Sept. 21 Noon Forum: 
Put a Lid On It!

Made up your mind yet about how you're going to vote on the spending lid that's going to be on the November ballot? Want to learn more about the initiative? Join us for a Noon Forum on Thursday, Sept. 21 at the Press Club.

Learn who supports the initiative, and why — and who is in opposition, and why they are against it. Our guests will include Dave Nabity, of the Nebraska SOS Coalition, and Lynn Rex, Executive Director of the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Stop Over-spending Nebraska (SOS) collected the 115,000 signatures required to place the proposal on the ballot. The proposed constitutional amendment would limit state spending growth to no more than the consumer price index plus population growth. The League of Nebraska Municipalities opposes the initiative, saying it would raise property taxes and cut services.

The program will begin promptly at noon and end at 1 p.m. The cost is $15 per person and includes lunch.

Guests and nonmembers are welcome to attend. Validated parking is available in the DoubleTree Hotel garage. To RSVP, call 345-8008.

Press Club Will Honor Hollands as Next ‘Face’

The Omaha Press Club will salute Omaha philanthropist Richard Holland and his late wife, Mary, on Wednesday, Sept. 20, as the Hollands will become the 108th "Face on the Barroom Floor."

The event, which is open to the public, will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a no-host reception. The roast will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Mary Holland died in June at the age of 82.

"Mary's giving spirit lives on in the Holland Foundation," said Tom O'Connor, chairman of the Face on the Barroom Floor Committee. "The face on the floor recognition is reserved for newsmakers who have made an impact on the community. The Hollands certainly more than fit that description. They have reached out to the community in a big way."

The event’s emcee will be Joan Squires, president of Omaha Performing Arts. Roasters will be former UNO Chancellor Del Weber; Jerry Hoberman, retired owner of Tires Inc.; and local humorist Mary Maxwell.

Perhaps nowhere is the Hollands' impact on Omaha more profound than at 13th and Douglas Streets, where the $90 million Holland Performing Arts Center opened in the fall of 2005. The new facility was named in recognition of a leadership gift provided by the Hollands. Richard Holland is vice chairman of the Omaha Performing Arts Society, which oversees the center as well as the Orpheum Theater.

The couple endowed the Robert T. Reilly Chair at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where Holland graduated in 1948 (when it was called Omaha University). The Communication School professorship is named for a former partner in the advertising agency that Holland founded — Holland Dreves Reilly. The endowed chair is among the largest at UNO thanks to the Hollands’ generous gift. Bob Reilly is also a Face on the Barroom Floor.

A gift from the Hollands in 2003 to the University of Nebraska Foundation established the Cardiovascular Research Laboratories in the Durham Research Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

A special interest in the arts inspired the couple to come to the aid of such local organizations as Opera Omaha, the Omaha Symphony and Joslyn Art Museum.

Mary Holland was also well known for her kindness to and interest in children. Institutions such as the Child Saving Institute, Winner’s Circle and All Our Kids Inc. have benefited from the couple’s benevolence.

Richard Holland was president of Opera Omaha from 1966 to 1970 and continued on page 6
Aug. 17 Noon Forum:  
When the Speaker Won Over His Audience

By Judy Horan

You know that the OPC Noon Forum speaker is not typical when he drives up in a car with bullet holes on the side, wearing a gangster outfit — black shirt and fedora with white tie and suspenders.

Steve Fischer drew more than 50 people to the Press Club on Aug. 17 to hear him discuss his self-published book, “When the Mob Ran Vegas.” They left with an earful of colorful stories and — in many cases — autographed copies of his 272-page book.

Fischer is a repository of Vegas history.

“Las Vegas was crime-free during the mob years,” he told the audience.

He said that in 1931, Nevada avoided the Great Depression with three actions. The state:
1. Legalized gambling.
2. Made divorce and marriage easy.
3. Legalized prostitution.

