CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE
Ashford, Bacon will face off at OPC on Oct. 14

By Gary Kerr
Education Committee

Democrat Brad Ashford and Republican Don Bacon will face off in the November election to serve as the U.S. representative from the Omaha area’s 2nd Congressional District.

Hear their views on the issues at a noon debate at the Omaha Press Club co-sponsored by the Press Club and the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha.

Congressman Ashford of Omaha is seeking his second term in that office. A businessman and lawyer, he is a graduate of Creighton University’s law school. He previously served four terms in the Nebraska Legislature.

Don Bacon of Papillion has had a 30-year career in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a brigadier general and serving at one point at Offutt Air Force Base. He is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and is currently an assistant professor at Bellevue University.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE
FRIDAY, OCT. 14
Noon to 1 p.m.
includes lunch at 11:30 a.m.
$17 per person
CALL 402-345-8008
FOR RESERVATIONS
or email Jeanie at jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com
Non-Press Club Members Welcome

Noon Education Forums are a service provided by the Omaha Press Club for the public. You do not need to be a member to attend. Many interesting speakers are found at the monthly lunches. Let your friends and colleagues know that they are invited.

OPC audience hears death penalty pros, cons

By Henry J. Cordes
Communications Committee

Is Nebraska’s death penalty a broken law? Or a just punishment for the worst of crimes?

Such questions were at the center of the debate during a Sept. 15 forum at the Omaha Press Club. About 40 lunch guests heard Sen. Colby Coash, a death penalty opponent, and attorney Bob Evnen, co-founder of Nebraskans for the Death Penalty, argue over whether Nebraskans should vote to keep or scrap the state’s death penalty law at the polls on Nov. 8.

After the Legislature passed a law repealing capital punishment in Nebraska, supporters of the death penalty collected enough signatures to put the issue on the ballot. A vote to retain the law would keep the death penalty off the books. A vote to repeal the law would bring the death penalty back.

Coash gave the rationale for the Legislature’s decision, noting it has been nearly two decades since a death sentence was carried out in Nebraska. With endless appeals and the state’s inability to get the drugs needed to carry out a death sentence, it’s a broken law that is costing the state millions, he said.

“We really haven’t had the death penalty for almost 20 years. That’s a fact,” he said. “It’s a broken government program that is costing the state money.”

Evnen argued that studies have shown the death penalty does serve as a deterrent and said law enforcement officials strongly support it. He called the death penalty “a just punishment for heinous crimes committed by the most depraved criminals.”

The two debated a recent study that showed the capital punishment law is costing the state $16 million a year.

Evnen disputed the figure, but noted that even if true, that’s about the cost of a matinee movie ticket for everyone in Nebraska. Coash noted that even if some don’t accept the figure, there’s no question the law is more expensive than the alternative of life in prison.

Photo on Page 4
Trumpets, fingers salute the Scotts at ‘Face’ roast

By Don Summerside
Communications Committee
Photos By Gary Willis

What do a trumpet, a middle finger and a manure spreader have in common?

They all received prominent attention during a lively roast that preceded the installation of Ruth and Bill Scott as the Omaha Press Club’s 150th “Face on the Barroom Floor.”

Before a full house on Sept. 22, the Omaha philanthropists were saluted for their multimillion-dollar donations to universities and other causes -- and laughed at for their down-to-earth hobbies and habits.

The manure spreader? Well, as “Face” artist Jim Horan noted, onetime farm girl Ruth Scott likes to paraphrase a line from the movie “Hello, Dolly!” -- “A pile of money is a lot like a pile of manure. It does no good until you spread it around.”

And so Horan’s “Face” caricature pictures the Scotts, both natives of Ashland, standing on a manure spreader and shoveling out cash to their favorite charities. Driving the spreader is Warren Buffett, the man who hired Bill Scott in 1959 as the first employee to help manage Buffett’s investment partnership.

The trumpet? Bill’s love affair with the musical instrument goes back to his childhood. Roaster Judy Duffy, a longtime family friend and former neighbor, said: “The kids on Nicholas Street all thought he was a famous trumpet player. He played the trumpet out in Leshara, Nebraska, at the Long Branch Saloon. We’d go out there and sing our hearts along while Bill blew that trumpet. He never ran out of air.”

And then there’s that middle finger. Ruth Scott is noted for her bridge-playing talents (she founded the Omaha Bridge Studio) and apparently just as noted among acquaintances for her single-digit salutes to offending motorists and others. Roaster Duffy said: “When ever Ruth meets somebody she says, ‘Do you play bridge?’ And if they say no, she might give them the finger!” And with that, Judy displayed photographic proof: a picture of Ruth wearing a cap topped by a photo of a fist and a middle finger.

Other zingers from the roasters:

Creighton Athletic Director Bruce Rasmussen, emcee for the evening, talked about Bill’s musical talents -- “the richest polka player I know” -- and Ruth’s driving habits -- “very liberal with the use of her middle finger.” Rasmussen, “in the interest of safety so that Ruth can keep her hands on the steering wheel,” presented her with a stocking hat topped by a large finger pointing skyward.

Dr. Michael Sorrell, Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center: “Ruth uses manure as a metaphor for money. I wouldn’t be surprised if John Deere one day named a manure spreader after the Scotts.”
Scotts at ‘Face’ roast...continued

Dr. Randy Ferlic, retired surgeon, former NU regent and one of Bill Scott’s golf partners: “Mother Teresa said to do small things with great love. Ruth says to do big things with lots of money.”

Terry Pettit, retired volleyball coach for the Nebraska Cornhuskers: “This is really kind of an awkward thing – making fun of a couple who donated a million dollars to put my name on a volleyball court.”

Duffy on her former neighbor: “Ruth taught me how to clip coupons. She always had stacks of the coupons on the kitchen table and said, ‘I save this money and I can buy Berkie with it!’

The roast was capped with a musical tribute. Nick Stergiou is the Distinguished Community Chair in Biomechanics at UNO, and the new Biomechanics Research Building at UNO was made possible through a donation from the Scotts. To the tune of the Perry Como classic “It’s Impossible,” Stergiou sang, in part:

“It’s impossible to make fun of all they’ve got, it’s just impossible;
Yes, to laugh at hands so giving that are paying for my living,

Spend a second making jokes about those two, it’s just impossible.
To imagine Ruth not playing bridge, it’s just impossible;
Or to ask Bill to stop playing polka gigs, it’s just impossible... They have treated me just like a dad and mother;
So you see I just don’t have the heart to roast them.
So let’s toast them; you’ve made this... possible.”

Also toasting, but not roasting, the Scotts with a gift presentation were Hank Bounds, president of the University of Nebraska, and Brian Hastings, president and CEO of the University of Nebraska Foundation.

When it was the Scotts’ turn to take the podium, Ruth took the lead: “I thank all of you wonderful people; you’ve said everything there is to say. We’ve been very honored to have you here. If you’re disappointed that I didn’t have something more profound to say, I’ll turn it over to Bill.”

And Bill wrapped it up with a one-liner to roaster Stergiou: “I think Nick’s got a new career in singing.”

The Omaha Press Club
QUARTERLY WINEMAKERS DINNER
Friday, Nov. 4, 2016 • 6 p.m.

Menu

Hors d’oeuvres
Blue Cheese & Bacon Stuffed Mushroom
Brie & Raspberry Tartlets
Honey Glazed Apples
Casillero del Diablo Sauvignon Blanc

Appetizer
Curry Mango Seared Scallop Volute
Marqués de Caceres

Sorbet
Fresh Squeezed Calamansi

Salad
Micro Greens Thunderbird with Red Onion & Toasted Pecans
Elouan Pinot Noir

Duet Entrée
Roasted Tenderloin, Forage Morel Mushrooms with Port Wine Reduction
Anna Potato
Spiced Pumpkin Mousse
Marqués de Casa Concha Cabernet Sauvignon

Dessert
Bananas Foster Bread Pudding
Ruffino Prosecco

Price: Members $50 • Nonmembers $60
For Reservations,
Call 402-345-8008

Bill and Ruth Scott sign the 150th “Face on the Barroom Floor.”
Woody, Dana Bradford will be next ‘Face’ on Nov. 16

By Tom O’Connor
Face on the Barroom Floor Committee

A dynamic father-son duo – Woody and Dana Bradford – will be the next “Face on the Barroom Floor” on Nov. 16 at the Omaha Press Club.

