

# Daily Nebraskan

January 25, 1994

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 93 No. 89

SPORTS  
**Tigers Snarl  
Nebraska**

Missouri uses an early second-half run to blast past the Cornhuskers 89-73 Monday night.

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**Tuesday**

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Today cloudy and colder...



## Nelson stresses record in election bid

### Republicans say leadership lacking

By Jeffrey Robb  
Senior Editor

Gov. Ben Nelson kicked off his re-election 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 Parmelo/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.

Nelson said his administration also created enterprise zones, helped existing business to grow and recruited new business to the state.

Nelson said Nebraska streets had been made safer through his administration. Drug arrests have doubled while law-enforcement officials

have seized \$122 million worth of drugs and \$1.5 million in cash from drug offenders.

The state has made much progress, the governor said — progress that would serve as

See NELSON on 3

## Engineering debate persists

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

By Matthew Waite  
Senior Reporter

On 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 meeting that day by private business interests in Omaha, was about access to engineering education. The group, led by Omaha businessman David Sokol, wanted a separate college of engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

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.

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

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

At a cost of \$25,000 — a bargain according to Skrupa — the regents hired as consultants, Donald Langenberg, chancellor of the University of Maryland system; James Halligan, president of New Mexico State University; Charles James, dean of the College of Engineering 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 studies, he said.

"We do not disagree over expanding 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 budget is closest to UNL's, Liberty said, \$1.9 million would have to be

### 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 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 resources 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 Omaha businesses, reallocating funds and reas-

See ENGINEERING on 3

## UNL teaching method might be duplicated

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln could be selected to take part in a 12-university network program to assess and improve teaching methods.

Joan Leitzel, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, said UNL officials anticipated inclusion in the American Association for Higher Education list to be announced Friday.

Leitzel said UNL expressed an interest in the program and submitted its reasoning for the AAHE's approval.

"We said UNL was a strong teaching 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-

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

— 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

A hearing for Roger Bjorklund was postponed Monday after he refused to appear in Lancaster County District Court because 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 November of murdering University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshman Candice Harms. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for March 7.