Fischer told stories with enthusiasm:
• Howard Hughes was stuck with $712 million in taxable income, so he bought five hotels in Las Vegas. The owners saw him coming. He ended up buying the hotels for 150 percent of what they were worth.
• Miffed at the theft of his girlfriend, Ava Gardner, by Frank Sinatra, Hughes got even by cutting Sinatra’s casino limit from $50,000 to $5,000. Enraged, Sinatra drove a motorized cart through a glass window of a coffee shop at The Sands and threw a chair at casino manager Carl Cohen.
• Casino performers had to book their gigs through a mob enforcer, who took 15 percent off the top.
• When Las Vegas first introduced nude performances, showgirls had to stand as still as a statue for an hour at a time.

His next book will be the story of Las Vegas showgirls from the 1950s and 1960s. The women he is interviewing for “Showgirls Tell All” are mostly in their 70s.

Steve Fischer came dressed for the occasion.

“It gives them something to talk about rather than a hip replacement,” joked Fischer, who found the women great fun. “They came with great stories and scrapbooks.”

The interviews are being video recorded, and he hopes to produce a documentary about the showgirls.

Fischer grew up in New York, worked in advertising in Los Angeles and now is retired and lives in Omaha.

The book, now in its third printing, has sold 25,000 copies. Copies are available on Amazon.com, eBay, and in Omaha at Barnes & Noble-Oakview, the Bookworm and the Big O Bookstore. Or order online at [www.WhenTheMobRanVegas.com](http://www.WhenTheMobRanVegas.com).

The OPC Education Forum was recorded and broadcast on KIOS Radio at Noon on Aug. 21. Forums are sponsored by the Omaha Press Club Education committee and are held monthly at the club.
Ron Sailors Jr.
Fifth Annual
Gourmet Extravaganza
Friday, Nov. 10, 2006
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
at the Omaha Press Club
$35 PER PERSON

Cocktails and Hors d’oeuvres
With Live Music
Presented by Villamonte’s Cuisine and
The Institute for the Culinary Arts
at Metropolitan Community College

Featuring a Silent Auction
including signature tortes,
a Gale Sayers autographed football,
exclusive wines and more...

Proceeds benefit the
Ron Sailors Jr.
Culinary Scholarship Fund

To RSVP, Call 345-8008.

Press Club Committees

Bylaws Committee
Chair: Chris Nelson

Communications Committee
Co-Chairs: Susan Eustice and Judy Horan

Education Committee:
Chair: Gary Kerr

Excellence in Journalism Awards Committee
Co-Chairs: Daisy Hutzell-Rodman and Dave Ogden

Executive Committee
Jim Fogarty, Steve Kline, Mark McMillan, Anne Walsh and Gary Willis

“Face on the Barroom Floor” Committee
Chair: Tom O’Connor

Marketing/Membership Committee
Chair: Wendy Townley

Media Relations Committee
Chair: Steve Kline

Professional Development Committee
Chair: Howard K. Marcus

Restaurant Committee
Chair: Cindy Jones

Scholarship Committee
Chair: Dave Ogden

Show Committee
Co-Chairs: Jim Fogarty and Carol Schrader

OPC Foundation Representative to the Board: Dave Ogden

A Note from the Executive Director

By Steve Villamonte BS, CEC

After a three-week closing with some deep cleaning and minor repairs, management and staff are well rested and gearing up for a busy holiday season at OPC. If you are planning a holiday party and have not made your reservations yet, call Christine at 345-8587 ASAP!

When we did the major renovations three years ago, one thing that was not completed was the purchase of new dining chairs around the fireplace and bar. The reason was that we had to pick the improvements the club could afford at the time, and we chose to delay the purchase of these 28 chairs until a later date.

Christine has been looking for just the right chair for some time and, when attending the national restaurant show in Chicago, she found them. OPC should be receiving our new chairs for the fireplace and bar any day now. I think everyone will be pleased with the selection.

Some members have asked questions regarding charges when reciprocating to other clubs. Here is the policy in a nutshell: OPC charges our members a 10% administration fee when they use another club. When a member from another club reciprocates to OPC, we charge a 20% reciprocation or nonmember fee. Local clubs charge anywhere from 5% to 20% reciprocation fee when you use their club. This means you could be charged as much as 30% over what the price states on your food and drink ticket. Some may think this in an unfair process, but this is how clubs encourage you to become dues-paying members. Beside initiation fees, most area clubs have monthly dues in the range of $200 to $700.

