



Buffoons?

Colorado has looked like it at times against Nebraska over the last six years. Can they reverse the trend Friday? PAGE 7



Music for the home

Folk singer Laurie McClain left Lincoln and a haunted past behind to make a career in Nashville. Now she's returned ... with an album. PAGE 9

GIVE THANKS

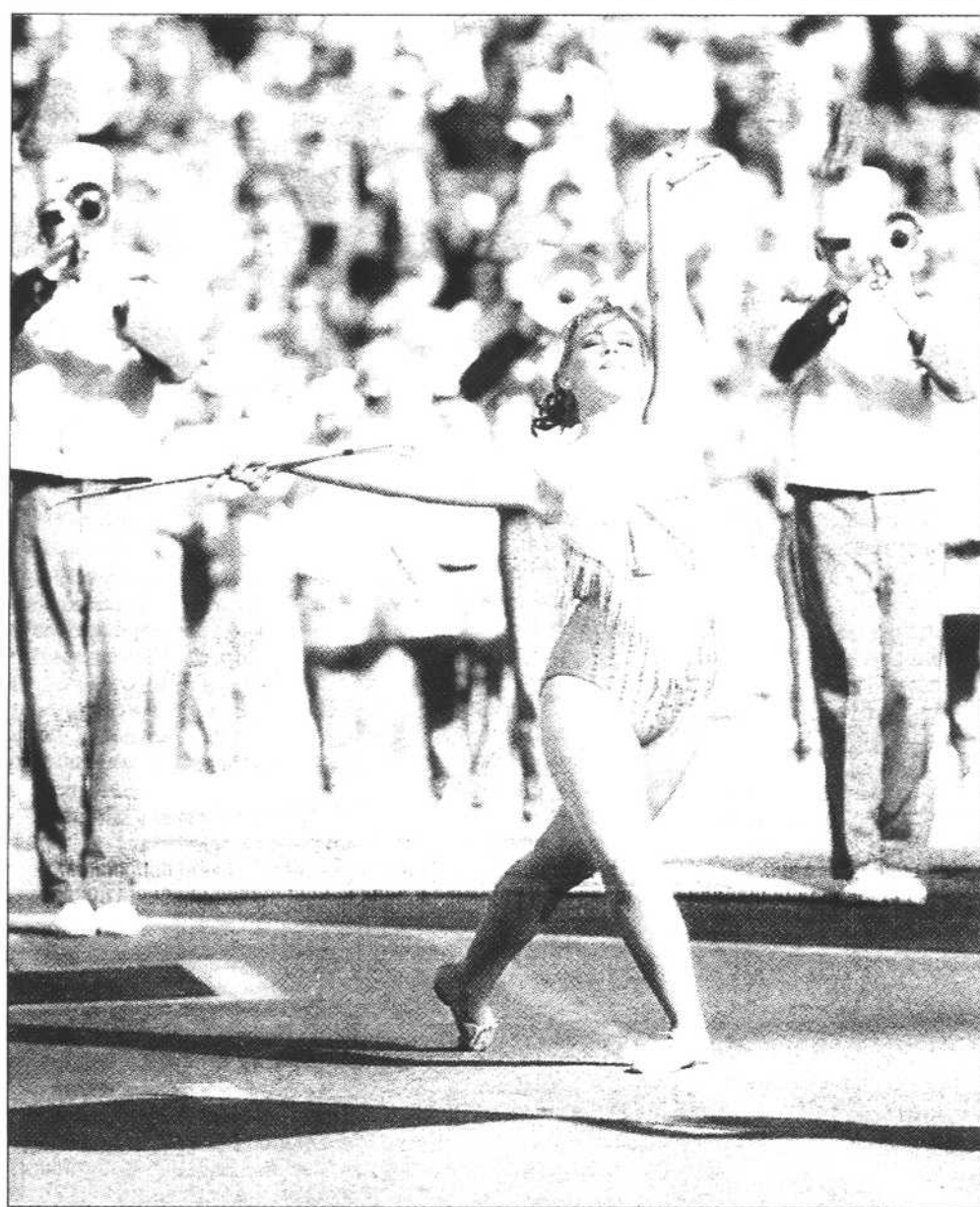
Partly sunny, high 62. Partly cloudy tonight, low 35.

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MIKE WARREN/DN

COURTNEY HILL, a UNL senior broadcasting major and the NU Cornhusker Marching Band's feature twirler, will take the field at Memorial Stadium with a baton in her hand for the last time Friday in the Huskers' game against Colorado.

Senior to toss her last baton Friday at final home game

BY ERIC RINEER Staff writer

Courtney Hill wasn't always sure she wanted to keep twirling her baton.

At an international competition at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., during her high school years, Hill almost blew up inside.

