

# Bereuter doesn't receive desired appointment, vows to continue on

BY BRIAN CARLSON  
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Doug Bereuter's longtime hopes of heading the House International Relations Committee were dashed on Thursday, when he lost out to U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill.

The news was a major disappointment for Bereuter, who has represented Nebraska's 1st District since 1979 and currently serves as the committee's vice chairman. He had passed up opportunities to run for governor in 1998 and the U.S. Senate in 2000, keeping his eye on the possible chairmanship.

"Of course I'm disappointed," Bereuter said in his office, just minutes after Hyde called with the news. "But I need to keep a good perspective on it. I think God has a different plan for me."

The International Relations Committee chairmanship opened up this year when U.S. Rep. Benjamin Gilman, R-N.Y., ran against the GOP-imposed three-term limit as chairman.

But Hyde had also been forced out of his chairmanship of the House Judiciary Committee because of term limits and many GOP leaders felt obligated to find him another committee chairmanship.

As Judiciary Committee chairman, Hyde presided over the hearings that led to President Clinton's impeachment by the

House in 1998. He then led the team of House managers who unsuccessfully sought Clinton's conviction by the Senate.

"There's a strong sentiment in favor of Henry in the Republican conference because he took a lot of personal abuse from the administration during the impeachment proceedings," Bereuter said. "It's almost like competing against an icon."

The House Republican steering committee met Thursday afternoon to vote for committee chairmen. In addition to Hyde and Bereuter, Reps. Jim Leach of Iowa and Chris Smith of New Jersey also sought the chairmanship. Bereuter said the steering committee's recommendations almost certainly would be adopted by the full Republican membership.

Bereuter said his quest for the chairmanship was sunk by a combination of seniority, GOP deference to Hyde and opposition to Bereuter's candidacy by groups opposed to permanent normal trade relations with China. Bereuter has been an outspoken advocate of free trade with China despite its poor human rights record, saying engagement with China was the best way to modernize it.

Bereuter said Hyde told him 18 months ago he would support Bereuter's effort to become chairman. Hyde would have preferred to continue as Judiciary chairman, but efforts to waive the term limits were unsuccessful. Hyde was not interested in

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Rep. Doug Bereuter  
R-Neb.

chairing a select committee on election reform, Bereuter said.

Bereuter said it was too soon to say whether his failure to win the chairmanship would cause him to consider leaving the House earlier than planned.

He said he expected to continue serving on the International Relations Committee, but he said he might seek a prominent role on the new House Financial Services Committee.

Bereuter said he had hoped to become chairman, in part, to "reverse what has been a 25-year slide of the International Relations Committee into irrelevance." He said the committee has been seen as hostile to business interests.

In a House sharply divided between the Republicans and Democrats, Bereuter said he would have made an effort to work in a bipartisan fashion.

"I made the case I was the best person to reach across the aisle."

# Birth control not covered by current health policy

BIRTH CONTROL from page 1

prescription birth control, May said.

Employees hit hardest by the rising health insurance costs are the lower-paid staff members, May said.

Faculty members, such as administrators and professors, can probably handle the increased costs better than staff members, she said.

The majority of faculty members are male, while the majority of staff members are female, May said.

Now is the best time to

include birth control coverage because it would help female staff members who are facing high insurance costs, May said.

Not covering prescription contraceptives also hurts NU's recruiting efforts, she said.

"We don't look like a female-friendly campus."

Joe Rowson, NU spokesman, said administrators will review and discuss the EEOC's ruling before making any decisions.

Rowson said no actions have been taken, but the issue will be brought up soon.

"The university is taking the ruling very seriously," Rowson said.

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# Officials pick through academic programs

Faculty members are looking at their college's offerings to find the top programs.

BY JILL ZEMAN

UNL faculty members continue to move forward in singling out the university's top academic programs.

Their goal, as charged by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, is to identify academic programs that have the potential to be recognized regionally and internationally.

Each college has submitted the top 20 to 30 percent of its academic programs, said David Brinkerhoff, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs.

