

Hagel, Nelson argue budget cuts

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From there, the candidates criticized each other about the amount the other was cutting and where the cuts were coming from.

Whenever the candidates agreed about where a cut should come from, they disagreed over how much and when the cuts should be made.

Nelson charged that Hagel's numbers didn't add up. Hagel shot back, saying Nelson's math was flawed. The pingpong match of accusations continued to the end.

The candidates could not even agree on which numbers to start from — and used the other's source as a point of attack. Hagel used numbers from the Republicans, Nelson used the controversial Congressional Budget Office's numbers.

When the candidates weren't quib-

bling over budget numbers, they were charging each other with partisan politics. Hagel tried to tie Nelson to President Clinton, while Nelson said Hagel had an insider mentality.

Even after Nelson said in his opening comments that partisanship should be ignored, the candidates had a lively exchange over each other's party ties. The trouble started over a question about how much influence a first-term senator could have.

Hagel said he would be a majority senator under a Republican Congress and would be given more power. He also said his values were incorporated in his party, unlike Nelson's.

Nelson responded, saying Hagel had already surrendered his judgement to the Republican party's leadership.

"This is one of the clear differences between my opponent and I," Nelson said. "He's given his proxy to his party

leaders and I have refused to do that."

Hagel said Nelson's words sounded nice, but said Nelson's first vote would be to organize the Senate — which is a vote made along party lines.

Nelson closed by saying the time for political bickering must end and that Americans deserved better from the Senate.

He then went on to criticize Hagel for partisanship.

In his closing, Hagel emphasized his real-world experience as a businessman. He also repeated his belief that this election is critical.

"A United States senator's job is about vision, about doing it right and about saying it straight," he said. "If I didn't think this country was on the brink of a golden age, I wouldn't be doing it."

"I think it's worth it."

Illiteracy ails Lincoln residents

PETER MARHOEFER
Staff Reporter

"*Illiteracy is a no-win for everybody.*"

LOIS POPPE
director of the Lincoln Literacy Council

Picture 76,000 screaming Cornhusker fans chanting "Go Big Red" in Memorial Stadium. Now imagine that 15,200, or 20 percent of them, can't spell these three simple words.

One in five Lincoln residents is functionally illiterate according to the Lincoln Literacy Council, a United Way agency.

Lois Poppe, director of the Literacy Council, said illiteracy applied to people who had problems functioning with daily life because of poor basic reading and writing skills.

On Sunday, International Literacy Day, the council gave books to new mothers to encourage them

to read to their children to prevent illiteracy.

Men and women of all ages and varied backgrounds are illiterate, Poppe said, but immigrants, refugees, people with learning disabilities and elderly, uneducated people are the most affected.

"Illiteracy is a no-win for everybody," Poppe said.

According to the council, people with reading and writing limitations

earn 42 percent less than a literate person and \$8 billion is lost in tax revenue every year because of illiteracy. Another \$5 billion in taxes support people who are illiterate.

Illiteracy can also lead to time in prison, Poppe said, because some people tire of being shut out of opportunities because they can't read and write so they turn to crime for survival.

Poppe said friends of illiterate people should help them identify their problem and seek help. Poppe said the Lincoln Literacy Council offered confidential half-hour screenings where they assess skills and set goals.

The council needs volunteers to tutor for one hour a week. Tutoring is done at churches, community centers and libraries in Lincoln. Interested volunteers can call 476-READ.

Technology Park kicks off construction of 'incubator'

BY ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's new home for high-tech companies looking for a place to expand the future of technology began Friday with a few shovels full of dirt.

Ground-breaking for the \$2 million, 22,000 square foot main building at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Technology Park took place at 11 a.m. Friday at the 135-acre site north of Interstate 80 near Highlands Boulevard.

Lt. Gov. Kim Robak, NU President Dennis Smith, UNL Chancellor James Moeser and Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns attended the ceremony to kick off the construction of the technology development center, sometimes referred to as the "incubator" building.

Theresa Klein, director of public relations at the University of Nebraska Foundation, said the addition was nicknamed incubator because it would house growing businesses.

The businesses will be involved in technological transfers between the university and the private sector, Klein said. One communications technology corporation, Transcript International, already occupies a 10-acre site at the park.

The Technology Park idea was dreamed up in the late 1980s, Klein said, as a venture with UNL, the city and technology businesses.

Klein said UNL students would benefit from the park because the businesses may offer them more internships and jobs.

In return, the businesses will use the university for continuing education for their employees and access to research facilities. Lincoln will profit from money the businesses bring to the city and state.

Husker fans get fired up before NASCAR unveiling Friday night

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Moeser and Gov. Ben Nelson.

All made brief speeches to the crowd. Nelson, dressed in a red sport coat and briefly wearing a red and white striped "Cat-In-The-Hat" Husker hat, gave his "top five list of reasons why Husker NASCAR racing is better than football games."

Among the items on his list were: "because Husker fans get to watch us beat 40 opponents every Saturday instead of just one" and "because NASCAR racing isn't like many politicians, who spin their wheels and only go in a circle."

Following the speeches, the car's cover was removed to the music of Alan Parson's "Sirius," the song played when the football team comes onto the field before games.

The car, a black Ford Thunderbird with red trim, carried the Husker logo, the "University of Nebraska" name and the back-to-back na-

tional championship logo.

The car received thunderous approval from the crowd, especially when its engine was revved repeatedly.

Some UNL students in the crowd approved of the car.

"I think it'll really introduce more Huskers to NASCAR racing — which is a great sport," said Mike Strubel, a senior in the Teachers College.

Gov. Nelson, speaking after the unveiling, also was optimistic about NASCAR and what it could provide for the university.

"I'm inspired that Trev Alberts would come back to do something like this," Nelson said. "It is very unselfish on his behalf."

With \$20 T-shirts, \$10 posters and \$20 sunglasses being sold just feet away, Nelson said he thought the car would certainly bring revenue back to UNL.