"The flag instructor yelled at me before I competed that day. A lot of people heard it, and it was embarrassing.

"But I went out there and went on the floor. It was hard."

Fortunately for Hill, and Nebraska, she stuck with her game.

Now the feature twirler for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker Marching Band, Hill has won more championships than the Cornhusker football team.

This Friday, the senior twirler will perform for the last time in college at home when she steps onto Tom Osborne Field during the halftime show of the Nebraska-Colorado football game.

The senior from San Antonio has been a center of attention at Nebraska halftime shows for the

past five years.

And despite being perfect through most of the way, she's had her share of ups and downs.

The biggest field goof she says she's ever suffered came during a football game in high school.

Performing her last trick of the halftime show, Hill lost her step during a complicated move while double tossing her baton. Then she hit the floor.

"I saw my feet come up, and I fell. My baton landed right beside me. I just laid there. It was the end (of the show) anyway."

It wasn't Hill's first, or last, twirling blooper.

Another of her biggest goofs came during a pre-game practice one rainy day at Memorial Stadium.

Hill took off for a leap on the icy turf and ended up falling on her behind.

"I slid right past the band members and kept going all the way to the fence," she said.

But the most embarrassing moment of all came during competition.

"I slipped on a rhinestone from somebody else's costume, and I landed face first. I stood up, mumbled something under my breath and kept

Please see TWIRLER on 2

Kerrey still undecided about presidential bid

BY BRIAN CARLSON Staff writer

Bob Kerrey continues to consider a bid for the presidency in 2000, knowing he would relinquish his seat in the U.S. Senate if he ran for the nation's highest office.

That consideration makes the Democratic senator's decision a difficult one, said Steve Jarding, Kerrey's national political director.

"If he is re-elected to the Senate, he will be one of the leaders and most powerful members of that body," he said in an interview from Washington, D.C. "It's tough to give that up, especially when a run for the presidency would be a bit of a roll of the dice at best."

Kerrey, who unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for president in 1992,

has pledged to make his plans for 2000 known by the end of this year.

In the meantime, Kerrey has traveled extensively and has had a number of speaking engagements.

The week after the Nov. 3 election, Kerrey went to Argentina to participate in an international conference on global warming. On Nov. 17, he spoke at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, arguing that the United States should develop a missile defense system and work with Russia to slash both nations' stockpiles of nuclear warheads.

He appeared in Iowa this weekend to meet members of the Iowa Democratic Party, whose candidates received campaign contributions from Kerrey's political action com-

Please see KERREY on 3

Dunagan may avoid jail

Freshman to enter plea agreement next month

BY JOSH FUNK Senior staff writer

The UNL freshman accused of murdering his father last fall is expected to enter a plea agreement next month that could mean no jail time.

On Thursday, Matthew Dunagan's lawyers withdrew a motion to suppress evidence and scheduled a plea hearing for Dec. 18 in hopes that the case would not go to trial.

"We are trying to get an agreement together with the prosecutor," Dunagan's attorney Michael Hansen said, though he would not comment on details of the case or the pending agreement.

Hansen said that ideally, the agreement

would include no jail time for Dunagan.

But after the prosecution and defense reach an agreement, it will be up to the judge to decide the sentence.

The Lancaster County Attorney's office, prosecutor in the case, declined to comment.

Dunagan, now a Regents Scholar at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will have completed his first semester of college just prior to the December hearing.

Though he was 17 at the time of the shooting, Dunagan's case was held in district court because of the severity of his crime and because the juvenile court would lose jurisdiction when he turned 18.

Last September, police were called to the Dunagan's southeast Lincoln home where Matt Dunagan's father, John, was lying on the living room couch with three shotgun wounds in his chest.

Please see DUNAGAN on 2

Endangered bat DNA examined

BY KELLY ROMANSKI Staff writer

They come from an island 10,943 miles from Lincoln.

They're sometimes called "flying foxes," and they are in danger of extinction. They're Rodrigues fruit bats, and University of Tennessee graduate student Lisa Comeaux is doing her part to keep them alive.

Comeaux was at the Folsom Children's Zoo on Friday to take DNA samples from the 19 female fruit bats permanently housed there.

She said her goal is to determine the ancestry of Rodrigues bats born in captivity. This information will be used to ensure that bats are not inbred in a future breeding program.

"Research shows that inbreeding

Please see BATS on 2



NIKKI FOX/DN

THE RODRIGUES FRUIT BAT, or "flying fox," is found in the wild only on Rodrigues Island, which is east of Madagascar, off the eastern coast of Africa. The Folsom Children's Zoo has 19 bats - all females. All males in captivity in the United States are at Lube Foundation in Gainesville, Fla.