

Boomer Sooner

The NU women beat Oklahoma 87-59 Sunday afternoon after the Nebraska men lost to the Sooners 84-77 Saturday in Norman. PAGE 7



Quacking up

More than 400 people attended the 17th Annual Quack-off in Avoca Saturday. Proceeds go to the Avoca Volunteer Fire Department. PAGE 9

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Wind Chill

Blowing snow, high 3. Light wind tonight, low -13.

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Tearin' it up



DANIEL J. LEUDERT/DN

CONSTRUCTION CREWS pull out the remaining pieces of Broyhill Fountain from the Union Plaza Friday morning. Renovation of the Nebraska Union, which includes the expansion of the union into the middle of the old Union Plaza, will continue until 1998.

Witness's account of shooting varies from previous claims

BY MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

The pace of Riley Washington's second-degree attempted murder trial is going slowly, the special prosecutor said Friday, and will go a few days longer than expected.

Ronald Lahners, appointed to the former NU football player's trial, said he had planned on finishing his case Friday but now was not sure when he would call his last witness.

Washington, a former wingback for the Huskers, is on trial for the shooting of Jermaine Cole outside a Kwik Shop on 27th and W streets Aug. 2, 1995. He is also charged with using a firearm to commit a felony.

Washington's defense continued to mount its

reasonable-doubt defense Friday, pounding away at a witness who had said several times he could not positively identify the shooter, then said he could.

For more than four hours, defense attorney Kristi Eggers cross-examined Harold Bernard Stewart about several court hearings where Stewart said he could not identify Washington as the gunman.

Stewart was with Cole the night of the shooting. When a scuffle broke out among several football players — including Abdul Muhammed, Willis Brown and Washington — and Cole, Stewart was one of several men trying to break it up. He testified that he was standing a few feet from Cole when shots were fired.

Please see TRIAL on 3

Fraternity ritual raises controversy

BY MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

A fraternity ritual designed to show unity has UNL's Sigma Chi house in the center of controversy after Lancaster County Sheriff's deputies found members about to burn a cross.

Lancaster County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Norman Monroe said Sunday that deputies were dispatched Thursday night about a suspicious party half a mile south of Hwy 33 and SW 58th Street.

When the deputies arrived, they found 30 white males who were members of the Sigma Chi fraternity holding a private ritual. Officers saw several Civil War-era items, including Confederate flags, uniforms, sabers and rifles.

Officers also saw a 6-foot tall wooden cross that was to be burned later in the ceremony.

One member was ticketed for drinking alcohol in a wildlife area. Since no other laws were being broken, the officers left the scene.

Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner said the ceremony seemed to have racial undertones.

"The explanation I've gotten from members of the fraternity is that this is a historical ceremony that has been going on for years," Wagner said. "But the connotation this brings up is one of racial bigotry."

Curt Denker, the Sigma Chi house corporation president who talked to several media outlets Friday, refused comment to the Daily Nebraskan Sunday.

There was no answer at Sigma Chi house president Craig Vasek's room. Calls attempting to reach Chapter Adviser Rich Rice were un-

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TERRY WAGNER
Lancaster County sheriff

successful.

Denker told reporters on Friday that the ritual was a skit which symbolized the unity of the fraternity since the Civil War. He said crosses were carved into soap bars, they were put in a large metal cross, and the cross was heated to melt the soap into one.

Denker said he knew nothing about a wooden cross to be burned.

The burning of a wooden cross is most commonly known as a Ku Klux Klan ritual, symbolizing purification.

Phyllis Larsen, a spokeswoman for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said Sunday that administrators had looked into the incident on Friday and found there were no violations of the university's student code of conduct.

Larsen said, however, that greek affairs administrators were still looking into the matter.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Bill would allow vendors to sell liquor until 2 a.m.

BY ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Barhoppers will be able to celebrate one hour longer if a bill introduced in the Nebraska Legislature passes.

Sen. John Hilgert of Omaha last week introduced LB242, which would give city councils the opportunity to extend liquor sales until 2 a.m.

Hilgert said he is not catering to college students who want to party, however. Hilgert represents the Old Market district of Omaha, and said gambling in Iowa is luring customers away from the Old Market.

"A lot of people are losing business in

Legislature

Omaha," Hilgert said.

The bill is one in a package of bills Hilgert introduced to try to keep nightlife rolling in Omaha. To complement the liquor bill, other bills would cut expenses and taxes for bingo operations, and allow video monitors that look similar to video lottery machines to dispense pickle cards.

Although the bill was introduced because of problems in Omaha, it would apply to the whole state. Hilgert said the idea of keeping bars open

Please see LIQUOR on page 6

Leaders of the Pack



The Green Bay Packers defeated the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI Sunday night 35-21. For complete coverage, please turn to page 7.

