



## SPORTS

### Wrestle with greatness

Nebraska heavyweight Tolly Thompson has overtaken Olympian Bill Scheer for the school record in career wins with 138. PAGE 10



## A & E

### Radiation rock

Fountains of Wayne has taken radio by storm with its first single, "Radiation Vibe," but the song is just the first on the band's debut album. PAGE 13

# WEDNESDAY

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WINDY WONDERLAND  
Winter storm watch; high 27, low 0.

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## Victim helps draft new stalking bill

Legislature

BY ERIN SCHULTE  
Senior Reporter

Voiceless phone calls to Shelley Freeman's home and office 15 years ago initially caused only a sense of uneasiness.

But terror wasn't far behind for Freeman, who soon started receiving graphic, obscene phone calls. Freeman said she narrowly escaped physical harm or rape in her ordeal with a man who picked her name out of a phone book and began stalking her.

Finally, the man who terrorized her went to jail for sex crimes against another woman. He was undaunted and called Freeman from jail. When he was paroled, he stalked her again.

"He was relentless in pursuit of his victims," Freeman said.

"The laws of the State of Nebraska were very inadequate."

SHELLEY FREEMAN  
bill advocate

That's victims — plural. Freeman wasn't alone.

In his backpack, police found lists with the names of women the man stalked, including his final victim who he raped so brutally, he was sentenced to 100 years in prison.

Freeman escaped that victimization. But even today she has bars on the windows of

her family's home, carries a cellular phone at all times and has multiple locks on her doors.

"The horror they went through with him, I can't imagine it," Freeman said. "His assaults escalated to be very, very dangerous."

"His final victim really believed she was going to be murdered."

Freeman went on to marry and have children. And when she looked at her children, she realized what happened to her might happen to them. Protection from sexual predators became her crusade.

She took her ideas to Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, who had twice tried to pass sexual predator bills. Similar bills in other states were found unconstitutional. She and Wesely revamped the old bills to come up with the 1997 version of the Sexual Predator Act.

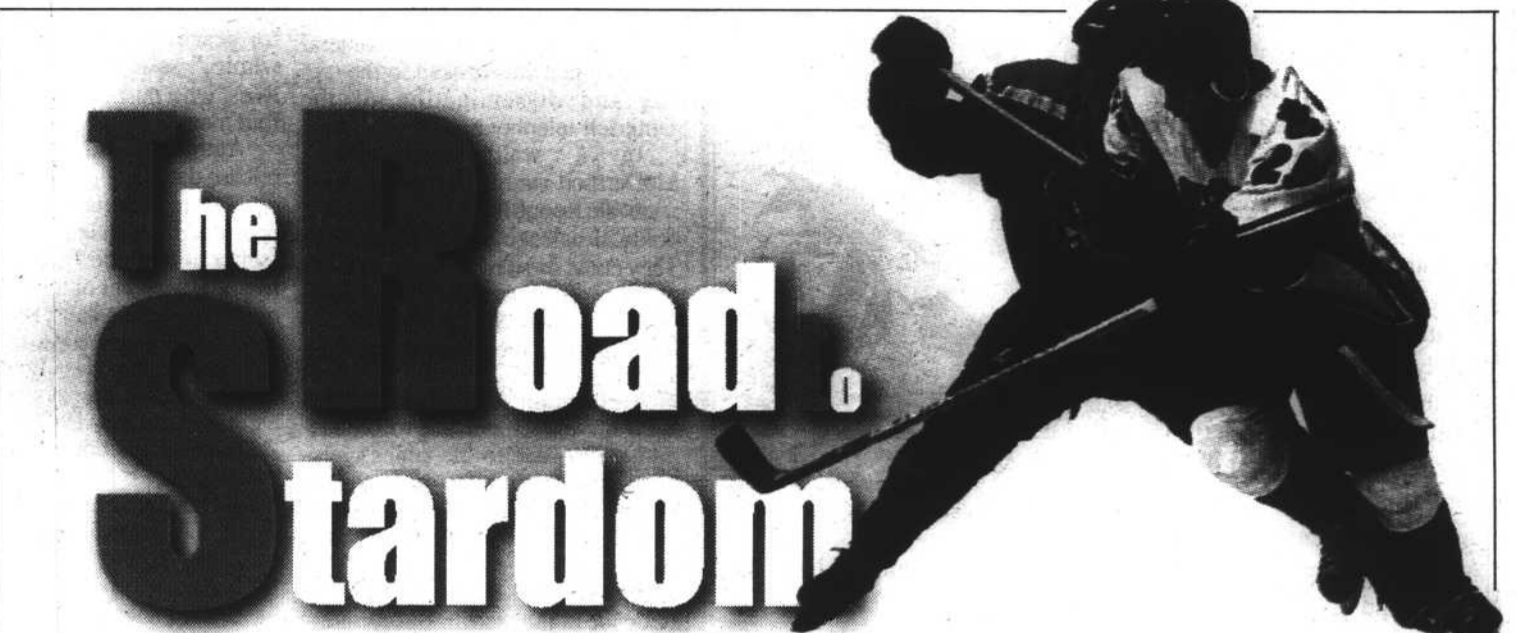
"The laws of the State of Nebraska were very inadequate," Freeman said.

