



BETA THETA PI

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LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, APRIL 17, 2006... It's not everyday University of Nebraska-Lincoln students get to talk football and politics with the governor of Nebraska. But on Monday afternoon, Gov. Dave Heineman made a brief stop at Beta Theta Pi Fraternity to share with members his campaign platform and answer questions.

John Palmtag, a freshman business administration major, said the governor's presence was an unexpected reply to a request for a visit. Plus, it was nice to see the governor on campus, he said. During his talk with the students, Heineman strongly emphasized his view that "education is the great equalizer," while pushing his previous accomplishments and contributions to the state's economy. "Far too often in the past there haven't been great jobs for you in the state," Heineman said.

The governor discussed the legislation he helped pass to bring more jobs into the state, saying that since Jan. 1 of this year, there have been 4,300 new jobs created in the state. "That's what we need to do if we're going to grow our state's economy," he said.

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Heineman said there are two points on which he and fellow Republican gubernatorial candidate Rep. Tom Osborne differ - education and immigration. The governor said he doesn't believe rural schools should be forced to consolidate. And he's opposed to allowing the children of illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition at Nebraska's public colleges and universities. "I'm someone who stands up proudly for education," Heineman said. "Two wrongs don't make a right."

Heineman pointed out that he is the only candidate with experience in an executive branch of government, and said a recent poll showed the race between him and Osborne is dead even. The governor said he hoped Nebraskans would see he has done a great job and would use that as a basis for reelection.

"When I get the chance to come over to meet with students, I take advantage of it," Heineman said after the visit. Mike Wortman, the fraternity's alumni adviser, said the visit was beneficial for the students. "It just helps them to keep up with the political world we live in today," Wortman said.

To learn more about the Alpha Tau chapter, visit beta.unl.edu.

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