

Candidate for governor advocates budget cuts

Campaign focuses on crime, economy

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is top-heavy just like the Nebraska state government, which is why the university has budget problems, a Republican gubernatorial candidate said Tuesday.

Alan Jacobsen of Lincoln told a group of more than 30 College Republicans that the two organizations needed to follow business examples and cut back on administrators.

"I think you could also cut back on building your green spaces," he said.

Jacobsen said a major part of his campaign was cutting state government. He said the 1990 state budget was \$1.2 billion, \$400 million below its present level of \$1.6 billion. Since 1990, the state's population decreased, he said.

The government also is trying to regulate business to death, Jacobsen said. The majority of safety fines issued by the federal and state government are for paperwork errors, he said, and not for safety violations.

"Government should encourage growth, not stop it," Jacobsen said.

Jacobsen criticized the Legislature, calling the proposal of more than 800 bills "outrageous."

The Legislature does not need to meet every year, Jacobsen said. The body should meet every other year, he said.

Jacobsen said many of the state senators, especially the senators from western Nebraska, were not good representatives of their constituents.

Jacobsen told the audience three main issues he would address during the campaign:

- Stopping the growth of government.
- Instituting a tough crime package.
- Starting a strong economic development program.

In order to start strong economic development in the state, Jacobsen said, there needs to be some changes.

"We need to de-politicize the Office of Economic Development," he said.

Jacobsen said he proposed a nationwide search for a director of economic development that would suit Nebraska's needs better.

Last September, Gov. Ben Nelson appointed then-Lt. Gov. Maxine Moul to head the economic development office. Nelson then appointed Kim Robak to the Lt. Governor post.

At the time, state Republican Party officials criticized the power shift as being politically motivated. Robak and Nelson, both Democrats, are seeking re-election.

On crime, Jacobsen said he had a detailed plan to make Nebraska a safer place.

In the plan, Jacobsen proposes work-camps for non-violent offenders. He said the camps were not boot camps or educational camps, but oriented toward developing work skills.

Jacobsen also proposed abolishing parole for violent offenders.

Jacobsen will face fellow Republican candidates Ralph Knobel of Fairbury, Gene Spence of Omaha, John DeCamp of Clatonia and Mort Sullivan of Omaha in the May primary election.

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Author to question Darwin's theory

From Staff Reports

The author of the book "Darwin On Trial" will challenge the theory of Darwinism on Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

Phillip Johnson, a professor of law at the University of California at Berkeley, specializes in the logic of arguments. His belief is that from a logical point of view and using the accepted canons of scientific research, the theory of Darwinism lacks confirming evidence.

A question-and-answer session will follow the speech.

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