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DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106

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TO: Editorial Department  
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As a former Nebraskan, whose roots in the life of the State remain deep, I watch events there with keen attentiveness. Of particular interest to me is the current race for the U.S. Senate between Bob Kerrey and David Karnes.

I am not certain how many Nebraskans know how Mr. Kerrey spent the first months of his time after he left the governorship. Within days he was here in Santa Barbara, lecturing in the classrooms of the University of California. He taught a graduate seminar in state politics, and assisted me in teaching the now nationally-known course on the impact of the Vietnam War.

Professor Kerrey was an instant success. Not only does he know both subjects through personal experience, but he also brought a passion for truth as well as a dedication to human integrity. All of us found him thoroughly captivating and uncommonly courageous. He gave us not only items to think about, but also compelling ways to inform and direct our lives.

Were he running for office in this locale, he would <sup>have</sup> ~~be~~ thousands of <sup>who would want to</sup> ~~students and others~~ assisting him. Unable to do this, the students have requested that he be invited back again, and the administration of the campus has urged him to accept a "permanent relationship," as his time allows.

From <sup>our</sup> ~~this~~ vantage point, Bob Kerrey is an extraordinarily vital witness to the authenticity of Nebraska life. Clearly his involvement in the Vietnam War has deepened his compassion and wisdom. While others remain stuck on the controversy of the war, he is helping lead the national response in a manner that heals as it looks for workable constructive ways of meeting the challenges before us. What he accomplished here, in a short time, makes me intensely proud to be a Nebraskan.

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