

# Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901 VOL. 95 NO. 141

THURSDAY

82°

**WEATHER:**

**Today - Partly sunny & very warm. Southwest wind 20 to 30 mph.**

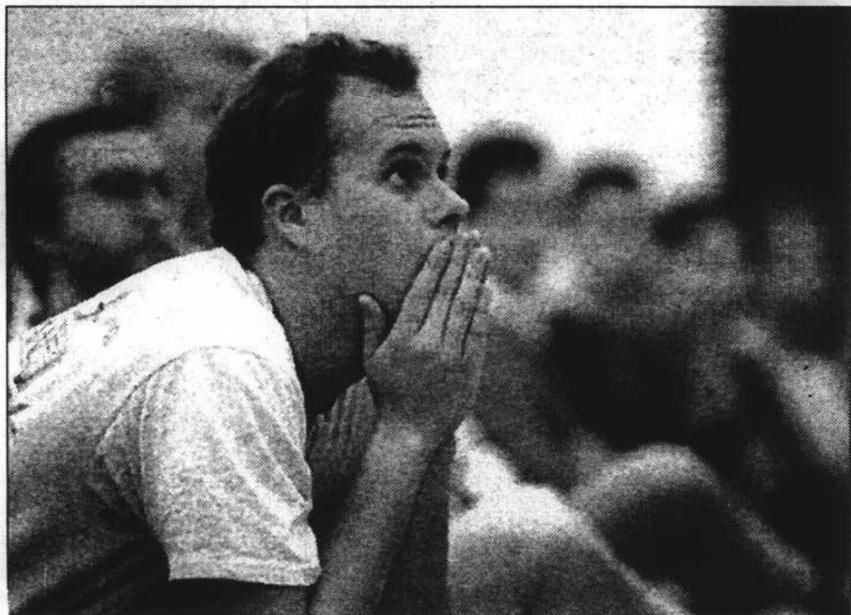
**Tonight - A 40 percent chance of thunderstorms.**



April 11, 1996



Travis Heying/DN



(Above) Olympic gold-medalist Greg Louganis speaks in front of a packed house Wednesday night in the Nebraska Union. The world-famous diver spoke about overcoming hardships and living with AIDS. (Left) Aaron Benesh, a senior finance major, listens as Louganis speaks about how he has dealt with some of the complications of AIDS.

## Golden discovery Louganis opens up to NU crowd

**By Trevor Parks**  
Senior Reporter

As Greg Louganis dove into the national spotlight by winning two gold medals at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, he made sure to keep his private life behind closed doors.

For years, he hid the fact that he was homosexual. When he discovered he was infected with the HIV virus, he hid that, too.

And the road to self-discovery was not easy.

"The coming out process, the best way I can describe it is letting go of secrets," Louganis told about 1,000 people in the Nebraska Union ballroom at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Wednesday night.

"When I was growing up, I thought I was different. I didn't feel like I fit in, and I didn't know anything about sexual orientation until I went away to college."

Eventually, Louganis came to grips, making his homosexuality public a year

*"I don't know why people think that 'gay' and 'sports' don't go together, but they do."*

**GREG LOUGANIS**  
Olympic Gold Medalist

and a half ago when he walked in a parade opening the Gay Games of 1994.

A week later, speaking at a U.S. Olympic Committee breakfast, he told the audience he was glad they would give an award to an "openly gay athlete."

As he was introduced, the audience gave him a standing ovation. When he left the podium, everyone sat stunned.

Then, on national television, he told Barbara Walters and the rest of America that he had HIV, which causes AIDS.

But before revealing his secrets, Louganis tried to hide every aspect of his

personal life from the public.

"They (U.S. Diving officials) encouraged me to go back in the closet," Louganis said. "It was not to come out in the media."

Louganis, 33, said he wanted people — athletes and non-athletes — to know they should not be afraid to reveal the true facts about themselves.

"I don't know why people think that 'gay' and 'sports' don't go together, but they do," Louganis said. "That's one thing I never really hid when I was amongst my friends."

No one but Louganis knew what was going on outside the public eye.

His fellow teammates at the 1985 U.S. Olympic Festival in Baton Rouge, La., put signs in the mirrors of the men's bathroom that said "fagbusters."

It was one of the toughest times of his career, he said. When the diving team traveled internationally he had to face the

See LOUGANIS on 7

## Governor's budget cuts still up in air

**By Ted Taylor**  
Senior Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson took a moment Wednesday to introduce a friend — the red pen he plans to use to veto a portion of the state budget the Nebraska Legislature passed Tuesday. "The budget is overspent," he said during a press conference at the State Capitol. "The Legislature is in the position of understanding that, but unable to change it."



Lawmakers passed the main budget bill, LB1189, 44-1 Tuesday. Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers cast the lone "no" vote, disapproving of the appropriations for prison construction.

Nelson said it wasn't fair that the Legislature got to play the role of Santa Claus while he had to play the Grinch.

"My job would be a lot better if everyone sought to balance the budget, not just the governor," he said.

One part of the 1996-97 budget that could feel the red pen is a \$5 million funding increase for University of Nebraska salaries.

While Nelson didn't say specifically that those funds would be cut, he did say it was one of the appropriations on the table.

Joe Rowson, director of public affairs for NU, said he hoped Nelson would bypass those funds.

"We hope that we have made the point clearly enough," he said, "that we are obligated to the faculty and staff for certain salary levels."

A minimum \$16 million, Nelson said, would need to be cut from the \$3.7 billion general budget to maintain the state's required 3 percent minimum reserve.

That \$16 million figure includes current appropriation bills not yet finished in the Legislature.

Nelson told reporters that he could not disclose which parts of the budget he would veto but said everything was on the table — everything, that is, except prison spending.

"Prison spending can't wait," he said. A portion of the budget includes appropriations of \$3.5 million for two 100-bed modular housing units at the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

Nelson did say, however, it was possible he could veto the \$350,000 appropriation for prison planning.

The governor has until midnight Monday to line-item veto any of the budget.

## ASUN elects Ruwe as senate speaker

**By Kasey Kerber**  
Staff Reporter

After numerous discussions and a run-off vote, Curt Ruwe was declared the new speaker of the senate at Wednesday night's ASUN meeting.

Ruwe, a sophomore representing the Teachers College, was chosen over Anna Harms, a College of Journalism and Mass Communications senator, and Ormaun Lewis, representing the College of Business Administration.

After an initial vote, Harms and Ruwe faced off in a run-off election, which Ruwe won with an undisclosed number of votes.



See ASUN on 6