

Daily Nebraskan

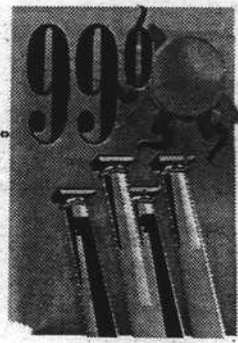
COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

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TUESDAY

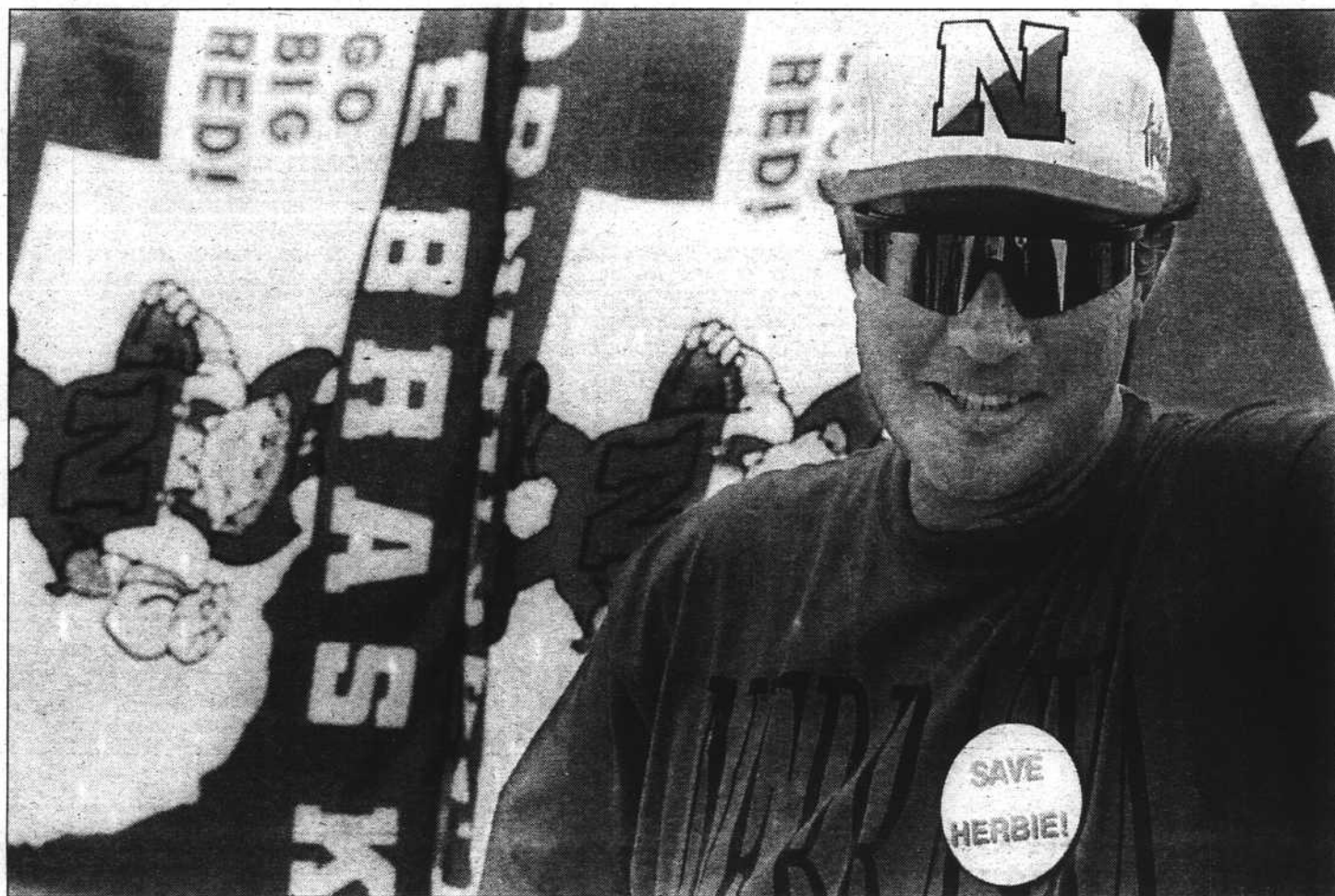
WEATHER:

Today - Mostly sunny
and hot. South wind.
Tonight - Slight chance
of a thunderstorm.
Low near 70.



August 29, 1995

Making a stand



Travis Heying/DN

Kenneth Kramer, president of the Save Herbie Foundation and owner of an outdoor sunglasses stand in Omaha, is leading the charge to save Herbie Husker. Fans can buy Herbie flags and sign petitions at the stand to save the former mascot.

Fan starts petition drive for Herbie

By John Fulwider
Staff Reporter



in mind: to save Herbie Husker, the belea-

OMAHA — It was another hot, humid weekend in the city. People should have been hunkering down next to their air-conditioning vents, sipping cold beverages.

Instead, they were converging on an outdoor sunglasses stand at the corner of 48th and L streets with one purpose

guered former mascot of the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

The humble sunglasses stand, built of a few tables and an umbrella, is the national headquarters of the Save Herbie Foundation. It is one of many sites where loyal Herbie fans can sign petitions to save their favorite Nebraska icon.

