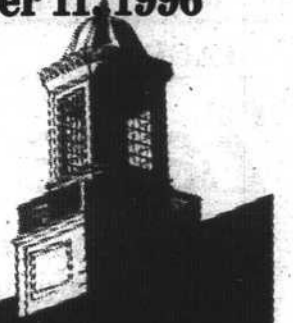


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## Hagel says GOP could lead on issues

By **MATTHEW WAITE**  
Senior Reporter

As President Clinton struggles with cabinet vacancies, Congress has a chance to show early leadership in crucial issues, Senator-elect Chuck Hagel said Friday.

Hagel said the departures of Defense Secretary William Perry and Secretary of State Warren Christopher affected people's confidence in their re-elected president.

The selection of replacements will slow the president on setting an agenda for the country, he said, and that's where the Republican Congress can come in and take the early lead on issues such as Medicare and Social Security.

"We must do it in a way that's good for the country first, not in a partisan way," he said.

Hagel said the work will get done if the Congress and the president work together despite their differences.

"As long as we debate them in a civil way ... then we'll be just fine," he said.

Hagel was in Lincoln Friday to thank his supporters in Lancaster County. He flew around the state Thursday and Friday to talk with other backers.

Since his Election Day thumping of Gov. Ben Nelson, Hagel has been talking with Republican Senate leaders about committee assignments.

Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, and Oklahoma Sen. Don Nichols, the Senate majority whip — who both campaigned for Hagel's senatorial bid — have both talked to Hagel about committees.

Hagel said some of the committees discussed included Commerce, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary. However, Armed Services, the committee on which retiring Nebraska Sen. James Exon served, could be tough to get because of high demand, he said.

Foreign Affairs would be important to his home state, Hagel said, because open markets are crucial to Nebraska's agricultural economy.

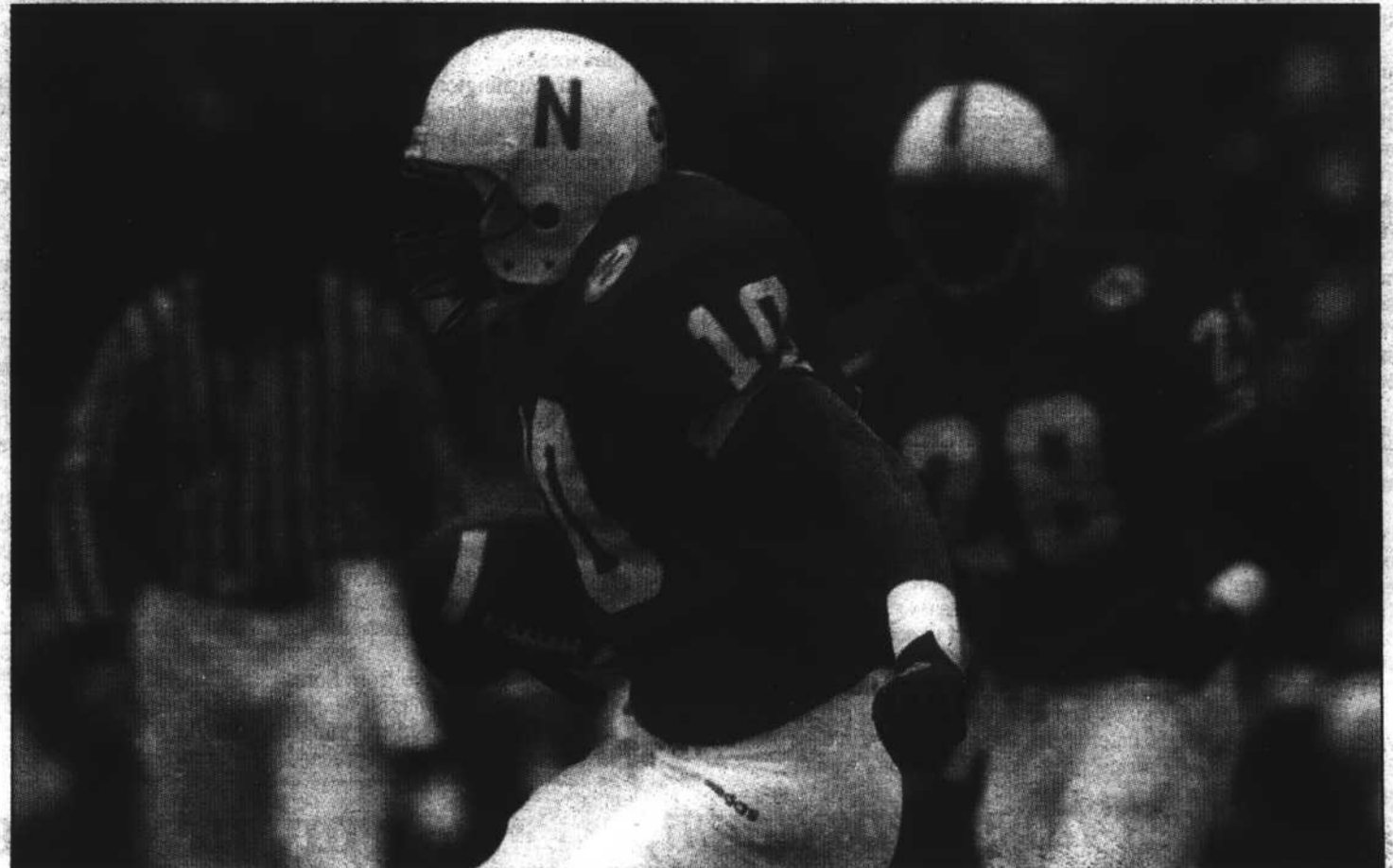
Hagel said the Judiciary Committee would be a good assignment, especially because he would be only the second non-attorney on the committee.

