



## SPORTS

### All-American girl

NU shot putter Tressa Thompson has gone from the small town of Bloomfield to win an NCAA indoor title and set an NCAA record. **PAGE 9**



## A & E

### The chase is on

Kevin Smith, the writer and director who earned praise for "Clerks," is back with his take on the filmed love story in "Chasing Amy." **PAGE 12**

## FRIDAY

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### BREEZIN' ON OUT

Sporadic rain, high 55. Clearing tonight, low 40.

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## School House Blues



Kindergarten students Asalea Booth, 5, and Jaclyn Vermeline, 6, share a laugh about their schoolwork. On the left is 7-year-old Noah Long.

JAY CALDERON/DN

## Malmo school faces uncertainty

By ERIN SCHULTE  
Senior Reporter

MALMO — In one room in Lincoln, 49 senators have spent the last few weeks wrestling with details of a bill that could force hundreds of small schools across Nebraska to close or consolidate.

In one room in the Nebraska town of Malmo Thursday, 17 students — kindergartners to third-graders — had a drawing deciding which lucky students got to take home their science project: eight baby chicks peeping under a heat lamp in the hallway.

As the left hand may not know what the right hand is doing, so go the daily routines of the Legislature and the 27 students in Malmo's two-room, kindergarten-through-sixth grade schoolhouse.

But the actions of the Nebraska Legislature have the potential this session of making an immense impact on these children.

Del Lindgren, secretary of the school's three-person board, said parents of children at the school and members of the board wait nervously for whatever moves the Legislature might make.

"It seems like the formula keeps changing," Lindgren said. "There's a lot of not knowing right now."

Lindgren said that under LB806, the Malmo school will probably not be forced to close its doors. The Wahoo elementary schools are crowded and a bond initiative failed, he said, so the district might not be able to handle the additional students.

However, Malmo will probably have its budget put under control of the Wahoo School Board. Under LB806, all of Nebraska's 656 Class I (elementary-only) school districts would have to join one of the state's 289 K-12 districts.

Provisions of the bill stipulate that people from the subdistrict could vote in school board elections

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## British vote Blair while Labor takes 47 percent

By MAUREEN JOHNSON  
Associated Press

LONDON — The Labor Party surged toward a landslide election victory Thursday night that would restore it to power for the first time in a generation and make 43-year-old Tony Blair the youngest British prime minister in 185 years.

Moments after the polls closed, a BBC exit poll projected that Labor would take 47 percent of the vote, compared to just 29 percent for the Conservatives.

That would be the poorest Conservative showing since 1832, and a reversal of the 1983 election when Labor was the party that took just 28 percent of the vote.

Independent Television News said its exit poll projected a huge Labor victory, with 159 more seats in the 659-seat House of Commons than any other party. That would mean a bigger Labor triumph than the one that swept Winston Churchill out of office in 1945.

"It looks like we're going to win in very good fashion indeed," said Labor's deputy leader, John Prescott, savoring the first exit poll reports.

Defense Secretary Michael Portillo refused to concede defeat on the basis of the exit polls, although he acknowledged that his party was hurt by internal squabbling.

"I think what the party needs to reflect upon is that it has done itself no good by showing its divisions," he said.

In power since Margaret Thatcher ousted the last Labor government in 1979, the Con-

Please see **LABOR** on 7

## Warner fund supports NU

By SHANE ANTHONY  
Staff Reporter

Money from an endowed fund created by former Nebraska Sen. Jerome Warner will support the three political science divisions in the University of Nebraska system.

The fund, given through the University of Nebraska Foundation, is intended to help pay the fees and travel expenses of faculty who present papers or attend conferences. Warner, who died April 21, started the fund with money left over from his 1996 re-election campaign.

"This is a very welcome addition. This is a much-needed addition," said David Forsythe, professor and chairman of the Political Science Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Forsythe said political science faculty have the opportunity to attend about six conferences

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