



SPORTS

A needed win

Nebraska got 21 points from Larry Florence and 20 points from Venson Hamilton for a 76-60 win over Creighton on Wednesday night. **PAGE 10**



NEWS

The Nelson years

As he leaves office in January, Gov. Ben Nelson can look back on eight years of high approval ratings and close ties with Nebraskans. **PAGES 8-9**

THURSDAY

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CLEARLY COOL

Mostly sunny, high 46. Mostly clear tonight, low 21.

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Police cite man with four counts of theft

■ **Officials say he claimed to be a former NU football player to acquire the trust, and the cash, of his victims.**

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

University Police on Tuesday caught the man responsible for defrauding many students with a story of a broken-down car.

Police cited Lynn Finney for four counts of theft by deception for his scams, University Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said.

Finney, 45, approached students for money, saying he needed to call a tow truck.

Finney showed his victims newspaper articles about himself and volunteered his name, police said.

He told victims he was a Nebraska football player in the early 70s and a trainer for the Harlem Globetrotters in the 80s. Police said Finney did not play for NU.

All of the people who reported being hoodwinked by Finney told police that he was very nice, polite and charming.

One victim said, "He presented himself like a trusting friend, which is why I was suckered into lending him money."

Usually Finney took \$20 to \$40 from his victims under the guise of having car trouble.

Then he exchanged phone numbers with his victims, giving them a false number, and promised to pay them back the next day or later that week, police said.

Four people filed reports with University Police this fall after Finney defrauded them.

A dozen other victims called police after a Daily Nebraskan article detailed two of Finney's recent scams, Bushing said.

Many of the people who called offered information but did not want to file official reports, Bushing said.

Police presented a photo lineup to four of Finney's victims, who all identified him.

Police cited Finney at the Lancaster Correctional Facility, where he remains jailed for contempt of court.

The first charge of theft by deception is a class-three misdemeanor, but each additional charge increases the degree of the crime. Finney was charged with a class-one misdemeanor.

Finney faces up to two years and nine months in prison and/or \$3,500 in fines.

He will be in court Dec. 29 for his initial appearance.



SCOTT McCLURG/DN

FOLLOWING A YEAR AND A HALF in the RHA president's office, Ben Wallace resigned Sunday to let RHA take a new direction without him. He also wants to go a new direction personally and plans to become a residence hall student assistant next year.

RHA president quits to seek change

BY VERONICA DAEHN
Staff writer

After 3½ years in the Residence Hall Association, Ben Wallace has decided it's time for a change.

For him, and for the organization, Wallace, who stepped down as president Sunday night, has dedicated a good portion of the last four years to RHA.

"(RHA) has affected every aspect of my life since I've been here," he said. "It's given me the opportunity to grow and realize my potential."

Though not sure if he will participate in RHA next semester, Wallace said he would become more involved with the residence halls.

"I'll keep trying to make an impact and see that RHA is about people becoming leaders," he said.

Wallace believes every person can be an effective leader and that everyone has room to learn. People need only the right encouragement, he said, to realize their potential.

"The right words can make an impact," he said. "I've enjoyed the opportunity to help people grow, and I hope to continue doing that. Just

"I'll keep trying to make an impact and see that RHA is about people becoming leaders."

BEN WALLACE
former RHA president

because I'm not president anymore doesn't mean I can't do that."

Wallace credits the friends he has made through RHA for helping him

deal with his decision to resign. He said leaving RHA was one of the

Please see **WALLACE** on 3

Robak to speak at December commencement

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Staff writer

Lt. Gov. Kim Robak cannot remember who spoke at her undergraduate commencement.

But she does remember when Ted Sorensen, an aide to former President John F. Kennedy, and a UNL graduate, spoke at her graduation from the NU law college.

The experience hearkened from her memory as she prepared to speak at the Dec. 19 commencement for her alma mater, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Robak said she and six NU law students had dinner with Sorensen before

graduation.

"I only ate half of what was on my plate, and he said to me, 'Are you going to eat that?'"

Robak said she does not remember what Sorensen said at her graduation, which puts her speech in perspective.

"Graduation is not about the speaker," she said. "It's about the kids who are graduating."

Robak, who will leave office Jan. 6 for a job at the University of Nebraska, said she has often thought about what

she would have liked to have known before graduation.

"If I had known some of the things I know now, it would have made life easier," she said.

Despite the many students like her who also may not remember their commencement keynote speech, she was honored to have the opportunity.

"To think that I would have something of value to tell as they head out into the world," she said. "It's exciting."

Robak was elected lieutenant governor in 1994, after being appointed by Gov. Ben Nelson in 1993. Previously she was Nelson's chief of staff and his legal counsel.

When students come back from winter break, Robak will be the univer-

sity's vice president for external affairs and corporate secretary to the NU Board of Regents.

Herbert Howe, associate to the chancellor, said Robak's work in state government and her distinguished alumni status were instrumental in choosing her to speak.

Past graduation speakers include former Gov. Kay Orr, Sen. Chuck Hagel and Franklin Sonn, the South American ambassador to the United States.

Senior staff writer Todd Anderson contributed to this report.

For a look at Robak's work as lieutenant governor, see page 9