



Overhand smash

Nebraska freshman tennis player Sandra Noetzel is one of the Huskers' best weapons in her first year. She is NU's No. 1 singles player. PAGE 9



Not-so-big hits

The new video releases for this week may not have done well at the box office, but the quality makes up for the lack of popularity. PAGE 12

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APRIL SHOWERS

Cloudy, high 63. Showers likely tonight, low 48.

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keeping the Light alive

Fostering Hope



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN TAYLOR

ANN TAYLOR and her foster son, Jake, take a boat ride — his first and only. Taylor has taken in many HIV-positive babies and says the joy of sharing their lives offsets the pain of their deaths.

Guardian of AIDS babies focuses on life, not on her loss

Editor's note: This week the Daily Nebraskan will focus on the stories of those who grieved over the death of a loved one. Each story shows how family and friends dealt with their grief in different situations.

In today's story, some names have been changed at the request of those interviewed to honor their privacy.

BY ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Underneath the constant bask of fluorescent lights and nonstop whir of machines, babies have been born, lived their entire lives and then died in the hospital.

Not only were they HIV-positive, they were born addicted to drugs. Fresh air never reached their lungs, they were rarely touched and never loved — they were, in fact, feared.

Jake would have been one of those babies, but one woman decided that a life lived in the hospital should be the fate of no child.

She turned her back on the security of a high-paying job and has since been spending her life savings to be a foster mother for HIV-positive children who were born addicted to drugs. She took Jake, and others like him, into her home.

Her gain was getting to love Jake for 14 months; her loss was dealing with a death, which — even though he was HIV-positive — she did not expect. The pain of his death is disproportionate, though, to his effect on her life.

"Many people are afraid to love with that

Please see **BABIES** on 3

Chambers' arguments don't stop 'Wilson' bill

Legislature

BY ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

A bill that would make killing a police officer legally performing his or her duties an aggravating circumstance in death penalty cases advanced from second-round debate Tuesday.

After eight hours of discussion and several unsuccessful attempts by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha to amend the bill, it passed with only Chambers voting against it. The bill also requires that the offender knew or reasonably should have known that the victim was a police officer.

LB422 was introduced by Sen. Gerald Matzke of Sidney at the request of Gov. Ben Nelson after the 1995 death of Omaha police officer Jimmy Wilson Jr. Currently, killing a police officer is an aggravating circumstance only if the person is in police custody when the killing takes place.

Nebraska has eight aggravating circumstances for murder cases; the bill would provide the ninth. Aggravating circumstances classify the crime as more severe and therefore punishable by death.

During the eight hours of first-round debate, Chambers voiced steady opposition. He gave a repeat performance Tuesday during eight hours of second-round debate, offering several unsuccessful amendments.

One amendment would have declared the Legislature's opposition to carrying a concealed weapon.

Chambers said most police officers are killed with handguns, and LB422 conflicted with another bill before the Legislature that would allow Nebraskans to have licenses to carry concealed weapons.

"We should not do conflicting, contradictory things," Chambers said, and said the two bills were "oil and water."

Matzke agreed the two bills were oil and water and challenged the applicability of Chambers' amendment to his bill. Chambers' amendment was ruled irrelevant to the bill.

Chambers argued that many laws are passed

Please see **DEBATE** on 6

Usage of beverage alliance profits still vague

ASUN wants students' opinions considered about where the money will go.

BY ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

Changes to and benefits from the university's imminent beverage contract with either Coke or Pepsi will be evident on campus by this fall, a university official said Tuesday.

Thanks to the tight-lipped nature of contract negotiations, most of the contract's multimillion-dollar benefits to the campus must be kept secret until the contract is final, said James Main, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance.

Main said he could confirm that the university would receive several million dollars a year for 10 years.

Funds have been earmarked for certain campus initiatives, he said, and technology improvements and scholarships remain priorities for spending contract funds.

"I'll be so glad when I can go through the

whole contract with someone," he said, because many exciting benefits accompany the contract.

"Our students will benefit immensely from this."

Curt Ruwe, ASUN president-elect, said the beverage deal may only be sweet for students if they have an input in budgeting the annual millions.

Ruwe said Melvin Jones, vice chancellor for business and finance, came to an ASUN meeting and told senators they would have a lot of say in how the millions gained in the contract would be spent.

ASUN members then specified they wanted much of the money to go toward improving campus technology, Ruwe said.

Now, rumors say much of the money may be already earmarked for scholarships, he said.

"It's very frustrating to me," Ruwe said. He said he was under the impression that students would have a lot of input.

Eric Marintzer, ASUN president, said he had been assured throughout the process that part of the money would go to technology.

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