The top programs are not necessarily the best programs,

but those the university chooses to advance and strengthen with additional funding.

"We're about where we planned on being," Brinkerhoff said of the university's timetable for identifying the programs as set by Interim Chancellor Harvey Perlman.

The reports from all the colleges will be summarized and returned to faculty members for review. This should take about six weeks, he said.

After that, the Academic Planning Committee will review the report, and then the NU Board of Regents and NU President Dennis Smith must approve it for it to be enacted.

Faculty members from the College of Arts and Sciences have reviewed about 170 programs to identify the top areas, said Mike Steinman, associate

dean of the college.

Steinman said the departments within the college were asked to identify what programs would benefit from additional funding.

Several people have been involved in the process, including professors, department chairmen and program directors, he said.

"I have every confidence it will continue to go smoothly," Steinman said.

Linda Shipley, associate dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, said much of the prioritization process is kept confidential.

If too many details are released early, people may become frustrated with the process, she said.

Shipley said the college

focused on broad issues, such as distance learning and technology, rather than pinpointing a specific program as the best.

Shipley said she hoped the college identified programs to focus on, not programs to be eliminated.

The journalism college has three departments — advertising, broadcasting and news-editorial — and Shipley said no one department will come out on top.

"We're looking for things that cross all three departments," she said.

## NOTICE TO STUDENTS

All students are eligible to apply for a refund of the "A" portion of their student fees beginning January 8 and ending February 16, 2001. Students claiming and receiving a refund will lose benefits provided by Fund "A" users during the spring semester, 2000-2001. (See box at right.)

Application forms are available at the Student Organization Financial Services office, 222 Nebraska Union; the ASUN office, 115 Nebraska Union; and the East Union Student Involvement office, 300 Nebraska East Union. Applicants should return the form in person to 222 Nebraska Union or 300 Nebraska East Union.

Students must bring their UNL student ID cards when returning their application. Students who are unable to return their application in person to one of the offices in bold lettering above should contact

Kevin Herbel, 222 Nebraska Union, 472-2154, on or before February 16, 2001, to make other arrangements.

Students who complete a refund application and return it on or before February 16, 2001, will be mailed a check for the amount of the refund requested. Refund checks will be mailed February 19 through 23, 2001.

Fund "A" refund amounts:	
ASUN.....	\$ 6.18
Daily Nebraskan.....	1.19
UPC/Lied Center Discounts.....	4.37
<b>Total Refund</b>	<b>\$11.74</b>

Students claiming a refund will lose certain benefits provided by the above Fund "A" users. For details on the specific benefits that will be lost, please refer to the cover sheet on the refund application.

# China lays plans for its own 'information superhighway'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — China is moving ahead with plans to build its "very own information superhighway," a second-generation Internet-like network designed for China's government and industry, the government's Xinhua News Agency said Saturday.

At a signing ceremony Saturday in Beijing, several unidentified companies agreed to form the China C-Net Strategic Alliance, which will develop the new network, the report said.

China is one of the fastest growing Internet markets in the world. The government estimates that the number of Web users has more than doubled in

the last year, to about 20 million from 9 million, the Beijing Evening News said Saturday.

"In the new century, the Chinese people will build our very own information superhighway," the Xinhua report declared. "The current one by itself has too many faults and is incapable of satisfying the needs of the Chinese government and companies as they enter the digital age."

New software and hardware are already being developed for the system, the report said. It didn't give a time for start of construction or completion of the project.

The new system will be safer, faster and handle a greater volume of information than the existing one, the report said.

It will rely upon technology now being developed abroad for a planned international upgrade of the Internet, plus technology developed exclusively for China.

The report didn't say if foreigners would be allowed to use the new system. It also didn't say how compatible C-Net will be with the existing Internet or future international systems.

Analysts have warned that China may try to build a "Great Fire Wall" in cyberspace, cutting itself off from the rest of the world to shield its citizens from information deemed subversive.

The communist government routinely blocks Web sites of foreign news organizations and groups it opposes, such as democracy activists and the outlawed Falun Gong sect.

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