



Adjustment

Jaime Pauli is adjusting to the transition of college life after coming from a small town in South Dakota to run cross country for NU. PAGE 7



Acting globally

Seeing Shakespeare performed at la Globe Theatre isn't unusual — unless these Virginia-based troupers are doing the acting. PAGE 9

KEEP THOSE RUBBERS ON  
Scattered showers, high 66. Clearing tonight, low 47.

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## Iraqis convicted of sexual assault

BY MATTHEW WAITE  
Senior Reporter

After filling out a sex offender registration form Tuesday afternoon, two Iraqi men who fled war and the murder of family in the aftermath of the Gulf War started yet another new chapter in their troubled lives: prison.

Latif al-Hussani, 35, and Majed al-Tamimy, 29, had to be told by a translator that they were going to spend at least two years in prison for first-degree sexual assault of a minor. Both men sat dejected, their dark eyes staring at the wood-paneled table.

Their attorneys claimed the two did not know they were doing anything wrong at the time they had sex with their arranged wives, who were 13 and 14 at the time. A judge saw differently Tuesday.

The men were sentenced to four to six years in prison by Lancaster County District Court Judge Karen Flowers. Both men will be eligible for parole in two years, and will have a mandatory release date three years, six months and 23 days from Tuesday.

In a case that has sent ripples throughout the country and had defense lawyers crying culture clash, the sentencing of the two refugees ends a saga that resulted with three in jail, the girl's parents in counseling and two teen-agers in state custody.

The sentence, one attorney said, could have struck a blow for understanding for two men ignorant of American law. Terrell Cannon, who represented al-Tamimy, said the judge didn't show "very damn much" mercy.

"These two individuals have suffered a

hell of a lot," he said. "Neither of them knew they were doing anything wrong."

"If you don't know you are doing anything wrong, that should count for something."

Flowers, in delivering her sentence, disagreed.

While the two men did not appear to be at risk of more criminal behavior, Flowers said giving the two men probation for a crime carrying a maximum penalty of 50 years in prison seemed an affront to the victims.

"The tragedy that occurred here is one that didn't have to happen," she said. "And it need not happen again."

"There are only two victims here, they were 13 and 14 years old when this occurred."

Flowers said the men forced their brides to have sex, despite their refusals.

"If I put the defendants on probation, I would be excusing that behavior. I cannot."

The two men fled Iraq and were settled in refugee camps in Saudi Arabia before coming to America. They were settled in Lincoln with 115 other Iraqis.

On Nov. 9, 1996, al-Hussani and al-Tamimy married the two young girls in a wedding performed in a Lincoln home packed with other Iraqis settled in Lincoln.

When the girls ran away from their husbands a week later, they told police that they were married and that their husbands had forced them to consummate the marriages.

Al-Hussani and al-Tamimy were arrested and charged with first-degree sexual assault of a minor. The girls' father, mother and the older girl's 20-year-old boyfriend were also

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## UNO develops plans for residence halls

BY ERIN GIBSON  
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska at Omaha will seek the NU Board of Regents' approval this November to build its first residence halls on campus, university officials said Tuesday.

The university hopes to complete the residence halls by fall 1999 on its main campus at 60th and Dodge streets, said Dave Castilow, UNO director of business services.

Castilow said the university is considering six proposals from private companies to join the university in building and running the new residence halls.

The university is also considering two extreme proposals — one for a private business to run the entire project independent of UNO and one for the university to build and run the halls with outside help.

The all-private business approach would relieve the university from all financial risk or responsibility for the project, Castilow said, but the residence halls would still be built on university property.

According to the proposals under consider-

ation, the residence halls would accommodate about 600 students and would open between fall 1998 and fall 1999.

Consultants hired last fall to gauge demand for the residence halls speculated that more than 1,700 students might apply for a room, but "there was an unequivocal, can't-fight-it demand for 600 beds," Castilow said.

The proposals include charging students about \$300 each month to live in the residence halls, but that cost could easily change and does not include meals, he said.

The university must provide students with meals outside the residence halls under some proposals that don't include building kitchenettes or a cafeteria in the halls, he said. UNO's nearby student center could provide student meals, he said.

UNO must also decide where students living in the halls would park, Castilow said, which would require land off the residence hall building site.

One private company that submitted a proposal also asked for more land than provided by the site on which to build the halls, he said.

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## Seat yourself



SCOTT McCLURG/DN

JUNIOR CORI MCDILL takes time to sign an autograph for 9-year-old Jessica Zimmerman of Lincoln. Zimmerman's family was one of the many attending the make-your-pick night for the Nebraska women's basketball team, where season ticket holders were able to pick their seats for the '97 season.

## Brooks to break records Five-show stint longest in Lincoln history

BY TED TAYLOR  
Assignment Reporter

Few can argue that until Elvis resurfaces and goes on tour, there will be no bigger musical event in Lincoln than this week's appearances by Garth Brooks. His five-day, five-show stint kicks off tonight.

But even a resurrected king of rock 'n' roll might have trouble selling out the Bob Devaney Sports Center five nights in a row.

"This is huge. This is major," said Dave Marsh, music director at Lincoln's KFGF-FM 98.1 Froggy.

"When I mentioned to industry people I've talked with that he was playing five shows in Lincoln they said 'What? Are you kidding me?'" he said. "For him to stay here and play five days is a pretty big deal."

After Sunday's show, Brooks will break the Devaney Center attendance record that was held by Kenny Rogers. "The Gambler" played two Devaney Center shows during the 1980 state fair in front of a combined 27,442 people.

That same number of Brooks' tickets sold in the first 30 minutes they were put on sale Sept. 15. More than 62,000 tickets were sold in four hours.

Total ticket sales for the five shows make it the second top selling musical event ever in Lincoln. Farm Aid III, featuring Willie Nelson, Neil Young, John Mellencamp and Lou Reed brought more than 70,000 music fans to Memorial Stadium on Sept. 19, 1987.

Butch Hug, UNL director of events, said he was a bit surprised just how excited fans were to see the Recording Industry Association of

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