



## SPORTS

### Rebound

The NU volleyball team tries to get back on the winning track tonight when the Huskers face OU in Norman, Okla. **PAGE 9**



## A & E

### Are you on the bus?

Shrunk and trapped in a pantry, Ms. Frizzle and her students escape by crossing a banana cream pie in "Magic School Bus - Live!" **PAGE 12**

## FRIDAY

October 10, 1997

Why Fly South?

Mostly sunny, high 75. Cloudy tonight, low 63.

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COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

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## Committee: Reaccredit university

BY ERIN GIBSON  
Senior Reporter

An evaluation team recommended reaccrediting the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for another decade in a report released Monday.

But the team also plans to reevaluate the university's work to assess student academic achievement.

The report lauds the university for its undergraduate programs — especially the University Honors Program — for its highly committed faculty, and for increasing its emphasis on teaching while achieving Research I status since the university was last accredited in 1987.

It also notes a need for more competitive faculty salaries, more funding for information technology and more women in senior faculty positions.

The report will advise a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools on whether to accredit the university during its meeting Nov. 14 through 16 in Chicago. The university has retained its

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Election '98

## Christensen's exit opens House race

BY BRIAN CARLSON  
Assignment Reporter

Following Jon Christensen's decision to leave the U.S. House of Representatives to run for governor, Nebraska Republicans are seeking continued conservative representation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

Christensen's surprise move threw the race wide open, and, political observers say, opened the door for an exciting 1998 campaign in the Omaha district.

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Two Republican candidates have entered the race: Christensen's ex-wife Meredith Christensen and Omaha City Councilman Lee Terry.

Chuck Sigerson, chairman of the Nebraska Republican Party, named three others who are considering seeking the Republican nomination for the congressional seat in the May pri-

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## OUTCAST

### Students find success in living gay lifestyles



BY ERIN GIBSON  
Senior Reporter

**O**n gay students' road to embracing their lifestyle, there exists no common finish line.

For the lucky few, it's a line of bravado crossed in youth with supportive parents and an open community.

For others, it's a vague line they tread meekly while struggling in a bigoted society — one where misconceptions can outnumber truths and hate lingers like scratched welts of poison ivy.

But for all of these men and women, the final decision to accept their sexuality and live gay in the conservative, traditional Midwest is monumental.

The decision brings woes of bearing others' prejudices and scorn from their families and their churches.

But, for many, the decision to pronounce their sexuality — if only to themselves — brightens their outlooks and secures their identities.

They begin seeking love and companionship rather than shallow sexual encounters, and, for the first time, they don't feel disgusting, isolated or abnormal.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln



students and graduates who have accepted a gay or lesbian sexuality know they are not alone in their experiences. They know other students still grapple with whether to pronounce their gay lifestyle or live straight, in accordance with societal pressures and their own religious convictions.

They know not every gay person should live an openly gay lifestyles; they aren't recruiters.

And they will not condemn others' choices or beliefs.

By sharing their experiences before Saturday's National Coming Out Day, they only hope to shed light on a life-changing

decision often kept "in the closet."

#### Alison's story

For UNL senior Alison Knudsen, accepting her sexuality was a five-year rendezvous with denial and self-loathing.

She worked to suppress the lesbian tendencies she realized were a part of her early in high school, she said. And she lived a "normal" life in her hometown of Fremont, complete with a strong Christian

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SANDY SUMMERS/DN  
**ABOVE: ALISON KNUDSEN** and her girlfriend, Stacy Schultz, relax outside during Schultz's half-hour break from her night job.  
**LEFT: KNUDSEN'S IMAGE** is reflected in the rearview mirror of a UNL shuttle bus as she takes the bus back to her classes.