Please plan on attending the next “Face on the Barroom Floor” event on Sept. 20, honoring Dick and Mary Holland. We have a splendid menu planned for your enjoyment. (Menu and details on page 6.)

Our most popular dining experience at OPC continues to be our Two-For-One Prime Rib Night, every Thursday starting at 5 p.m. Come and join us!

E-mail Us
Steve Villamonte
villa@opc.omhcoxmail.com
Jeanie Campbell
jeaniec@opc.omhcoxmail.com
Christine Jones
christine1@opc.omhcoxmail.com

Guest cartoonist:
Tom Kerr has been cartooning and illustrating both here and abroad for over 30 years with his eccentric views of daily life.
The Channel 99 News at Millard North High School: Preparing the Next Generation of Journalists

By Kim L. Vawter
Teacher/Library Media Specialist

Monday, 7 a.m. is early for a teenager, but in the Millard North High School Library, Greg and Jon are waiting at the door to get in. They march past the rows of computers and stacks of books, followed by a few sleepy students who stake out their computer by plopping down their backpacks next to a silver and black screen. They are heading for the tiny room next to the tall stack of fiction books ... into their world. In this room they are in charge of the Channel 99 News. This is serious work.

This is the television studio. The control room is 8’x8’ and the studio space is 17’x8’. Greg flips on the computer and starts to search around for local news, sports and weather. He checks the e-mail and picks up his copy of the student announcements and carefully fills in his PowerPoint slides with the new copy and deletes the stale news. This PowerPoint runs on all the TV sets in the classrooms and hallways during the day when the live morning telecast is not running. He then reviews his Channel 99 News logo, titles for the anchors, other “supers” and weather information. He designs weekly weather graphics, and the titles for special news and the anchor’s titles.

Jon is going over the “news.” This consists of the morning announcements, carefully edited by the activity secretary. He wants to check for accuracy and stale news, and works hard to pronounce names that may be difficult as well. He then sets up the camera, anchor desk, tie clip mic and PA system mic. (Some teachers may not want to turn on the music but they still have to hear the PA, so we use both.)

Jon runs through any commercials to be sure they are cued up and checks the length. If they are over the 30-second limit, they are cut and sent to the end of the program after the “sign-off.” The administration has allowed only five minutes and he will not play a “commercial” in the middle of his telecast longer than 30 seconds. Time is money! These commercials are usually produced in-house by members of the “Broadcast Club” or by teachers and students to tout their club’s events, such as “Open Mic Night” sponsored by Mr. Keber’s Literary Magazine and Writer’s Club.

The door to the “Inner Sanctuary” pops open and in rushes a tall blond with curly hair. Matt, our sports reporter, has just arrived. Its 7:15 and he has the entire Millard North football game from Friday night. He slides into a comfy rolling chair of Production Room #3 at his favorite eMac and edits the entire game, while Pierce, his red-haired buddy, scratches away with a pencil on yellow legal pad. He works with Matt to write his comments — he knows the plays and all the players. In 15 minutes, all the highlights, a couple of seconds of cheerleaders, the crowds in the stands and the scoreboard are all captured, edited and sent to VHS tape. It is seven seconds over its one-minute allotment. Matt runs into my office to plead for more time.

“This was the MILLARD WEST game,” he implores, “and I need the extra time!” I give in. “Okay, just this once, because it is a slow news day — I think we can still bring it under 5 minutes.”

I am trying hard to be stern, but the football highlights are something that the whole school looks forward to. They will actually listen to all of the morning announcements if they know that football highlights will follow.

I add, “Go be sure and check it out with Jon; he is the general director, and if he says ‘ok,’ then it’s a go.”

