

Voss's tosses

With a win tonight, Nebraska pitcher Jenny Voss could tie the program's single season win record of 24. Voss set the record last season. **PAGE 6**

Down and dirty

It's lonely nights and whiskey bottles. It's southern gentlemen and Chicago ladies. It's the blues, and it's actually available in Lincoln. **BACK PAGE**

April 7, 1998

LIGHTNING CRASHES

Possible thunderstorms, high 60. Rain tonight, low 47.

Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 97

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 134



TRYING TO REMEMBER the words to the "Star-Spangled Banner," Chelsey Boles, 7, of Fredstrom School, sings during the opening of the "School is Cool" Jam at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Monday. She was from one of 262 schools that participated in the seventh annual event, which aimed at getting children excited about education.

Respect reigns at jam

BY ADAM KLINKER
Staff Reporter

Imagine Gov. Ben Nelson and ex-Husker fullback Cory Schlesinger doing the chicken dance with NU mascot Lil' Red.

Imagine high-flying trampoline acrobatics and artful slam dunking.

Picture 14,000 students led by former Husker Football Coach Tom Osborne and other famous figures shouting their love for school.

Put it all together, and it's the seventh annual Best of America "School is Cool" Jam.

The program, which is the state's largest of its kind, was held at the Bob

Devaney Sports Center Monday morning.

"We're the premier one," said George Sturgeon, University of Nebraska-Lincoln chemistry professor and adviser for UNL's Golden Key Honor Society, one of the student organizations that sponsors the Jam.

Similar programs are put on at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla.; Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa; and Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa.

"It's looked highly upon by other (Golden Key) chapters," said Jeremy Wortman, the Best of America chairman for the Nebraska chapter. "We

love it. The kids are great."

Wortman, along with Golden Key President Chris Linder, delivered a message stressing courtesy, honesty and listening skills as a way of respecting people.

Other speakers included Husker volleyball player Fiona Nepo, Nelson, Osborne and freshman football player Bobby Newcombe. Osborne also was recognized for his participation in the "School is Cool" Jam with a tribute from some of his former players.

All of the speakers touched on the issue of respect, the theme for this year's jam.

Please see **JAM** on 4

Death penalty bill advances

■ The legislation would prohibit the execution of people who exhibit signs of mental retardation.

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Senior Reporter

Senators advanced a bill Monday that would exempt mentally retarded people from being sentenced to death.

LB1266, sponsored by Sens. Don Wesely of Lincoln and John Hilgert of Omaha, advanced 31-0 from general file to select file.

If the Legislature passes the bill, Nebraska would join 11 other states that have passed legislation prohibiting the execution of mentally retarded people.

"The fact of the matter is, this does happen in the U.S.," Hilgert said. "Let's make sure it doesn't happen here."

The bill prohibits the death penalty for people exhibiting mental retardation or those with "significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior."

Under the bill, persons are presumed to be mentally retarded if their IQ is 70 or lower, although this standard would be considered along with behavior.

LB1266 also outlines a procedure for considering mental retardation in sentencing.

If the defense wishes to argue the defendant should not be executed because of mental retardation, it must file a motion containing evidence of the condition. A hearing would be held before sentencing in which the defense would have to demonstrate the evi-

Legislature



dence pointed to mental retardation.

Anyone already sentenced to death who wished to get off death row by claiming mental retardation would have 120 days from the bill's enactment to file an appeal.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, a bill proponent, said he was aware of one death row inmate, Clarence Victor, who may be able to claim mental retardation.

"The possibility that someone could receive the death penalty who is mentally retarded is repugnant to those of us who understand it," Wesely said.

Sens. Curt Bromm of Wahoo and Kate Witek of Omaha questioned the bill's clarity in defining mental retardation and establishing a procedure for considering it in sentencing.

Bromm said he worried the definition of mental retardation wasn't clear-cut and didn't account for potential differences in degrees of retardation.

Witek said she wondered why the 70 IQ criterion was included if it wasn't binding. She also expressed concern the bill would add to already long delays in carrying out death sentences.

Chambers said the pre-sentencing hearing would allow both the defense and the prosecution to debate such concerns. The hearing would be sufficient for determining whether there was a preponderance of evidence for mental retardation, he said.

Sen. Jim Cudaback of Riverdale said his colleagues knew in their hearts it would be wrong to execute a mentally retarded person and should vote accordingly.

"There comes a time to do the right thing."

Candidates for RHA prepare for elections

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS
Assignment Reporter



Candidates in the Residence Hall Association elections for the 1998-99 academic year reiterated their campaign points this week in preparation for Wednesday's election.

Students living in the residence halls can vote at polls located in all food service buildings from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Students must vote at the hall where they live.

Two parties - ACTION and ENHANCE - have met eligibility requirements for RHA executive board positions.

ACTION's ticket includes Ben Wallace for president, Shane Perkins for

vice president, Jill Beran for secretary and treasurer write-in candidate Brian Oppliger.

Wallace, current RHA president and a junior French major living in Harper Residence Hall, has been involved in RHA for three years.

"RHA is about voicing issues that students want," Wallace said. "It is also about making things happen."

Wallace said he wants to improve communication between RHA and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln greek system regardless if he is elected presi-

Please see **RHA** on 4

Police: 2 robberies related

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

Two weekend robberies at different convenience stores left one clerk in the hospital and another rattled by gunfire.

Police believe the two robberies, which happened Sunday night and early Monday morning, could be connected.

Monday morning, a clerk was shot twice amid the confusion of a robbery gone bad.

Just before 12:30 a.m. two men armed with handguns entered the Gas 'N Shop at 5560 S. 48th St. and demanded cash, said Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann.

Two witnesses in the store told police that there was confusion at the counter before one of the men shot

the 22-year-old female clerk twice.

One shot entered the clerk's mouth and exited through her cheek, and the other shot lodged in her hip. She was taken to Lincoln General Hospital where she was listed in serious condition Monday.

The two men left southbound on 48th Street in a white, full-size 1980s car, Heermann said.

The robbers are described as black men wearing black stocking caps and black clothing.

One was about 5 feet 10 inches tall and 175 pounds with several days' growth of facial hair, police said. The other was 5 feet 7 inches tall and 150 pounds.

Police believe there was a possible connection between this incident and the robbery of a Kwik Shop, 33rd and Holdredge streets, which occurred 40 minutes earlier.

At 11:50 p.m. Sunday two men entered the store, pointed handguns and told the 68-year-old male clerk to empty the register, Heermann said.

One of the men fired into the ceiling several times as the clerk emptied the register.

The thieves caused \$185 damage to the store and fled eastbound in the alley behind the store. They left with an undisclosed amount of cash.

They are both described as black men, 6 feet tall with average builds. They were wearing black T-shirts, black sweatpants and black stocking caps, police said. One of the men had a goatee.

The two robberies were the 57th and 58th this year. Last year, Lincoln had 44 robberies by this time.

Crimestoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for any information leading to an arrest in either robbery.