

Streak snapper

The 20th-ranked Nebraska women's basketball team broke a two-game losing streak with an 88-74 win over Texas A&M Wednesday. PAGE 10



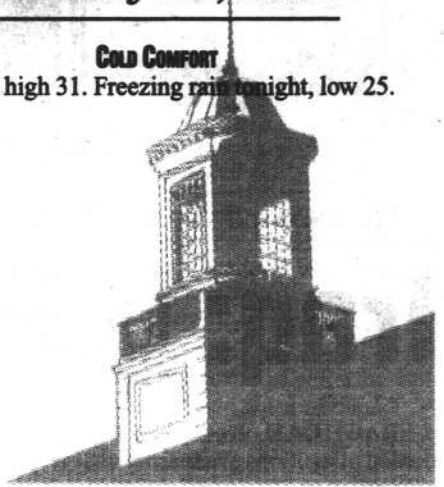
Falco it ain't

Revenge, jealousy and powdered wigs a-plenty will populate the Lincoln Community Playhouse Friday when "Amadeus" premieres. PAGE 13

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COLD COMFORT

Cloudy, high 31. Freezing rain tonight, low 25.



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Over the rainbow



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN
IAN ROBERTSON, a Lincoln High School senior taking Astronomy 103 at UNL, peers out of the opening of the UNL Student Observatory. Chancellor James Moeser was also on hand Tuesday night for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting which officially dedicated the observatory located atop the new parking garage west of Memorial Stadium.

Legislature

Filibuster leads to rule changes

BY TODD ANDERSON
Assignment Reporter

Lengthy debate continued in the Legislature Wednesday as senators worked through various rule changes proposed by the rules committee last week.

The proposal that has received the most attention would limit the number of times a senator can propose an amendment and require that each amendment be sponsored by three senators.

By using a legal tactic called the filibuster, one senator can stall legislative proceedings for hours and prevent a final vote.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha said he feels the proposed rules changes are specifically directed toward him.

"They feel they have to stop me because they're scared of me," he said. "But they don't realize that I have them just where I want them."

Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler said the filibuster is a tool that should be used rarely. Instead, he said, it's not only used often, but misused as well.

"We're trying to work in terms of any filibuster and to establish the right kind of balance," Beutler said.

He and supporters have said, in extreme cases, use of the filibuster might threaten to shut down the Unicameral.

"If one senator uses the filibuster to its fullest extent, we could be reduced to passing only 30 bills," Beutler said. "If we do nothing, a combination of people will rise and bring the entire Legislature down."

Chambers said supporters of the rule change were trying to quiet him, the only African-American senator in the Legislature.

And by being singled out by those presenting the rules changes, he said, his relationship with certain senators has been damaged, which

Please see RULES on 6

Senator takes on pressures of succession

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Senior Reporter

Sen. Ronald Raikes is well aware Frank Solich isn't the only Nebraskan with a tough act to follow in 1998.

After longtime Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly died last April, Gov. Ben Nelson appointed Raikes to fill the 25th District seat. Raikes thus took on the task of succeeding the state's most distinguished legislator.

Legislators and state officials remembered Warner last spring as the ideal citizen legislator as envisioned by the Unicameral's founders.

Bold, diligent and fair-minded, Warner emerged as an indispensable resource and creative problem-solver in such issues as taxes, education and road construction during his 35 years in office.

"I expect to be able to succeed, but not replace, Sen. Warner," Raikes said.

Raikes, a former member of the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board and former associate professor of economics at Iowa State University, said he is interested primarily in issues of taxes, spending and eco-

Please see RAIKES on 6

Chapter members: Alumni broke promises

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

Kappa Sigma Fraternity members knew they had problems, but had big plans to prove themselves this semester. Now, they won't have the chance.

The fraternity, closed by its national organization and local alumni board this semester for failing to meet disciplinary guidelines, restructured its house in December to make the necessary reforms this spring, Kappa Sigma President Adam Miller said.

Now, as fraternity members struggle to regroup, their charter may be revoked.

At the beginning of this school year, current Kappa Sigma members and alumni signed a strict housing contract with

behavior guidelines and expectations.

But neither side lived up to the bargain, Miller said.

"We had our problems, but the alumni did not live up to their promises either," Miller said.

This lack of cooperation coupled with unclear discipline guidelines contributed to the fraternity closing, he said. "Some of their directives were too vague to follow," Miller said.

Alumni expectations were too high to follow, former Kappa Sigma President Kevin Reiner said.

"They didn't see everything we accomplished this semester," Reiner said.

Fraternity members were expected to consult with alumni before proceeding with any problem, Miller said.

But alumni did not always follow

through on the problems, Miller said.

"Sometimes after the alumni said they would take care of something, nothing happened," Miller said.

A live-in alumni adviser from another Kappa Sigma chapter reported back to the alumni board on the fraternity members' behavior.

"We were being treated like juvenile delinquents," Reiner said.

The Kappa Sigma house was preparing to appeal its university probation and move on.

"Our house would have eliminated any doubts (about our character) this semester," Miller said, "but now there is no chance."

Now the fate of the chapter will be decided by the Supreme Executive Committee at a formal hearing in Memphis, Tenn., on March 14.

"Sometimes after the alumni said they would take care of something, nothing happened."

ADAM MILLER
Kappa Sigma president

The Kappa Sigma national office maintains that the local chapter was well aware of what it needed to accomplish.

"They had several meetings with their alumni along the way," said Mitch Wilson, executive director of Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

"They just didn't accomplish what they needed to do," he said.

The chapter will have the opportunity to defend its actions in writing or in

person at the executive committee hearing in March.

"Before we decide how to defend ourselves we have to decide if we will have enough members left to function as a fraternity," Miller said.

The outlook for the hearing is not good for the local Kappa Sigma chapter.

"In a situation like this where they knew the parameters before," Wilson said, "it is tough to be reinstated."