

Boys of spring

The Nebraska baseball team plays host to the University of Nebraska at Kearney in a doubleheader this afternoon at Buck Beltzer Field. **PAGE 7**

Make your day

Clint Eastwood starred in, directed and produced "Absolute Power," a new thriller that's definitely worth the price of admission. **PAGE 9**

SILVER LINING?

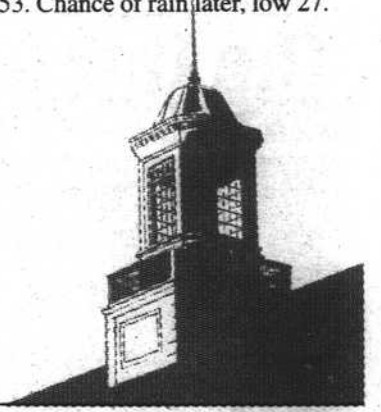
Cloudy, high 53. Chance of rain later, low 27.

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Leading the Way
The black leaders of the Lincoln community

A New Father Figure



MATT MILLER/DN

THE REV. DON COLEMAN is president of the Lincoln chapter of MAD DADS, an organization trying to stamp out violence and drugs. Coleman's office is at 2737 N. 48th St.

Strength guides MAD DADS leader

Editor's note: In honor of Black History Month, the Daily Nebraskan is profiling prominent black leaders in the Lincoln community. Today is the second in a five-part series.

BY KASEY KERBER
Staff Reporter

He's carried the Olympic torch, been awarded the Gold Key to the city twice and served in the U.S. Army for 25 years, attaining the rank of sergeant first class.

But the Rev. Don Coleman is most proud of how he's helping the young people of Lincoln.

Coleman, president of the Lincoln chapter of MAD DADS, said he never expected to head an organization working toward educating youth on the dangers of drugs and

social disorders.

MAD DADS is a community organization that began in Omaha in 1989 and stands for Men Against Destruction — Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder. The organization's Lincoln membership has grown from an initial 25 men to more than 1,300. The group has grown as more and more people associate themselves with its

message, Coleman said.

But times were not always as successful for Coleman.

Racism was an intense part of Coleman's past, and he worked hard to overcome its message of hate.

"I was the only black male in my class

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“
If our children don't read history, they're bound to repeat it.”

THE REV. DON COLEMAN
MAD DADS president, Lincoln chapter

Coach supports Phillips

BY MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

Lawrence Phillips' NFL coach said Monday that the former Husker's latest round of legal troubles has been greatly exaggerated.

Dick Vermeil, coach of the St. Louis Rams, said Phillips' past has made him a target of media attention. Phillips was not the only one making noise at a weekend hotel party in Omaha.

"But since he's Lawrence Phillips," Vermeil said, "there's a big target on him."

Phillips, given more attention for his off-the-field foibles than his on-the-field heroics, was arrested for disorderly conduct early Sunday morning for shouting obscenities at Omaha police officers.

Because Phillips no longer lives in the area, he was taken to central booking and jailed for a short time. He posted a \$50 bond and was released.

The charges come at a time when Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey is trying to re-arrest Phillips for a 1995 assault on a former girlfriend. Phillips pleaded no contest and received probation for the incident, but that was revoked because of a drunken-driving incident in Los Angeles in 1996.

The assault at a Lincoln apartment complex touched off a storm of criticism for him and the Husker football program, which intensified af-

Please see **PHILLIPS** on 3

UNL strives to strengthen recruiting arm

BY ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln seized an important chance Monday for the university to recruit more than 500 high school seniors to attend UNL in the fall.

Lisa Schmidt, UNL director of admissions, said the university welcomed high school seniors and their parents for the day, showed them the university's ropes and pushed them toward a decision to attend UNL.

It was the last Red Letter Day of the 1996-97 school year — a day when \$7 buys a student a host of college seminars, a residence hall meal, a special session on financial aid and scholarships and a campus tour.

Duane Wiles, campus visit coordinator, said the day also buys the university a priceless chance to recruit future Cornhuskers.

Recruiting students is essential to the university, he said, and the day helps many NU

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