Galina, a foreign exchange student who has worked in her St. Petersburg, Russia station, is ready to shoot her weather piece. She has done her research, written her copy and now is looking for Paul, her camera person. Paul is a sophomore with one year of camera work under his belt. He is too young to anchor but is happy to hook Galina up with her mic and look for a location to shoot her weather segment. The weather segment is always on Monday and is under one minute, always. The weather is local and it contains a greeting, graphics and tie-in with today’s event such as, “Have a wonderful day and enjoy the good weather for the tennis tournament.”

Galina is serious and conscientious; she never misses her weather, and if she is going to be away, she lets us know far in advance. She explodes into smiles during her segment.

It’s almost 8 a.m. and the weather is shot and edited. Paul returns the camera, Galina gathers her books and Matt, Pierce, Jon and Greg gather up their books and disappear into the crowds in the halls.

8:45. Jon and Greg are back. The morning anchors appear at the studio flushed and out of breath. Jordan comes in from marching band, where he is the student drum major. Sarah has swimming first hour. They rush past the mirror, check their hair and climb up on their stools behind the anchor desk. They run through their scripts, adjust their mics and ask Jon if there are any commercials, guests or administrators coming down to deliver a last-minute message live.

The anchors are juniors or seniors. They have beaten out at least 20 others to compete for this job. They were chosen for their forensic and speech training, reliability, grooming, poise and popularity with the student body. Sorry, life isn’t very fair for the student who is shy or reads aloud poorly. A student has to develop these skills by the time they become a junior or senior if he or she wants to anchor the news. Some students audition every year and get disqualified because a teacher points out that the student has a problem with truancy. (How-
The Omaha Press Club Foundation has instituted a new Tribute Card Program designed to help you recognize friends and family at milestones in their lives (birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, etc.), even as you contribute to scholarships for college communications students.

When you contribute to the OPC Foundation, a special card will be mailed to the honoree or to others as you direct. The names of contributors and honorees (but not the amounts) will appear in future issues of Beyond –30. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Please choose from the following funds:

Robert McMorris Scholarship Fund
Robert McMorris, who worked at the Omaha World-Herald from 1951 until his retirement in 1997, was best known for his work as a columnist, including his weekly in-depth “Sun-Up” interviews. A longtime member and supporter of the Omaha Press Club, McMorris also helped write the annual Omaha Press Club Show and appeared on stage. He died in April 2005.

Panko-Roberts/Presidents Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Panko-Roberts Scholarship has been presented since 1957 in memory of two highly respected Omaha journalists. Walter Panko was a reporter at the Omaha World-Herald and Jim Roberts was news director at television station KMTV in Omaha. This scholarship also honors past presidents of the Omaha Press Club.

Paul N. Williams Scholarship Fund
Paul N. Williams was a dedicated journalist whose 27 years as a newspaperman culminated in a share of the first Pulitzer Prize ever awarded to a weekly newspaper, the Sun Newspapers of Omaha. He was assistant professor at the Ohio State University School of Journalism until his death in October 1976.

Joseph Kasmir Award Fund
Joseph Kasmir began his broadcast career at KFAB radio, but spent nearly two decades at television station KETV in Omaha, where he served as assignment editor and then as managing editor. He was also responsible for the station’s internship program. Kasmir died in December 2005 at age 50.

Terry Mason Scholarship Fund
Terry Marshall England, known best by his on-air name, Terry Mason, was one of Nebraska’s best-known radio broadcasters. His career included work at KOIL and KKar in Omaha and radio stations in Iowa and Florida. He is especially remembered as a mentor to young broadcasters. Mason died in December 2005 at age 52.

All non-designated contributions will go into the Foundation’s General Fund.

