



SPORTS

Sweden's sexiest

NU swimmer Therese Alshammar lives her life by own rules and own philosophy. It helped to make her "Sweden's Sexiest Woman." **PAGE 16**



A & E

Reel reruns

"Psycho," re-created by Gus Van Sant, hits theaters next month. It is only the latest in a spree of old films remade for modern audiences. **PAGE 8**

TUESDAY

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A MIXED BAG

Light snow, windy high 37. Clearing tonight, low 22.

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P Street decision delayed

■ After 4½ hours of testimony, the City Council tabled the vote on P Street's traffic flow until next week's meeting.

By JOSH FUNK AND ADAM KLINKER
Staff writers

The ongoing ordeal of seeking a resolution regarding P Street's traffic flow will again be delayed after the Lincoln City Council voted to postpone a vote until next week's meeting.

After 4½ hours of testimony from citizens concerned about the routing of traffic on the downtown access street, the council decided not

City Council

to take action.

Testimony was heated as opponents and proponents of one-way traffic on P Street voiced their opinions.

Jim Wrenholt, a P Street business owner and the most active figure in the fight to reconfigure P Street back to eastbound, one-way traffic, questioned the motives of the council in its decision to make P Street a two-way thoroughfare.

"How can you claim to be our representatives when you won't stand up for our streets?" Wrenholt asked. "P Street is a main arterial street. It's not a shopping mall. It's not a residential area."

But two-way traffic supporters argued that the new P Street must be given time to demonstrate the benefits of a marketplace plan.

"Two-way traffic was part of the vision for what P Street could become," said Cecil Steward, city planning commission member and dean of University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Architecture. "We are on the cusp of realizing that vision, and going back is not the answer."

The original decision to reconfigure P Street was made in a pre-council meeting in September 1997. Wrenholt said no public hearing was held, and he found no record of minutes kept.

One-way proponents said the council did not follow proper procedures to change the street.

"The people of Lincoln deserve the truth,"

Please see **P STREET** on 6

Nebraskans living longer than in past

By TODD ANDERSON
Senior staff writer

Following recent historical trends, average Nebraskans are healthier at birth and live longer when compared to past state and national trends, experts said.

An annual vital statistics report compiled by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services revealed fewer babies were born in Nebraska, and a lower number of those died in 1997 than in previous years.

Of the 23,313 live births in Nebraska in 1997, fewer than 200 died.

That number represents a decline in Nebraska's infant mortality rate, from 8.7 per thousand in 1996 to 7.4 per thousand in 1997.

Marla Augustine, spokeswoman for Health and Human Services, said the lower infant mortality rate reflects improved health care in Nebraska and follows a national trend of mothers giving birth to healthier babies.

Ian Newman, professor of health education, said Nebraska's low infant mortality rate is lower than the national average.

He said Nebraska has a relatively homogenous population with fewer economic and social problems that might impede early prenatal care, which is the most important factor in determining the success of birth.

But while a drop in the infant mortality rate in Nebraska is a good sign, Newman said, the United States as a whole fares worse than most other industrialized nations.

Fewer babies die in those 25 to 30 countries because they have fewer social and economic discrepancies, which usually translates into better overall access to care.

