



Poise under pressure

Redshirt freshman quarterback Eric Crouch has suffered three losses and a gruesome facemask, but coaches say he keeps his poise. **PAGE 9**



Afghan aficionado

A lot of people love music, but most can't explain why. An Afghan Whigs fan uses his experience to explain why music means so much to some. **PAGE 7**

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THE NORM

Mostly cloudy, high 57. Wind ... night, low 30.

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Tobacco settlement OK'd

■ **Attorney General Stenberg** accepts the deal, which sets limits on tobacco advertising that may target children.

By **TODD ANDERSON**
Senior staff writer

Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg formally accepted the largest monetary settlement in the history of the state when he accepted a deal with the tobacco companies Tuesday.

The deal would entitle the state to more than \$1.1 billion over 25 years if enough states join Nebraska in accepting the newly drafted plan.

After seeking opinions from Gov. Ben Nelson, Gov.-elect Mike Johanns and other state leaders, Stenberg notified Washington state Attorney General Christine Gregoire of Nebraska's formal acceptance. Gregoire negotiated the agreement on behalf of 36 state attorneys general.

Stenberg said Nebraska likely would not receive more money if the state filed its own lawsuit against the tobacco producers, nor would it be able to secure additional measures related to advertising and health.

The settlement also sets restrictions on tobacco advertising, such as bans on billboards and buses and advertisements targeting children.

"If we would take our case to trial and win ... the court would not have the authority to impose any of the public health provisions which have been negotiated as part of

this agreement," Stenberg said.

States have until Friday morning to decline or accept the proposed settlement, which would pay more than \$206 billion to states and set up a fund for anti-smoking publicity and education.

Lincoln Sen. Don Wesely, who is chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee until he leaves office in January, said he was excited about the settlement and the impact it will have on Nebraska health.

"It's not perfect, but it's certainly a wonderful step forward to bring a significant amount of money back to Nebraska to deal with the health costs of tobacco use," Wesely said.

The money paid to states was intended

Please see **TOBACCO** on 2

Seminar explores Internet 2's virtues as fast research tool

By **SARAH BAKER**
Senior staff writer

It has the possibility to connect scientists from across the country and further their research by leaps and bounds.

But it also has the capability to create a virtual art gallery, to give a tour of a Nazi concentration camp or to play music of any genre just like a compact disc player.

Internet 2, the younger sibling of the original Internet, the system utilized daily worldwide, was the subject of Tuesday's "Internet 2: The Future of University Research" conference.

Sponsored by the Nebraska branch of EPSCoR - the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research - the daylong seminar at the Cornhusker Hotel gave insight into both the technological and the educational sides of this high-speed, developmental research tool.

Royce Ballinger, director of EPSCoR, said his organization sponsors seminars like this one in a partnership with state, university and federal research facilities.

EPSCoR was founded in 1980 by the National Science Foundation to increase research in smaller and less-research-based states. In accordance with this goal, EPSCoR works to educate and advance knowledge of Internet 2, which also is known as I2.

"If this group can't answer your questions about I2," Ballinger said, "then there probably isn't an answer."

Internet 2 is not a sequel of the original Internet. It is a faster, research-based tool that can transfer huge amounts of data quickly and reliably.

Speakers at the conference discussed different ways universities can use Internet 2. Each of those universities can work with EPSCoR to develop applications.

Kent Hendrickson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln associate vice chancellor for information services, said conferences like this one help to improve technology at UNL.

"This helps to develop dialogue on campus, and researchers will hopefully extend that and work hard to put this together," he said.

Nebraska became eligible for the EPSCoR benefits in 1992, and since then, the program has brought \$23 million to the state to be used for research.

“Universities are working together not just for higher education, but to raise the bar over all Internet services.”

TED HANSS
technology speaker

Please see **INTERNET 2** on 2

Into the great wide open



MATT MILLER/DN

TWO BMX RIDERS from Irving Middle School rest at the top of a turn at the Star City BMX track Tuesday. One of the students, Jay Jacobus, 14, said about seven students spent four hours at the track after school. "We just wanted to jump over there at the track. It was a nice day out," Jacobus said.

Loan plan provides lower rates

Editor's note: This week, the Daily Nebraskan is taking a three-part look at the changing face of student loans: where they come from, trends in how students use them and how students pay them back.

By **JESSICA FARGEN**
Staff writer

UNL students have a small window of opportunity to save \$50 for every \$1,000 they owe in student loan debt, thanks to lowered interest rates under the 1998 Higher Education bill signed last month.

But they must consolidate their

loans by Jan. 31 to receive the 6.86 percent rate for students and 7.46 percent rate for others with college loan debt.

On Feb. 1, the rate will jump back to its normal perch near 8 percent.

Although the rate decrease may seem tiny, students and those with student loan debt could save about \$800 based on the average University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate's loan debt of \$15,711, said Craig Munier, UNL's director of scholarships and financial aid.

This is good news for today's college students who are getting less governmental assistance, rapidly stacking up credit card debt and going to school

longer, Munier said.

Federal minimum wage and federal Pell Grants have not kept up with the increasing cost of higher education, he said, leaving students to rely on their parents and student loans to get through college.

More than \$60 billion in federal, state and institutional aid was given last year, but most was in the form of loans, not grants, and most of the increased borrowing was unsubsidized, according to the College Board's 1998 Trends in Student Aid survey.

"Basically, the Pell Grant has (more) reduced buying power today than it did 20 years ago," he said. "That means stu-

dents have to rely on other resources other than Pell Grants, so that has left increased reliance on parents, working or borrowing."

On top of that, most American college students have borrowed more than \$100 billion in the first six years of the decade, which is more than the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s combined, according to the Institute for Higher Education Policy.

Kimberly Janssen, a senior health and exercise science major, is a student of the 1990s.

And she is one of about 10,000

Please see **LOANS** on 6

