

Cyclone visit

The Nebraska basketball team looks to bounce back from two-straight losses tonight against Iowa State. PAGE 7



Lean and Meen

Tim Mahoney and the Meenies, a Minneapolis-based alternative pop quintet, will rock the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14 St., tonight. PAGE 9

January 29, 1997

EYES TO THE SKY

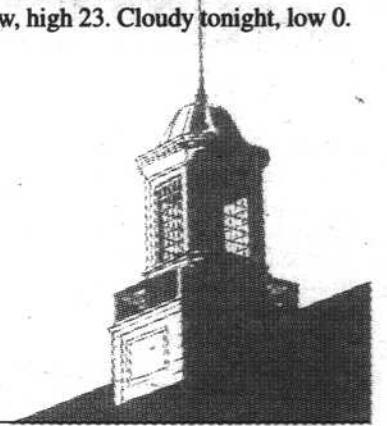
Chance of snow, high 23. Cloudy tonight, low 0.

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Natural gas prices to fall in future, company says

By JIM GOODWIN
Staff Reporter

Students burning living room furniture to offset the sharp price increase of natural gas heating, take notice: douse the davenport. Next month's bill should be lower.

Peoples Natural Gas representatives gave the forecast Tuesday to a small State Capitol assembly of senators and staff concerned about January's rise in gas prices.

Donald Nordell, customer service director for Peoples Natural Gas, said if the gas company received expected lower supplier costs next month, customers' February statements should go down.

Nordell said he expected supplier prices to drop from the January price of about \$4.15 per million-cubic feet to about \$2.85 per million-cubic feet next billing period.

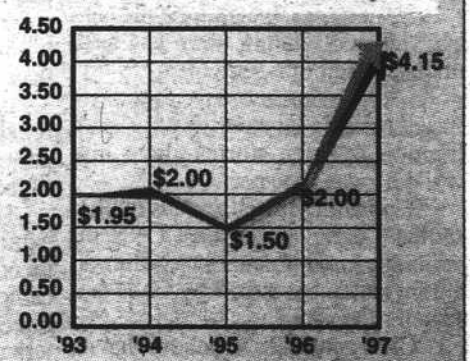
A typical Lincoln customer uses a monthly average of 16,000 cubic feet of gas, costing about \$97.60. After February's anticipated 30-percent drop in supplier costs, that volume will cost closer to \$68.32, Nordell said.

Two factors account for the shock customers may have received after opening this month's bill.

January's below-average temperatures and the West Coast gas company's recent low stor-

It's a gas

This graph depicts natural gas prices for suppliers during the past five Januarys. Prices are in dollars per million-cubic feet.



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

age levels have created a higher demand for the commodity. The increase is reflected in the index price Peoples Natural Gas pays, which is passed on to Lincoln gas customers, Nordell said.

Nebraska's gas prices, like those of other states, are subject to national demand because gas is distributed through an interstate pipeline

Please see GAS on 6

Washington prosecutors rest, defense delivers videotape

By MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

The prosecution rested its case against Riley Washington Tuesday and defense attorneys wasted no time attacking the prosecution's witnesses.

The first major evidence from the defense was video evidence that contradicted three prosecution witnesses' identifications of the former Husker wingback. Three witnesses said they saw Washington wearing a red tanktop. Videotape from the Kwik Shop showed him wearing a black T-shirt.

Washington is on trial for the shooting of Jermaine Cole on Aug. 2, 1995, at a Kwik Shop

on 27th and W streets. He is charged with second-degree attempted murder and use of a firearm to commit a felony.

Special Prosecutor Ronald Lahners ended his case with the testimony of two police witnesses who said they checked the area around the Kwik Shop. However, under cross-examination, they said they could not find evidence of shots fired at the Kwik Shop.

Sgt. Donald Arp said officers checked the fence along the east side of the parking lot and the house behind and areas around the parking lot for spent shells and bullet markings, but found nothing.

Please see TRIAL on 3

Student's death in Cather Hall classified accidental by police

From Staff Reports

The death of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student found in his residence hall room Monday night has been ruled accidental, the UNL Police Chief said.

Chief Ken Cauble said senior Paul Wolfendale, 28, had been dead about two to three days when he was found hanged by a belt in Room 407 of Cather Hall, 609 N. 17th St.

The Lancaster County medical examiner determined the death was accidental, Cauble said.

Investigators would not say why the death, which had been rumored as being a suicide, had been classified as an accident.

Investigators would not say where in the room Wolfendale was hanging or to what the belt was attached.

UNL police received a call from Cather Residence Director Joel Johnson at 9:50 p.m. Monday. Johnson had been investigating a foul odor reported by fourth-floor residents when he discovered the body, Cauble said.

Please see DEATH on 6

DAN LUEDERT/DN
RICHARD PUGSLEY of Palmyra has a passion for building replicas of Civil War Gatling Guns. This Hotchkiss model took three years to complete.

Palmyra man crafts Civil War weapons

By JIM GOODWIN
Staff Reporter

PALMYRA — In 1957, when other 7-year-olds were trading Hank Aaron baseball cards for Mickey Mantles, Richard Pugsley was trading a set of golf clubs for a shotgun.

Pugsley's telling transaction may explain why he handcrafts reproductions of Civil War era weaponry for a living today.

The Otoe County resident is the world's only builder of old-style Gatling guns — 10-barrel, crank-operated field guns designed by Chicagoan Dr. Richard Gatling at the height of the Civil War.

The mechanics of guns have always underscored Pugsley's interest in the machines, Pugsley said, which is quite the opposite of the macabre obsession many have accused him of harboring.

To the machinist Pugsley, assembling a Gatling from solid blocks of brass and steel is completing a three-dimensional puzzle alluding to simpler, more traditional times, he said.

Pugsley said he relished his conception of pre-industrial American life over the mass-production-based society to which it gave way.

"How long does a computer last anymore? Three years?" Pugsley asked rhetorically. "Thompson guns are 90 years old and they still work. Firearms interest me because they were built to last."

Shooting for success

In 1989, Pugsley decided he wanted a Gatling. He couldn't afford the gun, so he set out to teach himself how to build it. Pugsley closed the gun shop he operated for

Please see GATLING on 3