

UNL student crowned Miss Teen of America

By John Fulwider

Robin Briggs' love of nature always has been strong.

But the University of Nebraska-Lincoln sophomore never dreamed that love would help her win a national pageant and possibly determine her future career.

Last month, Briggs became the first Nebraskan to win the title of Miss Teen of America. She captured the title on Aug. 7 at the 11th annual Miss Teen of America pageant, where she competed with more than 80 other women.

Briggs said her lifelong love of nature led her to choose an environmental platform for the competition. She extensively researched the golden lion tamur of the Brazilian rain forests for her presentation at the pageant.

The pageant involved a week of reparation and daily competitions. While she was preparing for the pageant, she had a face-to-face confrontation with the natural world.

'While I was on a tour at the zoo, I got a bee sting on my hand," she said. "My hand swelled up for the rest of the pageant, and I had the hugest,

grossest hand you've ever seen.
"I became known as Miss Teen of
Bee Sting," she said.
When the pageant began, Briggs

said, she faced larger challenges. That night, all 50 candidates pa-

raded on stage. Each of the top 15 women, who were chosen from competitions during the week, answered an onstage question and gave a presentation about an achiever from her be herself.

the founder of Boys Town.

The field then was narrowed to in the formal-wear competition and gave a speech. After that, four comtation and an isolation booth ques-

The winner and a runner-up were waiting for him to pounce.'

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chosen from those four.

When they announced my name, it was just an incredible feeling. You can never really prepare for it," she said. "All the other girls were great, but I was told later that my sincerity put me over the top.

As Miss Teen of America, Briggs is required to travel frequently to make appearances. In January, she'll take off for Australia.

'I've neverbeen to Australia; I've done a lot of traveling to places like China, Hong Kong, England, Mexico and Macao, but Australia has always been my dream destination."

Briggs will be in Australia for 10 days, traveling as an ambassador for the United States.

She later will attend the American Academy of Achievement in Virginia, where she'll meet more than 50 celebrities from different areas of life.

Briggs said all the traveling and sponsibilities of being Miss Teen of America put pressure on other aspects of her life. One of the biggest pressures will be making up for all the classes she will miss

"I've only had two weeks, so I haven't missed any classes yet. Last year's Miss Teen faxed her homework, worked on a laptop on the plane and listened to lectures over the phone. I'll have people take notes for me. My Delta Gamma Sorority sisters will help out a lot.

Briggs said she already had traveledextensivelytoattendotherevents, but she always was glad to get back to campus, where she could relax and

Andbeing herself, she said, means Briggs chose Father Flanagan, being outside, bicycling and exercis-

Someday, Briggs said, she would eight young women, who competed like to take her love for nature beyond pageants into a career.

"I would love to work for National petitors remained for a talent presen- Geographic Explorer. I would have the patience to sit in a jungle and aim a camera at a leopard for 20 minutes

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ASUN approves by-law changes

By Melanie Brandert Staff Reporter

By-law changes to two ASUN committees were passed by the senate at a meeting Wednesday night.

A by-law change to the Five-Year Projection Committee now requires senators of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska to review the committee's report every three years. The senate formerly reviewed the report, which illustrates students' ideas for the university's future, on a yearly

Judy Rishel, second vice-president and chairwoman of the committee, said during the meeting it was unnecessary to review the report every year.

"Instead, the second vice-president will go back through (the report) every year and see if anything needs (to be) updated," she said.

If anything in the report needs up-dating, Rishel said she would form a committee to rewrite the report in 1997.

A second by-law change approved

by the senate Wednesday night eliminated the non-voting membership of the Residence Liaison Committee, which was set up to ease tension between students living in greek units and residence halls.

Rishel, who is the RLC chairwoman, said it was not necessary for the committee's non-voting members, which included the speaker of the senate, the at-large member of the Appointments Board and three ASUN senators, to be in attendance at RLC meetings.

ASUN president Andrew Loudon announced during the meeting that he had chosen Shawntell Hurtgen, a member of the Government Liaison Committee, as the new GLC chairwoman. She replaces Doug Stobbe, who had resigned because of time conflicts.

Loudon said after the meeting that he had chosen Hurtgen because she has the ability to organize events and meetings, as well as to motivate people.

"I think she will do an outstanding ob," he said during the meeting. "She has a big task ahead of her."

Gateway

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ment stores - Dillard's, JCPenney, Montgomery Ward, Sears and Younkers.

Pat Nekirk, Younkers general store manager, said the renovations were "absolutely wonderful."

'First of all, we were in competition with Omaha and other malls around us," she said. "Now, we'll be able to keep the traffic in Lincoln."

Nekirk said covering the garden mall would make shopping more convenient, because shoppers wouldn't have to deal with the changing Nebras-

People in Lincoln have been waiting for this a long time, and we're really excited about it," she said.

Rob Simon, chief executive officer of Ben Simon's clothing store, said he preferred the outdoor mall and the fountain area. However, the new structure allowed for more stores to move into the area, he said.

who didn't like the hot summers or cold winters," he said.

During the summer when it was torn up, we heard quite a few things about how bad it was, but now the tiles are laid, and people have more positive comments about it.'

Ben Simon's had been located in Omaha's Westroads Mall. Simon said the malls in Omaha, such as Westroads, Crossroads and Oak View, were comparable to Gateway

"(Gateway) is bringing in some of the same stores Oak View has," he said. "The numbers are fairly the same between Gateway and Crossroads, too.

Simon said the "newness" of the renovation had drawn more people into the mall.

Traffic has already picked up in our store," he said.

Phase two of the expansion plans will include a new two-level JCPenney department store. When expansion is complete, Gateway Mall will have more than 1 million square feet and room for more than 100 stores.

Anarchitectural model of the project is on display inside Gateway Mall near "It was enclosed for those people the Montgomery Ward entrance.

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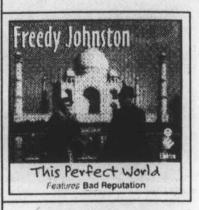


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