The Sexual Predator Act proposes a system that would assign points to different sexual crimes (three points for sexual assault in the first degree; two points for incest; one point for viewing child pornography). Points would be assigned on current severity of punishments.

A sexual offender would accumulate points throughout his or her lifetime, and the more points, the longer the sentence. Six points or more are punishable with a 25-year mandatory minimum and lifetime maximum sentence.

In sex crimes, there is a higher recidivism rate than in other crimes, Wesely said. Untreated

Please see STALKING on 6



## Lincoln team finds eager fans, devoted players, wise coaches

BY JOSHUA GILLIN  
Senior News Editor

Gwen Russell doesn't know what icing is. Or a deke. Or a hat trick.

But what the 63-year-old grandmother of three does know about hockey is enough to enjoy a Lincoln Stars game.

"My grandkids love coming to the games," Russell says. "I usually don't know what's going on, but I try to pick things up."

Three children, all younger than 10, run up to the woman and grab her arms. They urge her to return with them to their seats before the start of the second period.

"It's great watching the players skate around all fast and do what they do, though," Russell says while being dragged away. "It's a lot of fun."

And while fun is all Lincoln residents may expect from their new United States Hockey League team, a 21-8-1 record has shown the Star City it has gotten a whole lot more.

### Fan Appreciation

On the final night of 1996, near the time the Cornhusker football team is scheduled to take the field at the Orange Bowl in Miami, every one of the 4,321 seats at the State Fair

Park Coliseum is accounted for.

The number is more than half the number of Cornhusker fans who appeared in the stands at Pro Player Stadium in Miami that night.

That number of fans buying tickets to see the new hockey team is nothing new; each of the Stars' 15 home games has sold out.

And while sellouts are nothing new for USHL teams (the Omaha Lancers have packed the AKSarben Coliseum every game for the past few seasons), the biggest draw for fans may well be the Stars' unique pace for an expansion team.

If the Stars continue winning at their present rate, by season's end they will compile a record of 40 wins, 14 losses and two ties, the best final standing of any first-year USHL team.

Head Coach Steve Johnson said fan support is exceptional for a first-year team and is a key factor to the Stars' success.

"The people here are more enthusiastic than most of the USHL towns I've been in," he said. "These have to be some of the most enthusiastic fans I've ever seen."

Steve Myer had never been to a Stars game before Jan. 4. His excuses ranged from not enough time to not enough tickets available, but he was finally able to secure two tickets for a game against the North Iowa Huskies earlier this month.



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

**FORWARD DEREK REYNOLDS has dedicated both his life and his shoulder to the game of hockey, proudly displaying the Canadian roots of both his family and the game he plays. Reynolds is one of three players on the Lincoln Stars who are from Canada.**

The Lincoln native was not disappointed. "This isn't what I expected at all," Myer said. "These guys can play, and they play hard."

Myer's companion Rick Kessler agreed. "When I heard this was an amateur league, I kind of threw up my hands and said, 'Oh well, it might be good for a laugh or two,'"

Please see STARS on 7

## Former Ohio governor touts Lincoln's success

BY JIM GOODWIN  
Staff Reporter

A community's economic success lies in the capable and cooperative hands of education, business and government leaders, a speaker at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting said Tuesday.

Former Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste spoke in front of about 600 people at a luncheon held by the chamber in the Cornhusker Hotel Ballroom.

Celeste — who has received national recognition as a consultant for economic development, science, technology and trade — congratulated Lincoln leaders for their progressive mindset and encouraged them to focus on partnerships.

"Economic success is thinking beyond the traditional boundaries," Celeste said. "We need to form alliances between municipalities and between the public and private sectors."

"I think Lincoln is moving in the right direction," he said.

Celeste cited three practices Lincoln and other successful communities perform: building on existing strengths, recognizing time's value and using innovation and education as agents of change.

Celeste said education as an institution should not only answer questions irrelevant to practical application, but should also spark change in the government and business sectors.

"We need to learn to move new knowledge from the laboratories and classrooms into the work force. Universities tend to sit over here

and not communicate," Celeste said. "Change is important to success."

Celeste suggested a partnership between Lincoln and Omaha. Leaders of both cities should cooperate to combine and capitalize on their industrial and manufacturing strengths, he said.

"If people are sitting in Lincoln or Omaha thinking their greatest competition is up or down the road, that's a serious mistake," he said. "An international focus is where it's at."

The final consideration essential to a community's economic success is the enhancement of communication between the business, education and government sectors, Celeste said.

"I just want to emphasize economic success means being focused on and paying attention to the community."