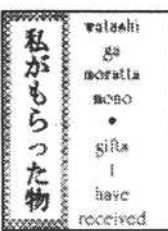




SPORTS

A little different

NU softball player Jennifer Lizama has been tearing up opposing pitching, but has had trouble adjusting to life in Nebraska. PAGE 14



A & E

Take a look

In the coming months, Lincoln residents can expect not only paychecks and bills, but also the opening of exhibitions at local art galleries. PAGE 11

THURSDAY

May 1, 1997

MAY DAY, MAY DAY

Afternoon showers, high 65. Rain tonight, low 43.

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Consolidation bill advances after day-long debate

Legislature

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

After voting to suspend floor rules that would further delay a vote, senators advanced a bill Wednesday that many say will force hundreds of schools in Nebraska to close or consolidate.

LB806 moved to second-round debate 35-6 after 22 hours of debate on amendments to the bill. Senators spent all of Tuesday debating amendments, all but three of which were withdrawn before they could be voted on.

Please see EDUCATION on 9

Rape fliers create discord

Women's groups, fraternities see different meanings in warning

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

The timing of a new safety-alert flier posted Tuesday afternoon that warns students of campus rapists has unnerved some University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.

The UNL Women's Studies Association posted the lime green flier, which contains facts about what it calls the average rapist. The flier closely mocks the design of a safety-alert flier distributed on campus last week to warn students of a suspected serial rapist in the area.

The first flier included a police composite sketch of a black man as the suspected serial rapist. The association's flier includes a cartoon composite of an average rapist — a white male.

The flier states black men are not more likely to commit rape than white men, and 78 percent

of rape victims know their attacker.

It also warns UNL members to "be especially alert around fraternities and athletic departments, since members of these groups are more likely to commit gang rape than other students."

Brent Karstens, president of the UNL Interfraternity Council, said the flier's wording was harsh and unfair.

"It's rather shocking that they single out fraternities and the Athletic Department," Karstens said.

Karstens said he could not dispute the facts listed on the flier, and the statistics on fraternity and athlete members' more frequent involvement in gang rape may hold up nationally.

But Karstens said he had never heard of a gang rape reported at UNL.

Judith Kriss, Women's Center director, also said she did not think a gang rape had been reported at UNL, but such a crime may have oc-

curred and not been reported.

Statistics do show fraternities and athletic departments are the two campus groups more likely to commit gang rape than other students, Kriss said.

Karstens said that under IFC bylaws, UNL fraternities must invite two guest speakers a semester to address issues including rape. UNL fraternities actively address their responsibility in preventing rape, he said.

Karstens said he also opposed the flier because it seemed to attack white and black males as rapists. Rapists should not be labeled by any one — or two — colors, he said.

"It doesn't matter if you're black, white, yellow, green, blue," Karstens said. "It shouldn't be an issue of race."

Amy Rager, ASUN 1st vice president who

Please see FLIERS on 7

Students celebrate Ellen's 'coming out'

By SARAH BAKER
Staff Reporter

Through the cheering and clapping of the crowd and the flashing of cameras, members of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Resource Center — along with a group of at least 60 other people — celebrated Ellen DeGeneres' "coming out."

The center had its party in the Nebraska Union Wednesday night.

Degeneres' television alter ego, Ellen Morgan, came out as a lesbian on a special one-hour episode of her ABC show Wednesday night. The show marks the first time a main character on a prime-time television show has been openly gay.

Many of the people at the special viewing thought the move was a giant leap in exposure for the gay community.

"It's a great thing to realize this

is really on national television," broadcasting graduate student Stacie Schultz said. "Recognizing a gay person in this way is amazing."

Schultz also said she thought the show might change some people's opinions about gay people, especially those who aren't exposed to gay issues on an everyday basis.

"Many people who live in a place like Lincoln, Neb., don't get a lot of exposure to gays," Schultz said. "This show is something that people who know nothing about gays can see."

The crowd kept its high level of excitement throughout the entire show. Many of the viewers thought the episode did a good job portraying the coming-out process in a realistic way.

"It's the best portrayal of the process I have ever seen on television," senior English major Alison

Please see ELLEN on 7



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

JOHN ENGLE, secretary of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Resource Center, celebrates while President Jeff Krotz jumps for joy as Ellen Degeneres' character Ellen Morgan comes out of the closet Wednesday night.

Students contemplate housing options

Evaluating their lifestyles can help students decide between halls and apartments.

By JOSH FUNK
Staff Reporter

As the school year closes, University of Nebraska-Lincoln students must decide where they will make their homes next year — in the residence halls or off campus.

Students can evaluate their lifestyle and weigh the advantages of both situations before deciding what they will call home for the next

year of their lives.

The residence halls may offer students a secure place to live in a convenient location where all the meals are cooked and the bathrooms are cleaned for them.

"Students don't have to do a lot of things involved in managing their lives (in the residence halls)," UNL Housing Director Doug Zatechka said.

Apartment life, however, may offer students the freedom to live without restrictions on their lifestyles.

"Living in an apartment gives students the freedom to live how they want," said Sarah Siefkes, a manager for Claremont Park apartments.

The choice isn't a matter of one living arrangement being better than the other, students

say. It depends on the type of lifestyle an individual student wants.

Sheltered living

Zatechka said he is well versed in the benefits and drawbacks of residence halls.

"Students should live in the dorms for the first couple of years," Zatechka said, "but then later there are benefits for students to move out on their own."

For new students unaccustomed to college, living on campus helps them adjust to university life, Zatechka said. Nationwide studies have shown that students who live in residence halls stay in school longer, get better grades, become

Please see HOUSING on 3

Lotus Notes strike discord for some users

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

Lotus Notes may not be the best system for all University of Nebraska-Lincoln computer users, some students and faculty have said.

Through newsgroup discussions and in recent interviews, some members of the UNL community have said Lotus Notes is a commercial, nonstandard system that would harm campus

Please see LOTUS on 8