

Rumble with No. 1

Nebraska heads to Lawrence, Kan., to battle the top-ranked Jayhawks. KU is 21-0, while the Cornhuskers are 11-8. PAGE 9

Ticket wars

The 20th anniversary re-release of "Star Wars" today promises to be the country's hottest ticket, with some fans lining up before noon. PAGE 12

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JABBA THE HOT

Sunny, high 55. Partly cloudy tonight, low 25.

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Washington testifies, declares innocence

By MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

Riley Washington took the stand Thursday morning and said he did not shoot Jermaine Cole and did not report the shooting because he did not want his name in the media.

Washington told the jury he watched a fight break out between two of his friends and Cole at the Kwik Shop on 27th and W streets.

He said that when shots were fired,

he ran. Washington, who is a University of Nebraska-Lincoln track record-holder in the 55-meter indoor and 100-meter dashes, said he did not look back to see who was firing.

The former football player's testimony was the last the jury will hear in the second-degree attempted murder case against the former wingback. After a defense motion to throw out the charges was overruled, attorneys in the case were set to deliver their final arguments. The jury will start deliberations on the case today.

Washington testified for two hours Thursday morning, refuting prosecutors' claims that he shot Cole on Aug. 2, 1995. Washington is charged with second-degree attempted murder and use of a firearm to commit a felony.

One of the more subtle pieces of evidence introduced Thursday was a paper Washington signed. As Washington wrote, Chief Public Defender Scott Helvie pointed out he was left-handed.

Three prosecution witnesses have testified that the gunman, whom they identified as Washington, had the gun

in his right hand. Those three prosecution witnesses also said Washington was wearing a red tank top. Defense videotape evidence, and Thursday's testimony from Washington, has Washington wearing a black T-shirt.

Washington testified that he turned 22 two days before the shooting. He said he was moving out of a house he shared with Abdul Muhammad and Willis Brown, two former Husker football players, during the first part of August.

On Aug. 2, 1995, Washington said

he went to class, went to football practice and came home to unpack some things from his move. Later, he went to Brown and Muhammad's new apartment.

Near midnight, Brown and Washington decided to go to Mum's Liquor store, across 27th Street from the Kwik Shop. After buying some gin to celebrate Washington's birthday, he said, they walked out of the store.

As they walked to their car, Cole

Please see TRIAL on 7



BRIAN PFEIFER, a research engineer at Midwest Roadside Safety Facility in Nebraska Hall, helped create BEST. BEST is a guardrail terminal created at UNL that could save thousands of lives and create millions of dollars for the university.

Crash-test success: NU-designed guardrail ready for highway use

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

Twenty crashed cars could mean millions of dollars for some engineers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

And each pile of wreckage could save another life.

Brian Pfeifer, a research engineer at the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility in Nebraska Hall, is one of several engineers who designed a new guardrail end-piece that could save more lives in highway accidents than the rails now being used.

The terminal is already in place along In-

terstate 80 near Ashland, Pfeifer said.

BEST's secret to saving lives lies in the way it absorbs energy when a vehicle hits the end of a guardrail head-on, Pfeifer said.

On impact, razors held inside the large, box-shaped terminal slice lengthwise through the steel guardrail, shredding the metal and curling it away from the vehicle, he said. Break-away wooden posts that support the guardrail are also knocked aside.

The energy absorbed in this process prevents the impact's high force from pushing the car's engine into the passenger compartment, Pfeifer said.

As a result, only 1.5 percent of all accidents with the new terminal caused serious

injury or death, according to a study by the Texas Transportation Institute based in College Station, Texas, Pfeifer said.

About 14 percent of accidents are as serious with guardrail end pieces now commonly found in Nebraska, he said. These guardrail ends flare away from the road, and do little to stop a vehicle in a head-on collision, he said. Many large trucks will vault over the Nebraska rails and possibly roll over.

In Texas, the rate of serious injury and death in accidents with guardrails climbs to 17 percent, he said.

This is because of an outdated terminal,

Please see CARS on 6

Admit one ... for another 50 cents

As movie ticket prices increase to \$6 in Lincoln, student discounts are still available.

By GERRY BELTZ
Senior Reporter

As of Friday night, some moviegoers will be shelling out a few extra bucks at the box office.

Ticket prices will be going up at all theaters owned and operated by Douglas Theatre Co., which includes all but two screens in Lincoln and more than half the screens in the Omaha area.

According to Douglas Theatre Co. officials, ticket prices for adults will be \$6, up from \$5.50, and the admission price to the discounted Star Ship 9 will go up 25 cents to \$1.75 per ticket.

Ticket prices for matinees, children 12 and under and senior citizens will remain \$3.75, and moviegoers can still get discounts after 6 p.m. by showing either a parking garage ticket or current student identification at time of purchase.

With a student discount, tickets are \$4.50. With a parking garage ticket, admission is \$5.

Doug Kinney, city manager of Douglas Theatre Co., said the increase involved several factors, especially pressure from the studios.

"They want us to be comparable in price to others in the region," he said. "It's not something they can enforce, but they can give pressure."

Other reasons included rising costs and theater upkeep, he said.

Movie theaters receive only a small fraction of the money the box office takes, about 10 percent, he said, and their profit center often comes from inflated concession prices.

"A film has to play for a pretty long time for the theater itself to make any money at the box office."

Compared to the prices at other large cities, Lincoln movie prices are still quite reasonable, Kinney said.

"Kansas City is around \$6.50 or seven bucks," he said, "and the big cities are around \$8 or \$9 for a movie."

Kinney said hoped the price increase won't keep people from coming to the movies.

"You look at other entertainment costs," he said, "and everything has gone up over the years. It's still a great value."