

Husker fever infects youth, brings stadium to museum

By Tonya Cross
Staff Reporter

An epidemic of Big Red Fever has spread beyond the football field to the Lincoln Children's Museum.

A special exhibit on Cornhusker football will open Sept. 15 at the Lincoln Children's Museum, 121 S. 13th St. The preview of "Lil' Red Stadium" will last from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

But it won't be finished, Operations Director Lindy J. Bull said.

Usually, she said, the museum would wait to open an exhibit until it was ready. But organizers want to take advantage of Cornhusker fever, she said, and get people excited about the exhibit.

The exhibit will include a small replica of Memorial Stadium, where visitors can test their skills at activities such as throwing a soft football through goal posts, vertical jumping

and weight lifting.

There also will be a table set up with sports nutrition information and another featuring scientific principles. Children can answer sports questions such as, "Why does a skater spin?"

Bull said the exhibit was mainly for children, but adults could participate, too.

The museum received a \$76,000 grant from the Institute of Museum Services for doing an excellent job with its previous exhibits, she said. Part of that money will pay for this exhibit, which is the museum's first sports exhibit.

Museum staff members and volunteers from the community worked on the project, along with Associate Athletic Director Don Bryant, and Steve Pederson, associate athletic director of football operations.

If all goes well, she said, the exhibit preview should raise additional funds to help complete the project.



Travis Heying/DN

Brittany, Dallas and Judy Eisle were friends of Harold Lamont Otey, who was executed by the state of Nebraska one year ago this week.

Otey

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Brittany, Eisle said.

To five of her children, Otey was a teacher, she said, helping them with homework and encouraging them to study hard.

"Wili was very intellectual, and

he read all the time. He was very knowledgeable on everything.

Even as Otey's execution drew near, the Eisleys couldn't accept the impending finality.

Eisle knew in her mind that Gov. Nelson would not issue a stay of execution — Otey's last chance to live — but in her heart, she didn't believe.

Even though it is too late to save her friend, Eisle said she hoped he would be the last to die from "murder by the state of Nebraska" — a system she said was unfair.

"It does not deter people from committing crimes. It just doesn't work.... You don't see any rich, white people on death row."

Children removed from home after fire

COLUMBUS (AP) — Columbus police removed two children from their mother's home after one of them started a fire at the residence and questions were raised about their supervision.

The identity of the family was not revealed.

The children, both of them younger than 6, were taken from the home while their mother was restrained following the Tuesday fire, authorities said. No one was injured in the 12:14 p.m. fire, which Fire Chief Dean Hefti said was caused by a child playing with a lighter.

The children were in protective custody on Wednesday, said Rick

Fedde, special prosecutor for Platte County. He declined to elaborate.

"There was a question on how the children were being supervised," said Police Capt. Ed Scriven.

Scriven said police made the decision to remove the children based on Tuesday's incident and two previous calls about the children.

He said the police department had received previous calls that one of the children was found alone at a gas station and was described as being filthy.

Scriven said the mother was home sleeping when Tuesday's fire began. The fire was reported by a male whose identity was not known, Scriven said.

Police had not arrested the mother as of Wednesday, and authorities had no information about the children's father.

Fedde said he would decide soon whether charges would be filed in the case. Hefti said when he arrived on the scene, the occupants were already outside the house.

Hefti said the fire started in a bedroom and caused extensive damage to the upper level of the house and heat and smoke damage to the main level.

"It's not livable," he said. It took 63 firefighters 10 to 15 minutes to extinguish the fire, he said.

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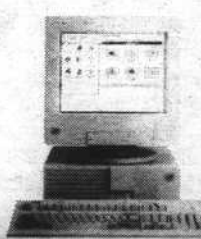
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