



Spring rush

Senior rush ends Mike Rucker and Chad Kelsay look to assume a leadership role this season for the Cornhusker football team. PAGE 7

He writes the songs

Singer/songwriter Joel Mabus will perform Friday and conduct a song-writing workshop Saturday at Lincoln's Wagon Train Project PAGE 8

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PACK YOUR PICNIC BASKET

Mostly sunny, high 60. Cloudy tonight, low 35.

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## Paula Jones case thrown out

■ A judge says a lack of evidence was the reason for dismissing all charges against the president.

BY JOHN SOLOMON  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a dramatic victory for President Clinton, a judge dismissed Paula Jones' lawsuit Wednesday and said her claims of sexual harassment "fall far short" of being worthy of trial.

Clinton embraced the news while traveling in Africa, while Jones' attorneys said they expected to appeal.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright to dismiss all three charges against Clinton surprised attorneys in the case who were preparing for trial next month in Little Rock, Ark.

"Although the governor's alleged conduct, if true, may certainly be characterized as boorish and offensive, even a most charitable reading of the record in this case fails to reveal a basis for a claim of criminal sexual assault," Wright said in a 39-page ruling.

Her decision abruptly halted a sensational lawsuit that had haunted the White House for more than three years and threatened to place the president's sexual conduct before the nation in a historic trial.

Jones' attorneys said she was disappointed not

to have her day in court to punish Clinton for an incident she said took place while she was a state employee in 1991.

Jones "has failed to demonstrate that she has a case, and the court therefore finds that there are no genuine issues for trial," Wright said in the decision.

Clinton, wrapping up a tour of Africa, was so surprised by the ruling he asked if it was an April Fools' joke. The president is "pleased that he has received the vindication he has long awaited," press secretary Mike McCurry said. After learning of the ruling, Clinton went shopping with Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has staunchly defended her husband throughout the controversy.

Jones' lawyers said an appeal was "very likely" and that "this ruling does not vindicate or

exonerate Mr. Clinton."

Jones, 31, claimed that Clinton propositioned her in a Arkansas hotel room in 1991; Clinton says he doesn't recall meeting her and has denied anything improper.

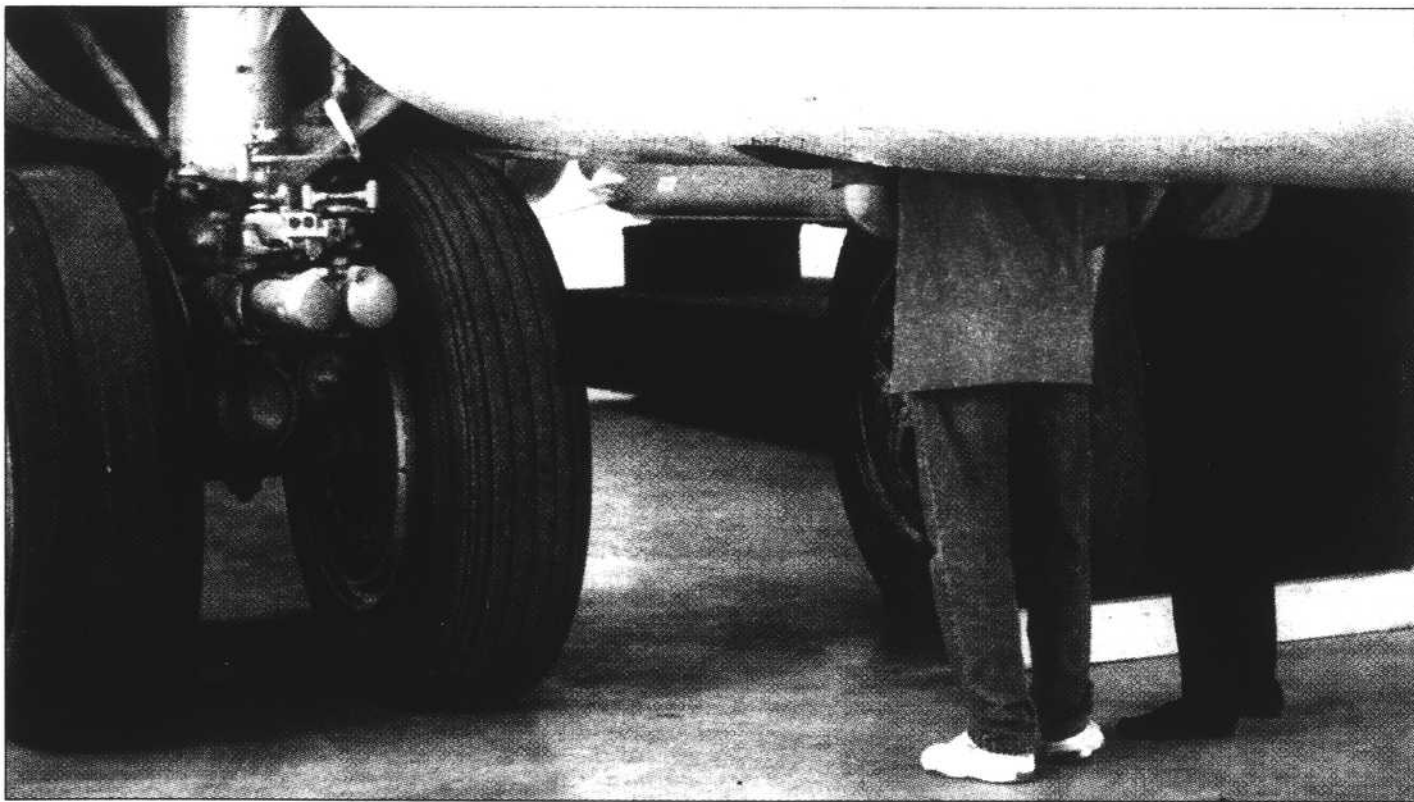
"Paula was shocked," said Susan Carpenter McMillan, Jones' spokeswoman. "We have a lot of respect for Judge Wright. We just strongly, strongly disagree."