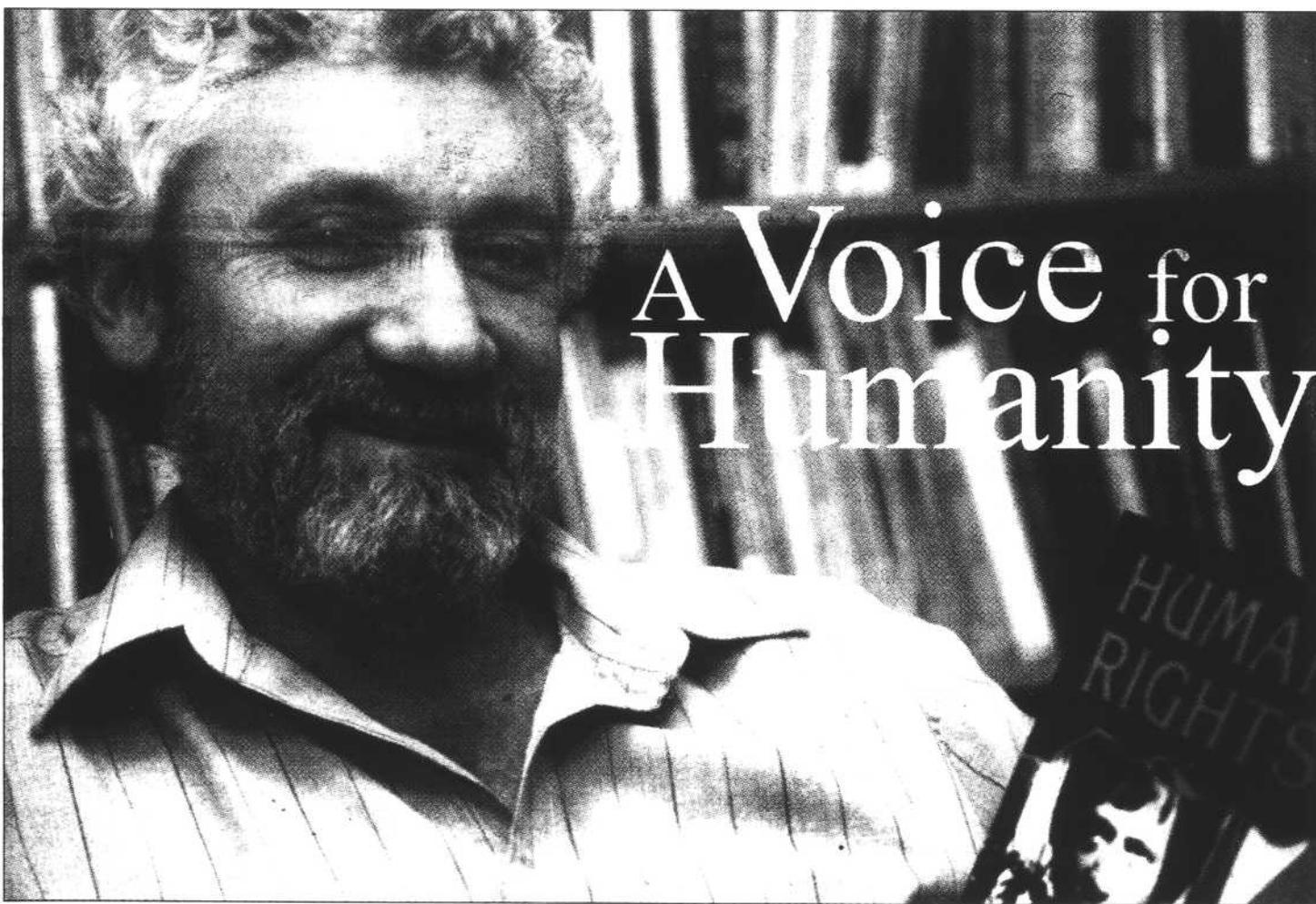
In 1997, more newborns in Nebraska weighed less than average than in 1996. This may cause long-term problems and birth defects, which rose in 1997.

That increase might be a result of more pregnancies carried to full term because of better prenatal care, Augustine said.

"Doctors have the ability to closely monitor the unborn baby now and bring it to full term," she said.

Though the lower weight of newborns also may be attributed to drug use by the mother, those numbers are not available because the information is given voluntarily, Augustine said.

Please see **VITALS** on 3



A Voice for Humanity

ROBERT HITCHCOCK, UNL associate anthropology professor and department chairman, has worked in Africa, the Middle East and throughout the United States to protect the rights of indigenous populations. He will speak Thursday as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

DAWN DIETRICH/DN

Professor takes rights movement worldwide

By LINDSAY YOUNG
Senior staff writer

A comfortably large and rustic room, Robert Hitchcock's office in Bessey Hall has a little bit of every part of his life in it.

What seems like hundreds of books on various cultures and human rights span the walls, placed on makeshift bookshelves of concrete blocks and lumber. The space left is covered with photos of what he's seen, things most see only on television or in magazines.

On top of the shelves lie gifts Hitchcock has brought home from his

excursions overseas.

Often sitting behind the wooden desk on the left side of the room is Hitchcock, associate professor and chairman of the UNL anthropology department.

Much of the time he can be found there, fielding dozens of phone calls a day, preparing for class or shaping his latest speech on human rights.

The next will be Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in the Lied Center for Performing Arts as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.

Hitchcock said he's a bit nervous.

Please see **HITCHCOCK** on 6

Hitchcock to speak in Thompson series

From staff reports

An associate anthropology professor hopes to tell of the positive steps African indigenous populations have taken in human rights.

"What I would like to show is some of the positive things that are going on," said Robert Hitchcock, University of Nebraska-Lincoln anthropology department chairman.

Hitchcock will address major issues facing Africa in his speech, "Africa: Environmental Conservation, Development and Human Rights," Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in the Lied Center for Performing Arts as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.

Hitchcock is one of few University of Nebraska faculty members to speak in the series, which features such notable figures as Peter Arnett, a

Pulitzer-prize winning CNN international correspondent.

Hitchcock, who has been a long-time advocate of indigenous peoples' rights, has worked in such places as Botswana, Swaziland, Somalia and throughout the United States.

He will discuss the increase of small, community-centered programs helping to alleviate poverty and to conserve diverse societies and ecosystems, and also issues facing Africa.