

Nuclear-waste issue sparks debate clash

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The exchange was one of a few instances in which Nelson and Stenberg's dislike for each other emerged in this, their final scheduled candidate forum before the Nov. 7 election.

Earlier this week, a copy-righted Omaha World-Herald poll showed Nelson in the lead, 53 percent to 33 percent.

The candidates also argued over Social Security and prescription drugs.

Nelson proposed placing the Social Security trust fund in a "lock box" and using 10 percent to 15 percent of the federal budget surpluses to extend the program's solvency to 2055. Under current projections, the Social Security system will be unable to pay full benefits after 2037.

Stenberg wants to allow younger workers to invest a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes in private investment accounts, which he said would yield higher returns.

Nelson said Stenberg's proposal would remove \$1 trillion from the Social Security trust fund, forcing some combination of higher payroll taxes, lower benefits or a higher retirement age.

Stenberg disagreed, accusing Nelson of distorting his proposal.

"We can build more wealth for our future with this approach," Stenberg said. "I do not support raising the retirement age, nor raising Social

Security taxes. I hope I won't be hearing that during the rest of the campaign."

Responded Nelson: "You'll continue to hear that as long as you continue to propose taking money out of the Social Security system."

On prescription-drug benefits, Stenberg touted his plan to provide a prescription-drug discount card and catastrophe coverage. He said the program would cut costs without forcing some seniors to pay more in premiums than the cost of their prescription drugs.

Nelson said his plan, which includes monthly premiums and co-payments, would cover more seniors and lower costs more through Medicare's purchasing power in the market.

On other issues:

■ The two candidates said they would vote for Initiative 416, which would ban same-sex marriages or civil unions in Nebraska. Both candidates said homosexuality was immoral.

■ Both said they supported expanded immigration to supply needed workers in high-tech fields and meatpacking plants.

■ Both oppose abortion. Stenberg said he would vote to approve federal judges only if they opposed abortion; Nelson said he would impose no litmus test but said he favored judges who strictly interpreted the Constitution.

The debate, held at KETV, was sponsored by KETV and the Omaha World-Herald.

Students work for elections

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signs supporting him outside of Memorial Stadium before home football games, Kratz said.

Green Party supporters from UNL have travel plans of their own. On GreenRide2000, 12 Green Party supporters will hit the road across the state to educate voters about the Green Party's presidential candidate, Ralph Nader, said Karen Brown, a senior English and film studies major.

The group will hold assemblies in classrooms and auditoriums and distribute information outside the Nebraska Union and at Memorial Stadium before home football games, Brown said.

"My plans with this campaign are to just let people, especially students, know who Nader is, what a great guy he is and what he stands for," Brown said.

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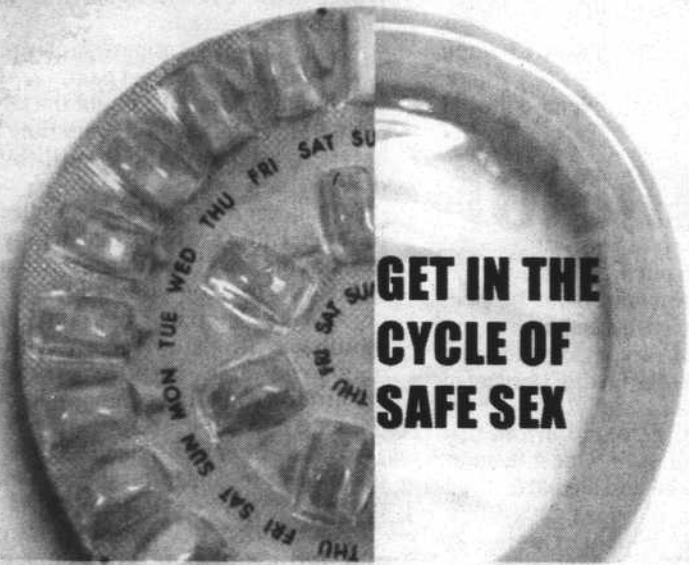
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