



SPORTS

Gym-tastic

Freshman Jason Hardabura finished in the top four in all six events as the Nebraska gymnastics team downed Oklahoma Sunday. **PAGE 10**



A & E

NebraSKA

Tonight, Omaha's Ranch Bowl will play host to a three-pronged ska show with Hepcat, The Gadgets and The Slackers. **PAGE 12**

TUESDAY

March 3, 1998

HAZY SHADE OF WINTER

Partly cloudy, high 39. Cloudy tonight, low 23.

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UNL's distance education aids Kwan

BY CHAD ELLSWORTH
Staff Reporter

Having just won an Olympic silver medal in ice skating for the United States, Michelle Kwan can return her attention to something that will benefit her for the rest of her life — her education.

And she has received part of her education through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Kwan is one of 15,000 students each year who take classes through UNL's distance education program, said Kathleen Zumpfe, director of marketing for the Division of Continuing Studies.

By enrolling in the distance education program last year, Kwan was able to take a high

school biology course and supplement the education she received while attending a traditional high school, said Wendy O'Connor, academic adviser for the division's high school independent studies.

The program is offered by the Division of Continuing Studies in order to cater to the special needs of some high school students. Students who are either too busy or too far away to attend a traditional high school or who choose to learn in an alternative environment typically benefit most from the distance education program, Zumpfe said.

Such students include athletes, actors, children of missionaries and diplomats, students of the School of American Ballet, home-schooled students and students who learn at an accelerated

pace, she said.

Students from every county in the state of Nebraska, all 50 U.S. states, and 136 countries are now enrolled in the distance education program.

"The program has experienced tremendous growth over the last few years," Zumpfe said. "Our enrollment has doubled in the '90s."

About 150 students earned their high school diplomas through the program last year, and more than 2,750 have earned their diplomas since 1967. Students are given one year to complete each course, but they can take as long as necessary to earn their diplomas, O'Connor said.

The distance education program offers a full high school curriculum, so its students, like Olympic luge competitor Adam Heidt, can get

their high school diplomas without ever setting foot inside a classroom.

Other students, like Kwan, can choose to supplement their traditional studies at a high school with UNL distance education courses, Zumpfe said.

Despite having such famous athletes on its class roll, the program's goal isn't to recruit those in the international spotlight, O'Connor said.

"They hear about the program through word of mouth," she said.

The distance education program has been accredited by the state of Nebraska since 1967 and by the North Central Association of Schools since 1978, making it the only fully accredited

Please see **KWAN** on 3



MICHAEL WARREN/DN

SEN. RAY JANSSEN of Nickerson talks politics during lunch with ASUN president Curt Ruwe. About 20 Nebraska lawmakers gathered Monday in the Nebraska Union's Georgian Suite for their annual student luncheon.

Students, senators do lunch

BY KIM SWEET
Staff Reporter

State senators took a break from discussing taxes and new state programs Monday to discuss everything from low basketball game attendance to communication barriers between students and foreign professors.

University-related topics like these were on the menu for the Senator-Student Luncheon, sponsored by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

The luncheon allowed students and senators to talk in an informal atmosphere, discussing concerns on the students' minds, as well as those on the senators'.

At one table, Sen. Pat Engel of South Sioux City asked to hear about students' experiences at the university.

As a senior in high school,

Megan Patent was less than enthusiastic about attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she said.

"UNL was probably last on my list of schools I wanted to attend," Patent, a sophomore agricultural education major, said.

Now she is glad she chose UNL. She enjoys interaction with the faculty, feels like she has a close relationship with her advisers and is enjoying her experiences.

This was good news to Engel, who asked students about all aspects of their education, from the new admission standards to improving building conditions around campus.

Jessica Shelburn, a sophomore agriculture education major, said the new admission standards were beneficial to the university and did not exclude many students. Shelburn did know a few students who could not fulfill the new standards and consequently were not

admitted. This was due to poor planning on the students' part that could have been prevented, Shelburn said.

"By the time you are a sophomore or a junior, you sit down with your high school guidance counselor, you know what requirements you need to fulfill," Shelburn said.

Engel was pleased to hear people say the new standards were not too difficult to fulfill.

"It seems that all the kids are forewarned," he said.

Discussing building improvement on campus was high on Engel's priority list. Engel is a supporter of a bond issue aimed at raising funds for campus building improvement.

"Many of the buildings haven't been renovated since I was here — that was about 40 years ago," he said. "It is time to bite the bullet

Please see **LUNCH** on 6

Christensen starts TV ad campaign

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

Election '98

The images playing across a 13-inch TV screen in a downtown Lincoln office Monday morning could give one man the keys to the governor's mansion come November.

That's what Republican gubernatorial candidate John Christensen hopes.

At his Lincoln campaign headquarters, the 2nd district Republican representative unveiled the first of many TV advertisements designed to help him secure the Republican nomination in the May primary and then the governor's office.

In his first TV campaign Christensen introduces himself to the Nebraska public while emphasizing his rural roots.

"I want to let people know that even though I represent eastern Nebraska I understand rural issues," Christensen said. "I am a lifelong farm kid."

The advertisement was filmed on the Christensen family farm in St. Paul, and it features shots of Christensen with local residents and his family.

This introductory advertisement will be followed by other commercials

where Christensen will outline his position on the issues.

While his opponents, John Breslow and Mike Johanns, began their TV campaigns in October, Christensen said he wanted to wait until the campaign was more focused.

"I know how to run a campaign, and I'll rely on my own schedule, not my opponents'," Christensen said.

After the preview of the TV advertisement, talk quickly turned to one of the campaign's hottest issues: property tax relief.

Citing his legislative track record, Christensen promised tax relief elected.

Now Christensen's campaign will shift into high gear to prepare for the primaries on May 12.

But campaign events will be limited by Christensen's obligations in Washington.

During his campaign Christensen said he would refuse to write checks that his bank couldn't cash.

"I won't make promises I can't deliver."

Bridging campus gap part of party's platform

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Assignment Reporter

ASUN Election 1998

East Campus is just 20 blocks east on Holdrege Street, but it may seem like a world away to many City Campus students.

And members of the VISION party would like to see those two worlds a little bit closer.

A platform that includes bridging that gap, increasing unification among student groups and recom-

mending methods classes for professors is one of the reasons VISION sees a bright future for itself come March 11.

Jill Maaske, first vice presidential candidate, said she took Biology 101 and English 151 on East Campus her freshman year. It was a great learning

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