

Daily Nebraskan

November 18, 1992

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

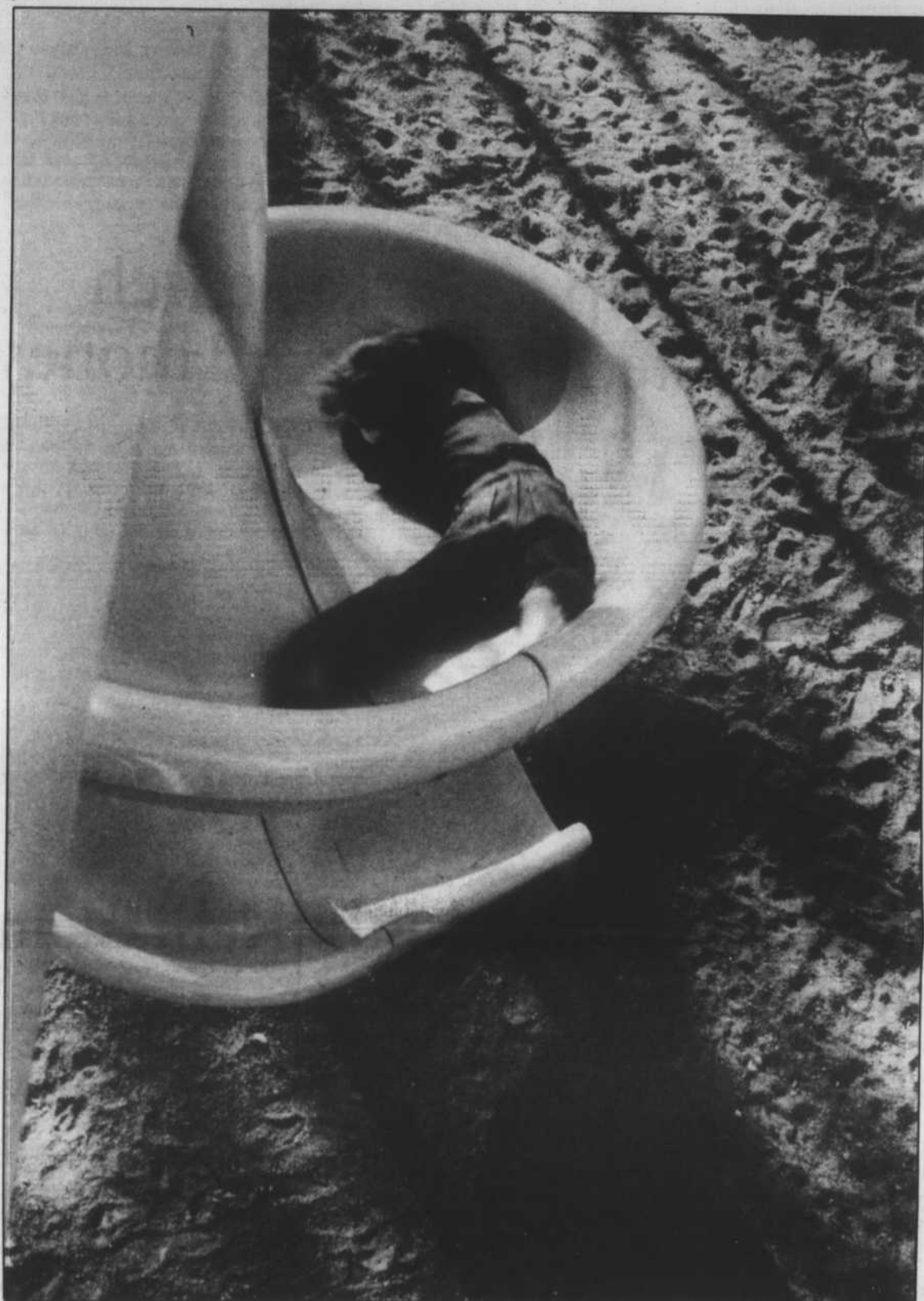
Vol. 92 No. 62

SPORTS
Huskers win over Cuban Nationals



WEDNESDAY

43/35
Mostly cloudy today and cloudier tomorrow with a chance of rain throughout.



Michelle Paulman/DN

Down the tube

Seth Sapp, 5, of 904 D St., goes head first down the twister slide at Hooper Park. Kelly Sapp, Seth's mother, said she took Seth and his brother Jordan, 2, to the park to take a little energy out of the boys.

Court battle angers liver donor's family

By Jeff Zeleny
Staff Reporter

A court battle over a liver transplant that never happened has forced the family of a former Nebraska football player to relive a tragedy it has tried to overcome.

The family of Brian Hiemer, who was a 21-year-old tight end for the Cornhuskers, was shocked and angered after hearing that Brian's name was mentioned in a lawsuit against a Pittsburgh hospital that denied an uninsured patient Hiemer's liver.

Hiemer died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head in 1985 at his parents' farm north of Shelby, Neb. His organs were made available for donation.

Carol Elworth of Lincoln, Hiemer's sister, said she didn't blame organ donor officials, and added that the issue was re-opened to create publicity.

"Our parents are devastated and emotionally sick," she said. "It's like reliving this all over again."

"It's hard to describe the emotions we experienced when we first learned of the lawsuit," said Jim Elworth, Hiemer's brother-in-law.

Jim Elworth said the family didn't know about the case until an article mentioning Hiemer and the lawsuit appeared in Thursday's Lincoln Journal. The family is outraged by the publicity the case has generated, he said.

