

Buffalo Bash

No. 15 Colorado brings a 4-0 Big 12 Conference road record to the Bob Devaney Sports Center tonight. The NU women visit Boulder. PAGE 10



"Sparks" doesn't fly

"Meet Wally Sparks," Rodney Dangerfield's latest comic venture, misses its mark and becomes a comedy that isn't funny. PAGE 12

February 5, 1997

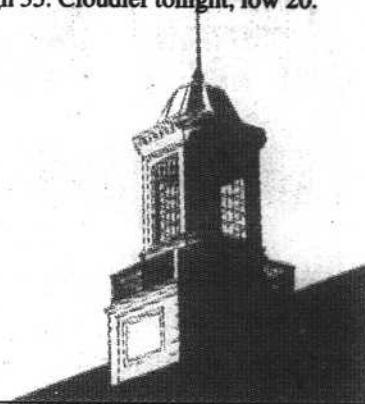
THE SUN ALSO RISES ... REALLY
Cloudy, high 35. Cloudier tonight, low 20.

Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 96

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 94



President's speech pledges partnership

BY TERENCE HUNT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton declared that Americans wanted partnership, not partisanship in his State of the Union address Tuesday night. He challenged Congress to give the nation's schools a big spending increase while balancing the budget by 2002.

Repeating ideas from his campaign, Clinton said education was the top priority of his second term.

He said Americans should have the best education in the world. He challenged communities

to measure their students against national standards to lift achievement in math and science.

In a 60-minute speech, his tone was both conciliatory and challenging. He called for racial and political harmony but also pressured Congress for action. He was interrupted by applause 69 times.

The president's proposals would increase education spending by 20 percent, to \$51 billion for fiscal 1998. The increase, including the cost of tax breaks for college, would be 40 percent by 2002.

State of Union

Two weeks after his second inauguration, the president told the Republican-led Congress to "complete the unfinished business of our country" — balancing the budget, enacting campaign finance reform and reopening last year's welfare law to restore benefits to legal immigrants.

Clinton said balancing the budget by 2002 would require only the votes of Congress and his signature, but conceded the process would not be easy. He said he believed Americans gave him a second term to make tough decisions about the future.

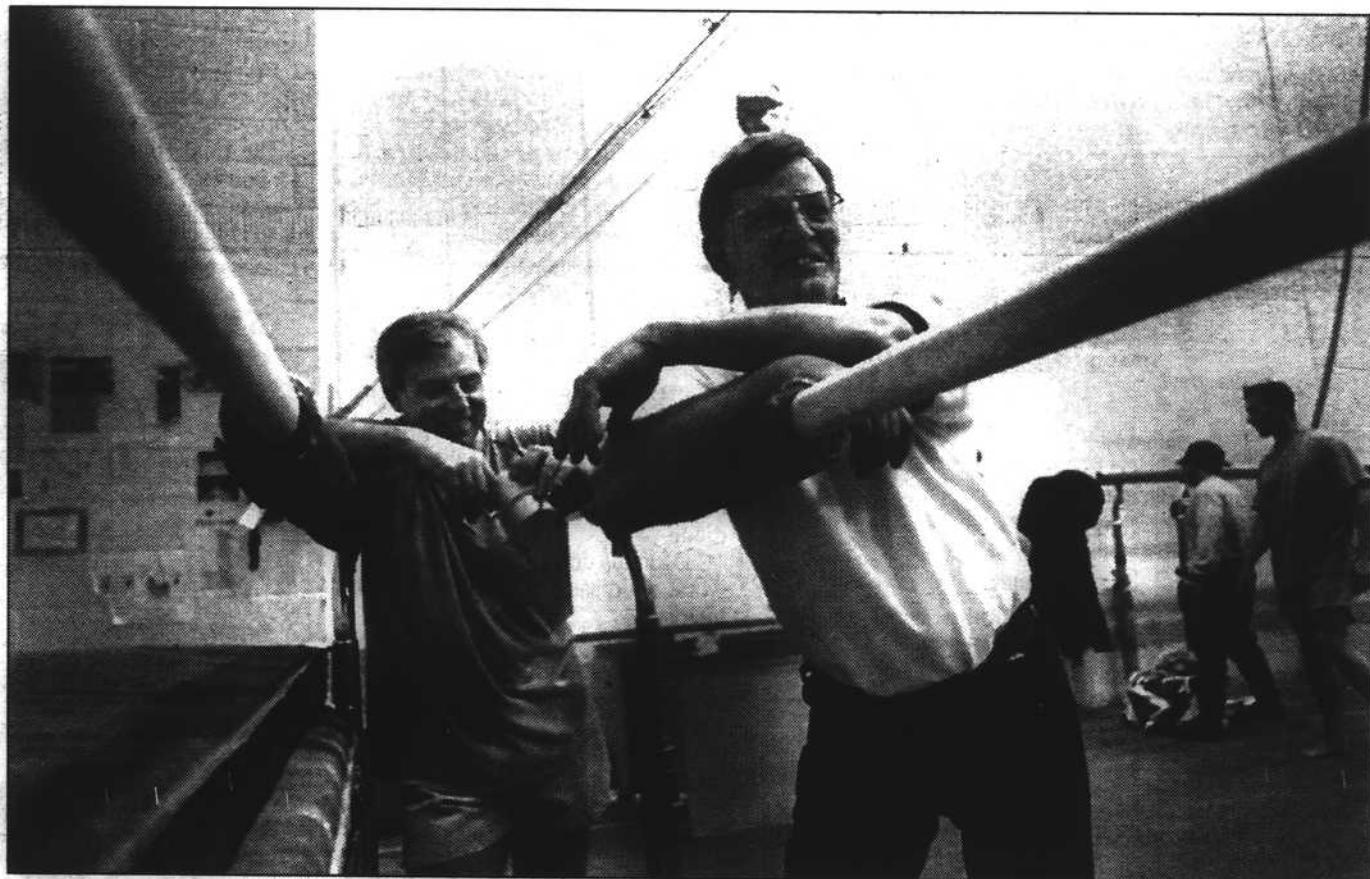
The Republican-driven proposal for a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget was unnecessary and unwise, he said.