For weeks, Clinton's lawyers were saying they thought they had strong grounds for dismissal even while preparing for a trial.

In her ruling, Wright said whatever went on in the Arkansas hotel room between Jones and Clinton, then governor, she failed to prove she was

Please see JONES on 2

### In the belly of the beast



ROLAND AND CHERI KRAHN of Lincoln check out the underside of a B-52B "Stratofortress" Wednesday during the grand opening of the Strategic Air Command Museum near Ashland. The opening was more than two years in the making after SAC closed the old museum at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue.

RYAN SODERLIN/DN



### New leaders sworn in at inauguration

BY JESSICA FARGEN  
Assignment Reporter

When he was younger, outgoing ASUN President Curt Ruwe said he told his dad he wanted to build a clubhouse out of sticks.

And his dad laughed at him, picturing a house tied together with ropes and sticks.

Ruwe said he finally built that clubhouse, but it's tied together with the outgoing student government body.

As the clubhouse was dismantled Wednesday night, about 45 new senators raised their right hands and pledged to serve ASUN to the best of their abilities.

Sara Russell was sworn in as the new president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. Kelly Hoffschneider became first vice president, and Eddie Brown assumed the role of second vice president.

Russell said Ruwe left big shoes to fill as president and UNL student regent.

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### Allies' covenant voted down

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS  
Assignment Reporter

The Neihardt Residence Hall Council and its individual floors rejected a proposal Wednesday from a University of Nebraska-Lincoln group that would have declared the hall a "safe space" for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students.

No other residence halls or greek houses have signed the "safe space" covenant proposed by Allies Against Heterosexism and

Homophobia. Neihardt, Cather and Pound halls heard the proposal.

"(You) have to be much more careful of putting residents in a position — you can't do anything against residents' wishes," Neihardt Council President Shane Perkins said.

"If people choose to be members of Allies, that is fine, but Neihardt Council represents the hall."

About 35 people attended the council meeting.

The Neihardt Council voted 20-4 (four council members abstained

from voting) against the proposed covenant. Students on individual floors voted 104-90 against the covenant, with six residents, as well as the floor Piper 1, abstaining from the vote.

Perkins said the council first voted 15-12 to accept Allies' request to make Neihardt Residence Hall a "safe space" March 4. But after hearing debate, the council voted to reconsider. The vote was tabled for further discussion on individual residential

Please see ALLIES on 2

### 'Brain Gain' bill still alive, but passage not expected

BY BRIAN CARLSON  
Senior Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson and Sen. Jon Bruning's quest to plug the state's brain drain is still alive after the Legislature advanced LB1176 late Tuesday night, but senators say the bill's chances of passage this session are slim.

Legislators have several concerns about the bill, including the inclusion of needs-based criteria for scholarships, the power of the state's



Legislature

postsecondary education commission to draw up criteria and the necessity of addressing a "brain drain" problem in the first place.

"This bill has four days to get its act together," said Bruning, who sponsored the bill at Nelson's request. "We're going to work hard to do that, but it's going to be a chal-

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