OPC Foundation Tribute Cards

Please print legibly or type

Your name ________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________
City ___________________ State ______ Zip ______________
Phone ____________________________________________________
E-mail ____________________________________________________

This contribution is (please mark one):
__ in honor of (specify occasion) ________________________________
__ in memory of ____________________________________________

Please direct my contribution to the (mark one):
__ Robert McMorris Scholarship Fund
__ Panko-Roberts/Presidents Memorial Scholarship Fund
__ Paul N. Williams Scholarship Fund
__ Joseph Kasmir Award Fund
__ Terry Mason Scholarship Fund
__ OPC Foundation General Fund

Please acknowledgment of my tribute to:
Name _____________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________
City ___________________ State ______ Zip ______________
Phone ____________________________________________________
E-mail ____________________________________________________

Mail your contribution and this form to:
OPC Foundation
P.O. Box 4842
Omaha, NE 68104-0842

Make checks payable to the OPC Foundation.
continued from page 1

ues to be a major supporter. He is vice chairman of the board of directors of Opera Omaha.

Richard Holland and his partners established the Holland Drexel Reilly advertising agency in 1957. After building the firm into Omaha’s second-largest advertising agency, with accounts such as Valmont and First National Bank, he retired in 1983.

Much of the Hollands’ wealth, which they have distributed so generously, came from early investments in Berkshire Hathaway during the 1960s.

Born in 1921, Richard Holland still lives in the same unpretentious home he and his wife bought in 1957. A 1938 graduate of Central High School, he majored in chemistry at Omaha University before being drawn into World War II.

During wartime, he was an officer in the Army Chemical Corps, attaining the rank of captain. After the war, he returned to Omaha University and majored in art. He was a college fencing champion and co-authored a column in the weekly Gateway school newspaper titled “Political Scenery.”

Mary Holland graduated from Brownell Hall and then Mills College in Oakland, Calif. She was an Ak-Sar-Ben princess in 1947.

Richard and Mary Holland were inducted into the Ak-Sar-Ben Court of Honor in 2004. He stressed that he and his late wife were partners in their philanthropy.

The couple has three daughters and five grandchildren. A son died in 1970.

Reservations are needed only for those who wish to attend the dinner that follows the roast.

The cost for attending the dinner is $40 for Omaha Press Club members and $50 for non-members. There is no charge to attend the roast.

Call 345-8008 for reservations.

Getting Married?
Congratulations.

Looking for a place to have your wedding reception?
Look no further.

The Omaha Press Club offers expert assistance with food and beverage selections, table settings, flowers and decorations, rentals, music and more.

OPC members enjoy free room/club rental with a food or beverage order (up to a $1200 value).

China, glassware and flatware are available for up to 220 guests.

Call Christine at 345-8008

INQUIRE ABOUT PREADUITAL DINNERS TOO...

108TH FACE ON THE BARROOM FLOOR MENU

AMUSÉ
Cajun Tuna Canapés
Rare Seared Cajun Tuna, Served on Sliced Cucumber
Garnished with Pickled Ginger

SALAD
OPC’s Famous Thunderbird Salad

ENTRÉE
Filet of Beef
A tender Omaha steak presented with a veal demi-glace served with chipotle garlic buttered potatoes, and assorted vegetables with a peppercorn cognac sauce

SIGNATURE DESSERT
Chocolate Napoleon with Chestnuts

Cost: $40 per person (OPC Members) • $50 per person (Nonmembers)

For Reservations, Call 345-8008

Omaha Press Club Catering Services

Parties • Weddings • Catered Lunches

Call Christine at 345-8008 for details
or visit www.omahapressclub.org for menus

Happy Hours

Tuesdays Through Fridays
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

PRICE DISCOUNTS
TAP BEER: $1.50
DOMESTIC BOTTLED BEERS: $2.00
IMPORTS: $3.00
MIXED DRINKS: $3.25
WELL & HOUSE WINES: $3.25
All other drinks reduced by $1.00

Special Functions/Parties Not Included (Member Privilege Only)

The OPC bar is open Tuesday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to close.
(please call before you come.)
Profiles in Journalism: Millard North News

continued from page 4

ever, no one is denied a place in the Broadcast Club. There is always a job that needs attention."

Now all eyes are on the clock. The anchors are in their chairs. Pierce clutches his football script off camera, Greg rolls tape on the VCR and Jon holds his hand on the joystick of the video switcher. Greg slides over to the Mackie Mixer to start the music. The bell rings. Cue music! Cue animation! Electric blue and white animation rolls over the screen and an announcer’s voice booms out of the music, “Millard 99 News starts NOW!”

