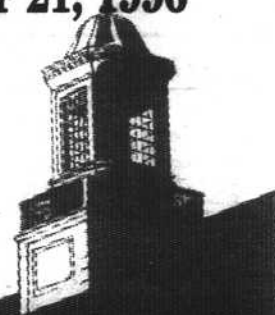


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LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

LYLE SITTLER shows a group of about 30 UNL foreign exchange students the seeds of his milo crop Saturday afternoon. Sittler, who operates Blue Stem Valley Farm, gave the group a tour to help show other aspects of Nebraska life outside of campus.

Students see first harvest

International scholars find differences between farm, homeland

BY HEIDI WHITE
Staff Reporter

Marja Smits had never walked through fields of milo or watched cattle grazing in a pasture until Saturday.

Smits, a business graduate student, has lived in the city all her life, and it was a city far away from the farms that surround Lincoln.

Smits, a native of Amsterdam, Netherlands, was one of 30 University of Nebraska-Lincoln international students who visited a farm Saturday.

"I'm not familiar with farm life at all,"

Smits said.

The students got a taste of Nebraska farm life during harvest season after taking a trip to Blue Stem Valley Farm near Martell, which is about 20 miles southwest of Lincoln.

"A lot of times they come here and don't know what to expect," said Nickette Nakama, an International Affairs receptionist.

Smits said she thought the farm would be different, "like what you see in American movies."

Lihyunn Lee, a business management major from Klang, Malaysia, said she went on the trip because she wanted to see an

American farm and experience farming in Nebraska by looking at the crops and the scenery.

She said the Martell farm was very different from the fields she had in her country.

Lutfullah Turkmen, a biology education major from Antalya, Turkey, said he went on the trip because he wanted to see the similarities and differences in farm styles and technology between his country and America.

Turkmen said the 1,513-acre Blue Stem Valley farm was his idea of a classic American farm, and farms in his country were much

Please see FARM on 6

Educators rally behind Nelson bid

BY ERIN GIBSON
Staff Reporter

OMAHA — Educators rallied Saturday to support a former UNL logic instructor in his bid for the U.S. Senate.

Nebraska teachers cheered Gov. Ben Nelson's 10-year record on education — a record that includes tripling Nebraska public education funding — during a rally at 2912 S. 84th St., near the governor's Omaha campaign headquarters.

Nelson promised rally participants he would continue support for Nebraska's public education from Washington, if elected.

The governor himself benefitted from Nebraska's public education. Nelson, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln alumnus, returned to UNL in 1963 to teach Philosophy 410C, a logic course, until 1967.

Nelson said his opponent wanted to eliminate federal funding of public education for kindergarten through 12th grade, which would cost Nebraska \$150 million annually.

"It's irresponsible. It's unnecessary. And it will not happen if I have a voice in the United States Senate," Nelson said.

Republican challenger Chuck Hagel's education cuts would damage school-lunch programs, cut funds for school improvements and cut special education programs, including closed captioning for the hearing-impaired, Nelson said.

Beth Feldman, a teacher at Omaha Central High School, said educators rallied in support for Nelson because they trust him.

"We know where Gov. Nelson stands," she said. "He has a proven track record."

State education funding increased during Nelson's time as governor, even though he balanced the state budget, she said.

"There's a world of difference" between Nelson and Hagel, Feldman said. Hagel supports the elimination of the U.S. Department of Education, which would hurt education in Nebraska, she said.

"We cannot afford in this country to lose the public education that we have," she said. "It's

Please see NELSON on 7

Athletes teach running skills to boys with prosthetic limbs

BY CHAD LORENZ
Senior Reporter

Even after 10 years of playing soccer, two Lincoln youths learned a valuable lesson from two professional athletes Friday — how to run.

Running poses a different challenge to Jeff Bayer and Matt Nolde. Bayer, 15, uses a prosthetic leg, and Nolde, 15, uses prosthetic feet.

Two professional athletes, each with a prosthetic leg, worked with Bayer and Nolde for two hours Friday at the Wesleyan Knight Field House.

World-class track athletes Kurt Collier and Tom Martin showed the boys how to adjust their prosthetic limbs to run faster and more efficiently.

Collier, a bronze medalist in this year's Paralympic Games, told them to learn balance on their prosthetic limb.

"The better your balance is, the better you'll

be able to hit these running positions," Collier said.

Although Bayer can juggle a soccer ball skillfully between his left leg and his prosthetic right, when he runs, his upper-body sways back and forth.

By improving his balance, Bayer should be able to run with his back straight and his arms parallel, Collier said.

"We don't want the arms doing the twist," Martin said, and instructed Bayer to straighten his stride and "run like Forrest Gump."

That upper-body twist is wasted motion, Martin said, and an efficient runner wants to run a straight line.

Collier showed the boys how to get more power from their stride by lifting their legs higher. That motion makes the legs pull the body forward rather than push the ground back, he said.

Please see SOCCER on 6



JAY CALDERON/DN

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jeff Bayer, left, plays with a soccer ball while being trained by professional athletes Kurt Collier and Tom Martin. The athletes taught Bayer how to use his prosthetic leg in competition.