

Frankly speaking

Frank Solich is satisfied with the results of his first spring as the head coach of the Cornhusker football team. PAGE 9



The Edge is back

Well, not exactly. But The Waters Edge, a local Christian rock group, recently released its first album, "Change." PAGE 11

BACK FROM THE DEAD

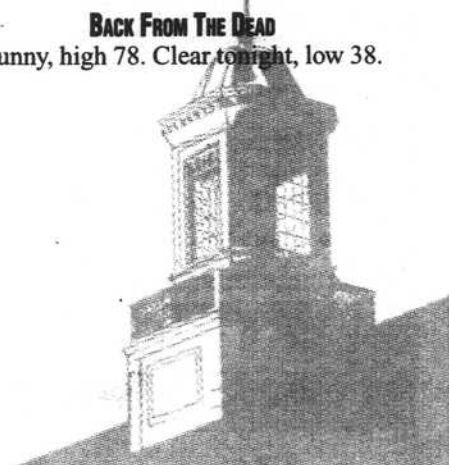
Sunny, high 78. Clear tonight, low 38.

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RYAN SODERLIN/DN

MANDY THELEN leads an aerobics class at Chase Firm Fitness, 701 P St., Wednesday afternoon. Thelen, a UNL junior business major, recently placed in the top half of the 102nd Boston Marathon.

Thelen goes the distance

BY ERIC RINEER
Staff Reporter

It's one of the few races in which finishing 5,132nd is worth bragging about.

After all, UNL junior Mandy Thelen still beat about 6,000 other racers in the 102nd Boston Marathon April 20.

The race, which takes runners past sites like Fenway Park and through Kenmore Square, spans 26.2 miles from Hopkinton, Mass., to Boston. Thelen was one of two Lincoln women to finish the race, and her time of 3:34.22 qualified her for the 103rd Boston Marathon next year.

Even though she competed for time during the Boston Marathon, it also was a chance to have fun and enjoy the camaraderie, she said.

"Basically, you run to enjoy the crowds of people," she said. "The love that people have for you can be overwhelming."

Thelen, who high-jumped her way to a scholarship at South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D., transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln last year and since has concentrated on long-distance running.

For the past two years, Thelen, a business major, has competed in other marathons, including last year's Omaha and Lincoln marathons. She finished the races in first and second place for her age group, respectively.

Besides competing in marathons, Thelen keeps herself busy running about 60 miles a week and working part time at General Nutrition Center and Chase Firm Fitness in Lincoln.

"She's amazing," said Bob Chase, who owns and manages the fitness center. "She's one of the most motivated students to ever walk through our door."

While Thelen spends most of her time at Chase teaching aerobics, she also instructs classes on upper

body weightlifting. Upper body lifting enables runners to maintain good running form, Chase said.

"The clients crave her class," he said. "She always has energy and is always motivating people."

Besides doing aerobics and lifting weights, dancing also constitutes a major part of her training, Chase said.

"All those ingredients go together to make her the total package."

Thelen credits her motivation to family traditions in track and field. Having a father and sister who high-jumped was motivational, she said. After a few years of high-jumping, Thelen said, she was ready to try something different and began training for marathons.

She was pleased with the Boston Marathon and said she conquered several personal goals.

"It just leaves a big smile on my face," she said. "Once you pass that big yellow finish line you accomplish something."

Threats originated from outside state

Police say the e-mail to two graduate students was not from Nebraska.

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

UNL police have learned that the racially-motivated e-mail threats sent to two graduate students last week originated from outside Nebraska.

A sociology professor also received a racist note slid under his office door, but police do not believe the incidents are connected, UNL Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said.

The two graduate students, who wished to remain anonymous, received identical e-mail, though they were mailed to each of them individually.

According to University of Nebraska-Lincoln police, the message said, "I really hate Mexicans. They should be shot in the head and burned because they are big stealers."

Keith Parker, a sociology profes-

sor and director of the African American and African studies program, received a note signed by a "KKK member," police said.

In the note to Parker, handwritten on a piece of computer paper, the author said, "I am afraid of smart niggers like yourself. Niggers should go back to Africa. White Power."

Bushing said police are taking every precaution to protect the targets of the harassment; however, to protect those involved, he did not want to comment on what steps have been taken.

"Anytime we see threats like that we take them seriously," Bushing said.

All of these messages are considered terroristic threats, which is a class three felony carrying a maximum penalty of five years in jail and/or a \$10,000 fine.

Though police are familiar with e-mail harassment, Bushing said they rarely see serious threats such as these.

Anyone who receives threatening e-mail or other messages should save the message and report it to police.

Group would boost alcohol awareness

BY AMANDA SCHINDLER
Staff Reporter

Sometimes tragedy is necessary before change can be made.

And three UNL students believe a recent tragedy — the death of UNL junior Laura Cockson at the hands of a drunken driver — should bring about a serious change.

The three are trying to start a new organization called GAMMA — Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol.

Freshman elementary deaf education major Molly Schmitz, junior international business major Laura Bradley and freshman mathematics major Brett Stohs hope to change the alcohol culture on campus by bringing the national organization to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"Now is a key time for GAMMA to begin," Stohs said. "People will be more receptive of GAMMA and what it stands for after (Cockson's) death."

The three students came together after spending a week at the LeaderShape Institute near Ashland during spring break. The retreat helped participants develop a vision to implement.

For Schmitz, Bradley and Stohs, GAMMA seemed ideal after a tragedy such as Cockson's death.

The trio hopes to implement various activities through GAMMA, such as a sober driving system. With

the help of a corporate sponsor, GAMMA will offer the phone number of an area taxi service to call if students are unfit to drive or in an unsafe situation.

The bill would be sent to the sponsor, allowing students a free alternative to driving drunk.

Other activities include sponsoring National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, highlighting the dangers of drunken driving for freshman greek members in particular.

"They need to be educated and informed on effects (drunken driving) can have, and did have, on UNL students," Schmitz said.

All-greek philanthropy projects also are a possibility, with proceeds going to an anti-drunken driving organization such as Mothers Against Drunken Driving.

Schmitz said she hopes GAMMA will be up and running by Big Red Welcome next fall. Membership would include representatives from each greek house, but services would be available to all students, she said.

Besides the pain of tragedies such as Cockson's death, Schmitz said her biggest concern is that most alcohol-related accidents can be avoided with a little forethought.

"Whenever you hear about an (alcohol-related) death, you think something should be done," Schmitz said. "It's all preventable."

Nelson advocates wind energy

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Senior Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson said Wednesday that state government can continue to set an example for the private sector by encouraging the use of renewable energy resources such as wind-generated electricity and soybean-based fuel additives.

In a news conference, Nelson signed a contract to use wind-generated electricity in the Governor's

Mansion as part of a program sponsored by Lincoln Electric System. He also announced the expanded use of a soybean-based fuel additive in state vehicles.

"This is one more indication of the current success, and potential future success, of renewable fuel sources," Nelson said.

LES has said that when 1,000 units of wind-generated electricity are purchased, it will build a wind turbine in northeast Lincoln to generate electrical power. Since the plan was

announced in early April, 700 units of energy have been purchased.

Households can purchase one or two units of wind electricity, while larger businesses may buy up to five. The monthly price per unit will be held at no more than \$6.

Terry Bundy, LES administrator, said the project's initial cost includes a \$1 million capital cost. Although wind electricity may be inefficient

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