The news is projected onto the wall of the library with speakers so loud that it overrides normal conversation. Jordan and Sarah are over six feet tall. “Good Morning Millard North, I am Jordan.”

“… and I am Sarah and here’s what’s happening today!”

Sidra sits next to me in the library. She watches and takes notes. She is in charge of troubleshooting and continuity and she is also assigned to “Activities Reporting.” She always comes to watch the news in the library. She nods and scribbles an observation — Sarah’s hair is wet from swimming today. She looks a little off center, she will tell the camera person. They have mispronounced a name from a student new to this school. She will check it. She studies the telecast; the news, the commercials, the weather segment and the football footage. They run 7 seconds over on the sports. She notes that. She waits outside the studio to remind Jon in her soft little voice.

The telecast is over—the library erupts in applause. I congratulate the whole team, some of the students in their chairs. Jordan has a guest anchor. This is very exciting, as it gives the students a chance to see what they do personally to get ready to report the news and weather.

Recognition from their peers inspires them and reminds them of the importance of their work. Students get valuable experience collaborating with other students who share their interest. Teachers, administrators and parents value their contribution to the school. Some of these students are able to use their knowledge and skills to produce professional-looking productions for outside organizations as a way to earn money. Others have gone on to pursue their interest in broadcast journalism, through summer courses and in a regular four-year degree program.

— Kim Vawter has taught for 29 years at Millard North High School. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts from Park College in Parkville, Missouri, and a Master of Arts in Secondary/Post-Secondary Education with an endorsement in Library Science from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Omaha Press Club Unveils New Web Site

The next time you visit the Omaha Press Club Web site, www.omahapressclub.com, you’ll notice more than just a new look. We’ve overhauled our Web site with a cleaner design and easy to use navigation.

Our redesigned Web site has been several months in the making, and we are thrilled with the final product.

Not only will our new Web site be a great tool to inform our members of upcoming events, but it also will serve as a great method to market the club and recruit new members.
New Hires On Radio, TV

KFAB (1110 AM) shook up its weekday programming slate to make room for new local talk show host Scott Voorhees, who can be heard from 9-11 a.m. Voorhees is a Ralston High and University of Nebraska at Kearney graduate who has previously worked in Kansas City (KCMO, KCTE) and Omaha (KKAR, KOIL, KLTQ) …

John Ginzkey has been named general manager of Connoisseur Media-owned radio station KBBX (97.7 FM). Ginzkey previously managed Omaha radio station KKCD (105.9 FM) and was also general sales manager for KQKQ (98.5 FM) and KKar (1290 AM) …

Kerri Stowell arrives as a general assignment reporter at KMTV (Cox Channel 5) from KCAU in Sioux City, where she was a reporter, anchor and producer. The Missouri native is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City …

David Gustafson will be the new radio play-by-play voice for University of Nebraska at Omaha football broadcasts. He replaces Kevin Kugler, who recently landed the main play-by-play duties for Westwood One’s college football network broadcasts.

McWilliams Off to Asia

KETV (Cox Channel 9) meteorologist Chuck McWilliams is deploying for his second tour of duty with the 754th Chemical Company of the Nebraska National Guard. He will be stationed in Southwest Asia for up to a year as part of “Operation Iraqi Freedom.” As recently as 18 months ago, McWilliams spent five months on active duty in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

TV Stations Re-Launching

KMTV (Cox Channel 5) will re-launch its 6 p.m. newscast on Sept. 5. The debut of “Action 3 News Live at 6” coincides with the debut of new “CBS Evening News” anchor Katie Couric … WOWT’s digital station, UPN Omaha (Cox Channel 248), will re-launch and re-brand itself as “6 2 0” on Sept. 18, following the merger of the WB and UPN networks to form The CW.

— Sean Weide is an OPC member who writes a weekly column on media notes of interest in The Reader newspaper at and www.thereadersmedianotes.blogspot.com. He can be reached at sean.weide@yahoo.com.