The hot and sweaty Nebraska fans signed, hoping their signatures on the Save Herbie petitions could convince the University of Nebraska Athletic Department to reconsider its decision to find a new mascot.

Kenneth Kramer, president of the Save Herbie Foundation and owner of the sunglasses stand, has taken it upon himself to

lead the charge to save Herbie.

He started Wednesday with a petition people could sign when they visited his stand. Now, he has a toll-free hotline and a fax number. He's had buttons printed that say "Save Herbie" in, of course, big red letters. He sends daily fax updates to state and national media.

Kramer said it quickly became clear to him that he couldn't handle all the work. So he told people to circulate their own petitions and send them to him when finished.

A motel just up the street from his stand has this message on its billboard: "Save

See HERBIE on 7

Placement policy stirs contention

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

UNL doesn't think high school foreign language programs are doing their jobs, and some freshmen feel they are being punished for it.

Students who have taken two or more years of high school foreign language must start in a second level course at UNL — regardless of whether they're ready.

Amy Delsing, a freshman advertising major, said the material in her first Spanish 102 class was "over my head."

"It was really frustrating being the first week and all," she said. "I didn't know what to do or where to go."

Delsing was enrolled in a 102 class after taking a placement test, a requirement that started last fall. Her two years of high school Spanish helped her pass the exam — by one point — and placed her in 102.

But even if she had failed, she would have been put in 102. All students who have taken two or more years of foreign language cannot take a 101 class for credit.

Harriet Turner, chairwoman of the department of modern languages and literature, said there were three reasons for the placement tests.

First, the requirements reserve the 101 classes for the true beginners, Turner said.

A student with two years of a foreign language who took the 101 class for "five hours of an easy 'A'" might intimidate those students who were new to the language, she said.

Next she said, placement tests shrunk the size of beginning-level classes. Many 101 classes had more than 30 people, she said, when they should have had 18 or fewer.

Third, placement in a 102 class gives the student an advantage, she said, because they immediately have five credit hours.

The new requirement also sends a message to high schools that they need to improve their foreign language programs, she said.

"It's up to teachers to do something more than make empanadas," Turner said, "and teach you the language and communication skills you need."

When Delsing went to her university teachers and advisers, she said, they told her to send a message back to her high school.

"They said the main reason they were doing this is to put pressure back on the high school teachers," she said, "but it's not the high school teachers that are having to pay for it. It's the students."

Turner said if the university let anyone start over in a language, it told high schools that the education a student received there was useless.

See LANGUAGE on 3

McMenamin case still priority despite fading public image

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

As the days since July 23 go by, the public image of Martina McMenamin fades.

The face of the 18-year-old University of Nebraska-Lincoln student who graduated in 1994 from Omaha Gross High School is no longer in the news. Forgotten is her long hair and her honor-student status.

But as the public's memory decreases, her homicide file grows at the Lincoln Police Department.

"We've generated a case file several feet thick of reports," Chief Tom Casady said Monday. "We continue to work on it very, very vigorously."

"It's our most important priority." McMenamin's partially clad body was found July 23 in a pool of blood in

her south Lincoln apartment complex. A wooden-handled knife was lying near her body.

Police have released few details about the slaying. Casady said investigators had developed no firm suspects.

"This case is far from being at any kind of a dead end," Casady said.

Eight investigators from the Lincoln Police Department, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and University Police, continue to work on the case full time. About 20 officers remain partially involved in the case.

The CrimeStoppers reward in the case was raised to \$12,550 after a donation last week from a local restaurant and its employees, who said they were afraid the investigation was

See MCMENAMIN on 6

Leitzel makes smooth transition

Editor's note: This is the first story in a four-day series on UNL's changing university and college administration.

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

In almost any system of governance, there has to be a second-in-command — someone who can fill a leader's shoes and pick up where the footprints leave off.

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, that person is Joan Leitzel.

Leitzel became interim chancellor July 24, after then-Chancellor Graham Spanier ended three years at UNL

to assume the presidency at Pennsylvania State University.

Spanier appointed Leitzel vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1992, when she left a director position at the National Science Foundation.

During the interim, Leitzel has the full authority of the chancellor's office, she said, and she has the confidence to use that authority.

But instead of using her term as interim chancellor to make new plans for the university, Leitzel said, she will follow the plans begun under Spanier's leadership. A new chancellor can move toward change, she said.

For Leitzel, her charge is simple. "My job is to manage the university effectively during the interim," she said. "I won't change directions."

But within that simplicity lies the complex fabric of the chancellorship. As senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, she managed the aca-

demical threads of the university — research, teaching and outreach education.

As interim chancellor, she must weave academics with student affairs and business and finance. The transition was challenging but smooth, she said.

The three years she spent working closely with Spanier prepared her for the change.

"Nothing is a surprise," she said, but "every day is a challenge."

She will follow the goals already set forth by the university, including:

- Improving quality education.
- Building an even stronger faculty.
- Enhancing research funding.
- Addressing the needs of Nebraska through distance learning.

While interim chancellor, two of

See LEITZEL on 8