D.C. “Woody” Bradford III is a prominent Omaha attorney with the firm Houghton Bradford Whitted PC, L.L.O. For many years, Woody’s firm was located in the same First National Bank tower as the Press Club. He has done much legal work for the OPC over the years and is currently on the OPC board of directors.

Dana Bradford is chairman and CEO of Waitt Brands, a consumer brands company. The brands include: Bobby Jones, with headquarters in Atlanta; Sunice, Montreal; Vornado, Wichita; and Viking and Battle in Omaha. Prior to Waitt Brands, Dana served as president and managing partner of McCarthy Capital from 2005 to 2012 and was a director on the McCarthy Group board during the same period.

Prior to 2005, he worked for the McCarthy organization in various positions starting in 1999.

The Bradfords will be the fifth “Face” involving a father and one of his children. Previous honorees with that distinction include: No. 92, 2003, Lee Terry Sr. and Lee Terry Jr.; No. 98, 2004, Jack Diesing Sr. and Jack Diesing Jr.; No. 134, 2012, Bob Hoig and Andee Hoig; and No. 141, 2014, Greg and Doug McDermott.

The preliminary list of roasters will include: Terry Kroeger, publisher, Omaha World-Herald (emcee); Bruce Lauritzen, chairman, First National Bank of Omaha (and Face on the Barroom Floor No. 130, Sept. 2011); and Kate Dodge, president of NEI Global Relocation.

“FACE ON THE BARROOM FLOOR”
Woody & Dana Bradford
Wednesday, Nov. 16
5:30 p.m. bar, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. roast/toast and unveiling of “Face” by artist Jim Horan

Reservations for the Bradford event can be made by calling the Omaha Press Club at 402-345-8008.

$50 for members, $60 for nonmembers

Continued from Death Penalty on page 1

Photo by Christine Villamonte   State Sen. Colby Coash, left, argued for retention of Nebraska’s death penalty ban, and attorney Robert Evnen, co-founder of Nebraskans for the Death Penalty, argued for repeal of the ban at an OPC debate on Sept. 15. Nebraskans will vote on the issue in November.
A MESSAGE FROM THE OPC FOUNDATION

In early November you will receive a letter from the Omaha Press Club Foundation (OPCF) asking that you consider supporting our journalism scholarship program during our annual fund drive. Three years ago this fall, we began our annual drives, and thanks to hundreds of generous donors, gifts to the foundation during those drives have totaled more than $55,000. That’s $55,000 that goes to journalism scholarships to students attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Creighton University.

Your tax-deductible donation to our annual fund drive not only supports exceptional young talent in journalism and communications, but also provides affirmation for the students that they have the skills, commitment and promise to positively impact their profession and their community.

Each year, following the selection of the scholarship awardees, we formally recognize them at the OPC Foundation Scholarship Dinner held in April at the Press Club. It’s a great event that is especially memorable for these young people.

Thanks for your consideration to donate to our OPCF annual fund drive and help us provide support to these students, as we recognize the best of the best!

- Scott Darling, OPC Foundation

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COLUMN

Members, you can help us recruit new members. We have streamlined our membership categories, and made it easier and more affordable to become a member. Now OPC is offering another incentive to members: Sign up a new member and get three months off your own dues. You can get all the membership information you need to help you in your efforts to grow your club at our membership page on our website. http://omahapressclub.com/omaha-press-club-members/

Your club has many events planned over the next few months, including the 2nd District Congressional debate this month, a November winemakers dinner, a November “Face” event, the December Santa Brunch, and the New Year’s Eve Prime Rib Buffet, to mention a few.

Remember, the club is a great place to celebrate special occasions, entertain business clients, have a business meeting, or just stop in for dinner and a drink.