In the next few years, the Judiciary Committee could potentially see three new U.S. Supreme Court justices and several federal judges come before it for confirmation.

"The United States Senate has not done as good of a job as they could at looking at judges,"

Please see **HAGEL** on 7

## Picked off



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

**NEBRASKA SENIOR** safety Mike Minter returns an interception during the second quarter of Saturday's 51-7 win over Missouri. Minter was brought down at the Missouri 4-yard line after a 27-yard return. Nebraska scored two plays later to increase its lead to 16-0. Nebraska forced four turnovers and held the Tigers to 170 total yards. Please see game coverage on pages 8-9.

## Mad Dads take on tough task

*Graffiti clean-up difficult, but worth result of better-looking Lincoln*

By **KASEY KERBER**  
Senior Reporter

Mad Dads never said that doing the right thing was easy. But Saturday, the group discovered just how hard it could be.

Mad Dads members went to five locations in Lincoln to cover up graffiti with gallons of paint and hours of effort.

What two of the Mad Dads groups didn't expect was that much of the graffiti had been painted on steep, concrete slopes underneath bridges.

The 20-foot concrete slabs were sloped at about 45 degrees, and volunteers said that the tread on their shoes was all that kept them from sliding to the bottom.

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*I'm surprised that the gangs who did this didn't kill themselves in the process.”*

**PAM VAN NESET**  
Mad Dads volunteer

Pam Van Neset, a Mad Dads volunteer, used one hand to paint over graffiti and held tightly onto a metal support bar with the other.

"I'm surprised that the gangs who did this didn't kill themselves in the process," Van Neset said.

The slope of one bridge was so steep that

four safety ropes were tied to the bridge to help support volunteers while they painted.

But the difficulty of the task didn't discourage Mad Dads members and volunteers from their goal.

Please see **MAD DADS** on 7

## Professors witness central Asian nation's ailing economy

By **STACEY RANGE**  
Staff Reporter

International trade took a twist from the board room last month when three UNL professors gave advice about capitalism to a group of former communists in exchange for sheep eyes and vodka shots.

But the professors weren't left with a bad taste in their mouths, nor were they short-changed on the deal.

In return for their advice, they experienced the economic reality of the former Soviet republic Kyrgyzstan (Ker-gi-STAN) and the traditions of that central Asian country.

Bill Avery, political science professor; Susan Fritz, director of Nebraska Human Resources Institute; and visiting Turkish professor Necati Sozuoz addressed a conference of the Regional Organization of Central Asian Re-

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*My wife asked me what it tasted like, and I said it tasted like vodka because I chased it with a shot of vodka.”*

**BILL AVERY**  
political science professor

publics in Bishkek, the country's capital, earlier this fall.

The three professors were invited by the Kyrgyzstan Institute to deliver papers each had written on dominate Kyrgyzstan concerns of developing international trade.

The institute is a member of the ROCAR International Standards committee.

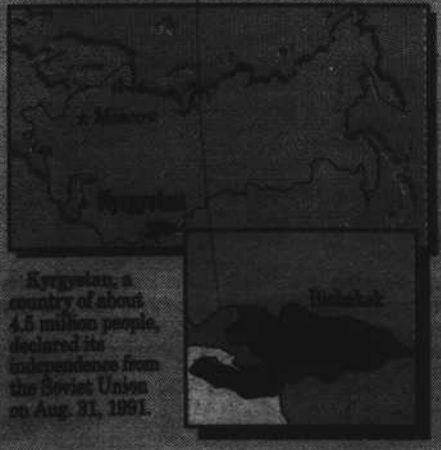
"It's such a young country," Fritz said. "In some ways they are still trying to decide who

they are.”

When it was part of the Soviet Union, Kyrgyzstan was known as Kirghizia. It proclaimed its independence on Aug. 31, 1991, and became a constitutional republic. It joined the U.N. and the International Monetary Fund in 1992, and adopted a "shock therapy" economic program.

Please see **CAPITALISM** on 7

### Moving to capitalism



Kyrgyzstan, a country of about 4.5 million people, declared its independence from the Soviet Union on Aug. 31, 1991.

AARON STECKELBERG/DN