Carol Elworth said the news media's coverage of the case had distorted her brother's image. The media have acted like Hiemer wasn't a real person, she said.

Reporters "talked about Brian as an object," she said. "That just kills our family seven years later."

Hiemer's name and the memories

See **TRANSPLANT** on 6

Survey to give UNL idea of its perception

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

A recently formed task force soon will be helping the University of Nebraska-Lincoln take a long, hard look in the mirror.

A survey designed to gain a better understanding of how UNL is perceived by students, administrators, faculty and staff will be sent today to determine what problems exist at the university and look at possible solutions.

The research committee of UNL's Institutional Advancement Council, along with the Bureau of Sociological Research, is conducting the study.

Jim Ballard, director of the research committee, said the survey included 110 multiple-choice questions and would be sent to 1,500 people — students, administrators, and faculty and staff members.

Completed surveys are to be returned by Nov. 25.

Ballard said the survey's questions covered a wide range of topics, from the mission of the university to the

relationship between City and East campuses.

For example, a question might give one of the missions of the university, then ask the participant to rate the importance of the mission given.

Results will be used as the first step in developing a communications plan that will help in public relations, recruitment and retention of students and improved campus life at UNL, Ballard said.

He said the committee expected a 70- to 75-percent response rate to the surveys.

Ballard said the internal examination was only the first part of the study. The next step would be an external survey next year. The survey, which would follow the same time frame, would be sent to Nebraskans to determine their perceptions of UNL.

In 1994, Ballard said, a third survey would be sent to other institutions nationwide.

"It's a long process," he said, "but it will do a lot of good for the university."

Departments eye budget cuts

Home economics, speech officials remain optimistic

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

After brushes with elimination last year, the directors of two University of Nebraska-Lincoln departments are keeping a close watch on this semester's university budget planning meetings.

William Seiler, chairman of the speech communications department, and Karen Craig, dean of the College of Home Economics, said they both had been following with great interest the current discussions concerning possible budget cuts at UNL.

State Sen. Scott Moore of Seward said last week the university faced massive spending reductions during the next biennium, which begins July 1, 1993, and ends June 30, 1995. He said UNL could face a 10 percent across-the-board cut.

The cuts are being discussed by the

Nebraska Legislature because of the state's strapped budget.

"It's something that I've definitely been keeping up with," Craig said. "I think everybody's pretty concerned right now."

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier began a series of budget planning meetings Monday with his cabinet and representatives from UNL colleges and departments to discuss possible cuts, as well as to find ways to combat UNL's shrinking budget.

Spanier said there would be 20 such meetings between now and the end of the semester. He met Monday with the deans from the colleges of journalism and business administration.

Craig and Seiler are anxiously awaiting their meetings with Spanier, especially since their programs came close to extinction last year.

During the fall 1991 semester, the College of Home Economics and the speech communication and classics departments were threatened with elimination by massive budget cuts.

The programs were spared when university officials decided to reduce

spending in all UNL budgets, rather than eliminate particular programs.

Craig said she didn't feel the same concern for her college as she did a year ago.

"This year, it's a different situation," she said. "These budget hearings were planned before the possibility of the cuts were announced, and these hearings are an opportunity to brag about the colleges and look for alternatives to the cuts."

"I'm looking at these hearings in a very positive way."

Seiler agreed. "Last year, we demonstrated that we are a quality department, both in a teaching role and research function," he said. "I don't feel like our department is under any further consideration for elimination, but you never can be sure."

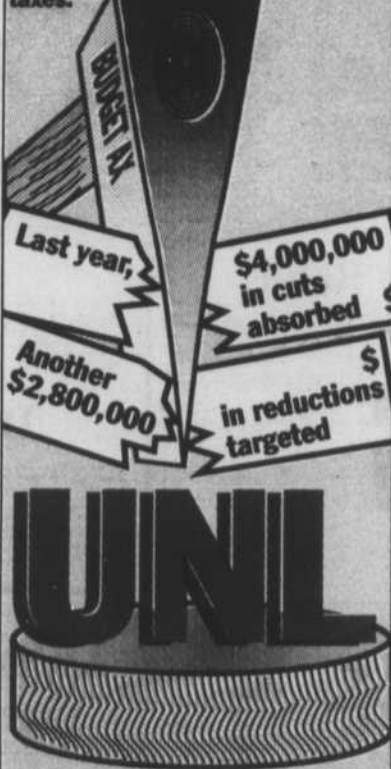
"I'm certainly not going to be overly optimistic, tooting our horn and saying that we're completely out of the woods. No one ever is."

Seiler said he shared concern for the possibility of further budget cuts with other faculty and administrators

See **BUDGET** on 3

UNL budget cuts

The university receives an annual allotment of \$144 million from state taxes.



Source: Graham Spanier

Scott Maurer/DN

Woman's death not homicide, official says

From Staff Reports

The woman whose body was found Monday in west Lincoln has been identified as 29-year-old Meshell Franzen, an official said Tuesday.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said Franzen of 502 S. 12th St. died from drowning in a shallow pool of water south of Neiden Iron and Metal Co. Inc., 525 N St.

Lacey said investigators had ruled out homicide as the cause of death but had not yet determined if the drowning was accidental.

He said the autopsy performed on Franzen's body late Monday afternoon indicated the body had been in the water for at least two days.

A railroad employee on his way to work spotted Franzen's body early Monday morning.