Omaha Hospitality Hall of Fame: I would like to welcome anyone who wants to join me on the night of my induction into the Omaha Hospitality Hall of Fame at the Metro Culinary Institute on October 16, starting at 5:00 p.m. social with dinner at 6:00 p.m., program following. The price to attend is worth the dinner alone, prepared by many of our community’s top chefs and culinary students. If you would like to make a reservation, the website is dineoutomaha.com. RSVP deadline is October 13 by 5:00 p.m.

Thank you all and see you at the club.

- Steve Villamonte CEC, BS
Executive Director Omaha Press Club

OPC MEMBERS ENJOY MANY BENEFITS

Your Omaha Press Club membership opens the door to a variety of benefits:

- **PRESTIGE OF PRIVATE CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

  OPC is a wonderful location for entertaining family, friends and guests. From the stunning views of the Omaha skyline to the unique menu and accommodating staff, it’s a dining and social experience like no other.

- **FREE USE OF FACILITIES**

  Your membership affords you the opportunity to use the OPC without paying a rental fee, resulting in a savings of between $200-$1,500. For client meetings, office parties, weddings, prenuptial dinners, news conferences and other gatherings, the OPC truly is a perfect setting for any event. The club can seat up to 250 people for sit-down dinners and up to 300 people for cocktail/hors d’oeuvres.

- **ACCESS TO SPECIAL EVENTS**

  Events are what we do best, and as a member of the OPC, you will receive member pricing for those events, including the quarterly Winemakers Dinners, Face on the Barroom Floor, Fourth of July Fireworks Buffet, Easter Brunch, Santa Brunch, St. Patrick’s Day Buffet, New Year’s Eve celebration, Mother’s Day Brunch, and Valentine’s Day dinner.

- **MEMBERS-ONLY NEWSLETTER**

  How do you find out about these amazing events? Through our monthly newsletter. Members are kept abreast of all the club happenings, plus receive committee updates and features on members.

- **RECIPROCAL CLUB RELATIONSHIPS**

  As a member of the OPC, you can dine at more than 100 private clubs across the United States.

- **CONTINUING EDUCATION AND NETWORKING**

  The OPC offers monthly Noon Forum educational events and periodic sports events hosted by Tom Shatel.

- **VALIDATED PARKING**

  Members receive free parking at the DoubleTree Hotel Garage with a validated parking slip.

- **THE CONVENIENCE OF ACCOUNT CHARGING PRIVILEGES**

  You will receive monthly statements for any food/beverage and/or event charges incurred during the billing period. (Note: Your account must remain in good standing to receive this privilege.)
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Content

Wednesday, Nov. 16

“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Woody and Dana Bradford
5:30 p.m. bar, 6:30 p.m. dinner,
7:30 p.m. roast and unveiling of “Face”

Thursday, Nov. 24 & Friday, Nov. 25

Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, Nov. 27

First annual Thanksgiving Brunch
10 a.m. and noon

Sunday, Dec. 11

Santa Brunch
10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

No one dresses up for the holidays like the Omaha Press Club does.
Are you looking for a perfect party setting? A lunch surrounded by brilliance? A holiday dinner your guests will always remember? Keep the OPC in mind.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All reservations must be cancelled 48 HOURS in advance.

WE’RE ONLINE! READ YOUR OPC NEWSLETTER AT OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM

OFFICE ......................... 402-345-8587
Restaurant ........................................ 402-345-0114
Website ........................................ www.omahapressclub.org

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Submissions for November issue are due on or before October 20.

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LUNCH
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

BAR
Tuesday - Saturday
4:30 p.m. to close

DINNER
Thursday - Saturday
5:30 p.m. to close

Hours of Operation

EVENTS
Omaha Press Club

Monday, Oct. 10
Closed for Columbus Day

Friday, Oct. 14
2nd District Congressional Debate: Don Bacon, Brad Ashford
11:30 a.m. lunch, noon program

Friday, Nov. 4
Winemakers Dinner
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner

EVENTS
Omaha Press Club

Thursday, Nov. 25
Closed for Thanksgiving

Monday, Nov. 28
Closed for Thanksgiving