"We don't need a constitutional amendment. We need action," he said.

For the moment, Republicans and Democrats alike are stressing bipartisanship and cooperation, although neither side pretends there won't be legislative fights.

Still, there was none of the bitterness and distrust from a year ago. Budget battles forced two government shutdowns that outraged Americans and tarred the GOP.

Please see UNION on 7



MATT MILLER/DN

FRANCIS ALLEN, right, and Jim Howard served as co-captains on Nebraska's 1965 gymnastics team. Since 1979, they have coached the Husker men to eight national titles.

NU coach creates tradition

Francis Allen continues to fight for his sport after 28 years.

BY MITCH SHERMAN
Senior Reporter

Tucked away in a hidden corner of the Bob Devaney Sports Center, Francis Allen sits behind his 40-year-old, chalk-covered, wooden desk.

Coffee brews morning and night, and the door to Allen's 12-by-15-foot office never closes. He offers visitors a chair, sometimes a cookie, and nobody leaves without an earful.

Since 1969, Allen, a 54-year-old bachelor whose life revolves around gymnastics, has directed the University of Nebraska

men's team from his hidden headquarters. Nebraska's invisible champion fights daily for his troubled sport, cementing his spot as a legend in Lincoln and an icon to the world of gymnastics.

Allen's teams have won eight national championships. His athletes have gained 35 individual national titles and 13 spots in the Olympic Games. Yet he is forced to persevere, surviving in a room built as an afterthought and nearly impossible to find without directions.

Nestled in the northwest corner of the Devaney Center, east of the track, north of the swimming pool and adjacent to a rarely-used storage closet, Allen's archaic office sits next to the Husker training room. Old mechanical gadgets and leather hand grips untouched since the mid-1970s fill Allen's office.

"I'm into repairing crap," says Allen, who

crafts hand grips from scratch and has supplied them free of charge to hundreds of gymnasts, including American legends Mary Lou Retton and Shannon Miller. "I can fix anything that has to do with gymnastics."

He certainly fixed the Nebraska program, building it into a powerhouse that won five consecutive national titles in the '70s and '80s. Today, he fixes routines. He repairs rotten vaults and unbalanced pommel horse performances.

And from his small office, he can look out the doorway and watch his gymnasts five days each week from October through April. Nebraska's dean of coaches works every day because he loves to teach.

NU's Athletic Department loves Allen, too.

"Francis Allen is one of my favorite

Please see ALLEN on 8

Lack of money causes closings at WIC clinics

BY ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

Funding shortfalls could force about 10,000 Nebraska mothers and children to wait for government aid and force aid-providing clinics to close, said Nebraska health officials.

Clinics on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln City and East campuses closed Jan. 1, they said.

Peggy Trouba, state director of the Nebraska Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, said a shortage of federal funding and rising food costs mean some of the program's new clients will be placed on a waiting list to receive aid.

Some Nebraska clients began waiting Feb. 1, she said.

The WIC program provides low-income women and young children with vouchers for nutritious food items including milk, infant formula, eggs, cheese, cereal and fruit juice.

Marcia Wallen, director of WIC at Lincoln Family Service, said clinics were forced to make

Please see WIC on 6

Talks about cross burning bring peace

BY ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Twenty years ago, a cross burning at a fraternity may have elicited a response of violence and protests.

But on Tuesday night, members of the Afrikan Peoples' Union met in the basement of the Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St., with university administrators, members of Sigma Chi fraternity and the NAACP, among others, to simply talk about the fraternity ritual that included burning a cross.

Please see MEETING on 6