problem has been embargoes and trade sanctions," Osborne said. "We should exempt anything that has to do with food or medi-

cine."

Another important rural economic development issue is ensuring the district has high-speed Internet access, Osborne said, "so that a company in Broken Bow can compete with a company in a more highly developed area."

Gale agreed food sanctions should be eliminated. He also said the federal government should provide income supplements and crop insurance to help struggling farmers.

In addition to supporting an end to food sanctions, Wilmot said the government should consider ways to control the food surplus that has caused prices to plummet.

Reynolds said the government should help reduce output to increase prices.

"The only reason we're here today is because we have a failed farm bill," he said.

The four candidates also were united in opposition to further gun regulations.

"It's absolutely necessary for a farmer or rancher in Nebraska to have a gun," Reynolds said.

Wilmot said she supported the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, including concealed weapons.

Gale and Osborne applauded the decision by Smith & Wesson, a gun manufacturing company, to voluntarily sell handguns equipped with trigger locks.

Osborne said current gun laws are adequate and should be better enforced. The dissolution of families, as well as violence in movies and video games, are important causes of recent gun violence, he said.

Asked about immigration policy, Osborne said he favors loosening current immigration laws.

"If (immigrants) pay their bills, do their jobs

"Marriage ... is between a man and a woman. I don't believe those rights and privileges should extend beyond that union at this particular time."

Tom Osborne

Congressional candidate

and are good citizens, we ought to let them stay," he said. "I'm very much in favor of not being terribly stringent."

Gale, Wilmot and Reynolds said the Immigration and Naturalization Service should fight illegal immigration more effectively.

None of the candidates spoke in favor of affording homosexual couples the same benefits enjoyed by heterosexual couples.

"I support benefits for a heterosexual couple, but not for a homosexual couple," Wilmot said.

Gale agreed.

"Homosexuality is a lifestyle of choice, not a status, so I can't afford to it the same type of civil rights protection," he said.

Osborne said homosexual unions don't fall under his definition of marriage.

"Marriage, as I understand it, is between a man and a woman," he said. "I don't believe those rights and privileges should extend beyond that union at this particular time."

"I do not favor any kind of discrimination," Osborne added. "But we are in danger, as a culture, of blurring lines that have been clearly defined."

Reynolds said he was unprepared to make a firm statement about homosexual unions, which he called a "complex" issue.

Asked how each candidate differed from the others, Osborne's opponents clearly tried to contrast themselves with him.

Wilmot said she has a voting record from her two terms as a member of the State Board of Education. Unlike Osborne, she supports the death penalty.

Gale cited his experience as a legislative aide for the late U.S. Sen. Roman Hruska of Nebraska. He also sought to contrast his party's philosophy with that of Osborne.

"I'm not running as an independent," Gale said. "I'm running as a proud Republican."

Osborne noted that he is not accepting contributions from political action committees or donations of more than \$300.

"There is absolutely no way I can see that I'll be beholden to any particular interest group," he said.

The candidates were asked to rate the importance of conscience, party and constituents' interests in their voting decisions.

Osborne said conscience was most important, followed by constituents and party. Wilmot agreed.

Gale said the district's interests came first and that he would weigh the demands of conscience and party in each individual case.

Reynolds said he would trade votes if necessary to gain support for his own priorities, even if it meant supporting programs he otherwise would not support.

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Reinhard named Fulbright scholar

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

Days after learning that a university committee recommended he be fired, UNL Professor Karl Reinhard got some good news last week.

The professor in the School of Natural Resource Sciences learned he will be spending five months in Brazil next year as a J. William Fulbright Scholar at Brazil's national school of public health.

During his stay, Reinhard said he would be lecturing about and researching parasitism, which he said significantly affects the tropical environment that characterizes Brazil.

"It's a tropical country," he said. "Parasitism becomes a significant problem, since it's the most tropical environment around."

Reinhard learned about the prestigious appointment just days after receiving a report from a special panel appointed by the Academic Rights and Responsibilities Committee that recommended he be fired.

Reinhard has been in the center of controversy over the university's possible mistreatment of American Indian remains.

The report alleged that he did invasive testing on remains, published research he obtained illegally from the remains, transmitted unethical and immoral behavior to his students and created a hostile environment for certain faculty members and students.

Reinhard called the allegations outrageous and said he would likely take legal action.

Reinhard said he was especially pleased to learn he received the appointment after hearing from Fulbright program officials that there were many entrants for Brazil's program this year.

"Brazil was extremely competitive this year," he said. "It's an especially significant honor."

During the five months he will spend in Brazil, Reinhard said he hopes to hold a congress on the evolution of parasitology.

He also hopes to study modern parasitology in an area of the country called Pantanal — the wettest area in South America.

Reinhard's work will be a continuation of what he did during a previous stay in Brazil from 1997-98.

Judy Pehrson, from the Council for International Exchange of Scholars,

said Reinhard's appointment will begin March 1, 2001.

The Fulbright program was established in 1946, at the end of World War II, by Sen. Fulbright of Arkansas.

The purpose of the program is to increase understanding between the United States and other countries through the exchange of people and their knowledge and skills.

The U.S. State Department is the main sponsor of the program.

Reinhard is the second professor from the University of Nebraska system to be accepted into the Fulbright program recently.

Last month, the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha announced that Howard Gendelman was selected to be a Fulbright Research Scholar.

A small part of Gendelman's research has involved the use of aborted fetal tissue.

The university has been criticized by some in the state, including some in the state Legislature, for the use of the tissue in research of diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

RHA

Residence halls get parking representative

By Jackie Blair

Staff writer

The Residence Hall Association discussed its position on the Parking Advisory Committee Sunday night.

The residence halls have been allocated a seat on the committee. RHA is voting next week on a bill that will make it responsible for appointing a slate of candidates that will run for the representative position on the parking committee.

The Association of Students at the University of Nebraska will make the final selection.

The bill will also give RHA's vice president the duty of coordinating a meeting once a month with the student representatives and the parking committee.

RHA president Jadd Stevens said

RHA is voting on taking the responsibility because if ASUN added the duty of finalizing the selection, it could be easily overlooked. Andy Schuerman, former ASUN president, said he trusted RHA to handle the responsibility by itself.

Stevens also said this gave RHA the first voice in parking decisions.

In other business: RHA passed a bill that will donate \$250 to the RHA at American University in Washington D.C. for "Project Playground."

This project will build a new playground in an effort to make the Southeast D.C. area a better community.

Stephanie Voge, RHA National Communications Center chairwoman, said that Kansas State University, University of Kansas and smaller

schools are matching the \$250 donation, and that it is a great fund to contribute to.

Transition day for the newly elected RHA members will be Sunday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. in the Neihardt blue TV lounge.

The transition ceremony will be held that same night at the weekly meeting at 6:30.

Matt Knobbe, RHA Election Commissioner, said that voter turnout for the elections on Wednesday wasn't as great as it should have been.

"I'm glad to be done," Knobbe said. This week is Harper-Schramm-Smith's Spring Fling. Activities throughout the week include sand volleyball and basketball contests, Karaoke, a Velcro wall and much more.

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