



## SPORTS

### Home run derby

The Nebraska baseball team pounded Texas 25-15 in a game that featured 11 home runs and 38 hits. **PAGE 7**



## A & E

### Sci-fi summer

Sci-fi fans will be taken care of this summer as "The Fifth Element" and "Men in Black" lead the pack for summer movie releases. **PAGE 8**

# MONDAY

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### FINAL RAYS

Sunny, high 76. Clear tonight, low 43.

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## Abusive relationships could lead to homicide

**Records show killers are more likely to be a family member or friend.**

By **MATTHEW WAITE**  
Senior Reporter

While media-driven fears have people looking around corners for homicidal strangers, it is more likely that family and friends would be the killers they are looking for, Lancaster County law enforcement records show.

However, in Lancaster County, the chances of a person being the victim of a homicide are six times less than someone living in the nation's most murderous cities. The county's rate is half of the FBI's national murder rate.

But someone's chances of being on the wrong end of a homicide are much greater if they are part of a violent re-

lationship, domestic or friendly.

In the '90s, 81 percent of all homicides in Lancaster County in which an arrest was made involved people close to the victim — mothers, fathers, boyfriends, wives and friends, to name a few.

During the last month, the Daily Nebraskan built a database of Lincoln police and Lancaster County records and analyzed trends from that data.

What was clear was that few were cases of random violence, and several displayed situations similar to national research on domestic violence.

Homicide in Lincoln:

■ Was more likely to occur in the victim's home, with 54 percent of all incidents.

■ Was more likely to involve a male victim, with 69 percent of incidents.

■ Was more likely to involve a male perpetrator, with 58 percent of incidents.

■ Was more likely to have a fatal

wound in the neck, 25 percent, or head, 25 percent.

■ Was more likely to involve a gun, 36 percent, or a knife, 21 percent, than any other weapon.

Truth be known, anyone's chances of being on the wrong end of what police call a negligent homicide are slim: In 1992, Lancaster County's most murderous year, nine people were killed, five with guns.

That equates to 4.5 out of every 100,000 people being victims of a homicide. Most other years the rate hovered around 1.5 homicides per 100,000 — just two or three homicides per year.

"I deal with this every day," Lancaster County Sheriff's Capt. Bill Coleman said. "I still have to keep the perspective that the chance of me, even as a police officer, dying in a violent crime, is pretty astronomical."

But with so few homicides, a rare

Please see **HOMICIDES** on 3

## Student hopes to honor guide dog for escorting her to UNL classes

By **ERIN GIBSON**  
Senior Reporter

This dog will have his day. Cappuccino, a service dog for Catherine Carver, will cross the graduation stage with her Saturday.

But Carver wanted her dog, nicknamed Capp, to get more recognition. Capp has tagged along with Carver to every lecture she has attended at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the last two years.

Carver, an elementary education major, said she applied for Capp to get an honorary degree for helping her complete her four years at UNL. He has spent two years in lectures, she said, and Capp has worked with her in Lincoln schools while she finished student teaching.

Still, the university did not want to

give an honorary degree to a dog, she said.

"I know they've given honorary degrees to people who've never even sat through a lecture," Carver said. "To ignore (Capp's work) is kind of a disservice to him and maybe even to guide dogs."

Herb Howe, associate to the chancellor, said the dog missed the deadline for honorary degrees. The NU Board of Regents voted on recipients in January, he said, and the request for Capp was not received until months later.

Howe said the dog will not receive the award, but he does not deny Capp's contributions.

"I think it's absolutely wonderful, what that dog has done for her," Howe said.

Carver said the university could recognize the dog with a smaller honor

"I know they've given honorary to people who've never even sat through a lecture."

**CATHERINE CARVER**  
graduating senior

than a degree, if necessary.

Capp, a golden retriever service dog, is trained to help Carver overcome her mobility impairment by pulling her in her wheelchair, fetching household items and opening doors.

Please see **DIPLOMA** on 6



MATT MILLER/DN

**RUTH LAVIN, left, and Peter Lavin are both graduating Saturday. Ruth is receiving her doctorate in community and human resources and Peter is getting his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.**

## Woman earns doctorate, graduates alongside son

By **JONATHAN HOUGHTON**  
Staff Reporter

There will be hundreds of proud parents in the audience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's commencement Saturday.

There will also be at least one proud parent among the graduates.

Ruth Lavin will receive her

doctorate in community and human resources Saturday. She will graduate alongside her son, Peter, who will receive his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Ruth Lavin said returning to school as a nontraditional student has been an invaluable experience for her.

"It has taught me to think like

Please see **GRADS** on 2

## UNL awards professor for service

64-year-old Paul Olson crusades for quality living after 40 years

By **ERIN GIBSON**  
Senior Reporter

In 40 years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Paul Olson has not stopped crusading for a better quality of life.

He fought ignorance during the civil rights movement to provide educational opportunities and equality to minorities and women.

He mediated between students, faculty and administration when the campus was divided by Vietnam War pro-

tests.

He also has been working with rural schools to teach children about their small-town roots and how to invest in their communities.

Now, Olson has received a UNL service award for 40 year of work at the university.

In the next decades, Olson said he wants graduate students to be paid higher wages for their work, and he wants the university to regain a strong sense of community.

He also wants students to do more than superficially accept diver-

sity. Groups of every background must love and respect one another, he said.

But that should be all in a few years' work for Olson, a distinguished UNL English professor.

Olson first came to the university for two years as a graduate student in 1951. After he received a Fulbright Scholarship and studied at Princeton, he was hired by UNL.

That was 1957, and Olson was 24 years old. He has been at UNL ever

Please see **OLSON** on 2



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

**ENGLISH PROFESSOR Paul Olson sits by Love Library reading a Latin book last Friday.**