

Nelson stresses record in election bid

Republicans say leadership lacking

By Jeffrey Robb Senior Edito

ov. Ben Nelson kicked off his re-elec-tion bid Monday by stressing his record during the past three years in office and challenging his opponents to match it. Speaking from the Governor's Mansion,

Nelson said he and Lieutenant Governor candidate Kim Robak wanted to build on his administration's success

Nelson said his record spoke for itself. His opponents, he said, didn't have the gubernatorial records to fall back on and could tell only what they could do in a given situation.

The other declared candidates for the November election are Republicans Alan Jacobsen, Gene Spence and Ralph Knobel. Nelson is the only Democrat in the race to date.

Former Gov. Frank Morrison, who introduced Nelson, said the governor had not practiced strictly Democratic politics. He said Nelson wasn't afraid to be non-partisan, even to the point of appointing a Republican to the Nebraska Legislature.

"It's all right to drink of the Republican River. It's all right to bathe in the Republican River. But don't let it drown you," Morrison said.

Nelson said he wanted to make the state work for everyone.

"I've listened to the voices of all Nebraskans," Nelson said.

Nelson said he succeeded in controlling the budget. He cited a \$100 million budget cut and a decrease in the number of state employees from one year ago. He also said he listened to the request for an

income tax cut, and he provided it for 40,000 Nebraskans.

Nelson said the improvements during his administration helped the state's economy Nebraska has 16,000 more jobs than in 1990. The market for the state's products also has



Gerik Parmele/DN

Gov. Ben Nelson and his wife, Diane, are greeted by a crowd of supporters at the governor's mansion. Nelson, who announced his bid for re-election Monday, said the state could build on the success it has already achieved

expanded. Nelson said Nebraska beef was now being sold to Israel and Taiwan, and more beef was going to Japan. The grain market, through the demand for ethanol, is growing. He said \$500 million worth of ethanol-plant construction was in the works.

enterprise zones, helped existing business to \$1.5 million in cash from drug offenders. grow and recruited new business to the state.

safer through his administration. Drug arrests have doubled while law-enforcement officials

Nelson said his administration also created have seized \$122 million worth of drugs and The state has made much progress, the gov-

Nelson said Nebraska streets had been made ernor said - progress that would serve as

UNL teaching method

might be duplicated

See NELSON on 3

eering debate persists

Editor's note: Today begins a three-part series in which the Daily Nebraskan looks at the continuing debate among NU offi-cials on whether to add an engineering college, separate from UNL's, to the University of Ne-braska at Omaha.

By Matthew Waite Senior Reporter

history of the debate, according to Stan Liberty, dean of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Atacostof\$25,000-abargain according to Skrupa - the regents hired as consultants, Donald Langenberg, chancellor of the Uni-versity of Maryland system; James Halligan, president of New Mexico State University; Charles James, dean of the College of Engineering

Engineering debate timeline

Officials on both sides agree the UNO Engineering College should be expanded.

 Regent Rosemary Skrupa said money was not an issue, UNL Dean of Engineering

Stan Liberty said otherwise. Businessman David Sokol

prove teaching methods.

By Paula Lavigne

Senior Reporter

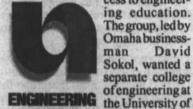
Not that we think we know all the answers. We have things to share with our peer universities.

n Aug. 10, 1993, before the fall semester began, a debate started that may have pitted two NU campuses against each other.

The issue, discussed at a meet-ing that day by private business interests in Omaha, was about access to engineer-

David

at



DEBATE

In September, Regent Rosemary Skrupa of Omaha presented a draft resolution to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents proposing the establishment of a separate, independent engineering college in Omaha.

Nebraska

Omaha.

The board didn't immediately act on Skrupa's resolution. Instead, the board hired four consultants to study engineering education in Nebraska.

Those events were the official

and Applied Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and John Christian, vice president of Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation.

Liberty said his contact with the consultants had been limited. His office has provided them basic information — budgets, enrollments, faculty credentials and other stud-

ies, he said. "We do not disagree over ex-panding opportunities in Omaha," Liberty said. "I have not taken the stand that the independent college is out of the question.

"I have stated unequivocally that there is no justifiable rationale for shutting down the Lincoln operation and moving the resources to Omaha.'

The problem is funding for the college, Liberty said. He said money available for engineering education in Nebraska was low compared to other states.

Funds for engineering were below those in Iowa, South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming and Kansas, Liberty said. To be on a level of funding with Kansas, whose bud-get is closest to UNL's, Liberty said, \$1.9 million would have to be

said Omaha businesses would pick up most of the estimated \$2 to \$3 million tab for the college. Wednesday, the Daily Nebraskan will explore the effects of the debate on the "one university concept."

DN graphic

added to the program. He said there would be three ways to fund the additional college increased taxes, increased tax base or reallocating funds from within the university. The resourc-es were not there to be reallocated, he said, and the tax burden already is too high.

Skrupa said the money issue didn't hold water.

"They always raise the issue of money when there is no legitimate argument to fall back on," she said. 'You don't look at the money, you look at the need.

Skrupa, who called the money issue the bogeyman, said outside financial support from Omahabusi-nesses, reallocating funds and reas-

See ENGINEERING on 3

lor for academic affairs, said UNL officials anticipated inclusion in the American Association for Higher Education list to be announced Friday

network program to assess and im-

he University of Nebraska-

Lincoln could be selected to

take part in a 12-university

Leitzel said UNL expressed an interest in the program and submitted its reasoning for the AAHE's approval. "We said UNL was a strong teach-ing university," Leitzel said. "We have

already attracted two grants from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Secondary Education.

Leitzel said the grants had elevated UNL to national recognition in the field of improvements in teaching.

Having UNL linked to the program would be a source of prestige, she said. "We'd be pretty pleased to be iden-

- Leitzel, senior vice chancellor

tified," she said. "Not that we think we know all the answers. We have things to share with our peer universities."

Leitzel said grants received by the AAHE would go to fund the program. She said the grants would go in part to finance travel expenses for faculty members to attend a summer conference at Stanford University.

Four public universities, four private universities and four comprehensive universities will be chosen for the program.

See NETWORK on 3

Bjorklund hearing delayed

From Staff Reports

hearing for Roger Bjorklund was postponed Monday after he refused to appear in Lancaster County District Court be-

cause of an upset stomach. Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said the hearing would be delayed until today at 9 a.m.

During the hearing, Judge Donald Endacott will consider motions filed by Bjorklund and his attorney, Chief

Deputy Public Defender Scott Helvie. Bjorklund was convicted in No-vember of murdering University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshman Candice Hatms. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for March 7: