



No heir to His Airness

NU players say it will be hard to replace Michael Jordan, possibly the greatest basketball player ever, after he retires Wednesday. PAGE 6



Rollin' on the river

Director/producer John Junkerman rediscovered American music on the mighty Mississippi. Ani DiFranco narrates his documentary. PAGE 12

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COVER 'EM UP

Sunny and cold, high 17. Cloudy tonight, low 10.

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Execution stayed

Courts will review two motions for clemency, postponing Reeves' death for months

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

Convicted murderer Randy Reeves will live for at least several more months, Attorney General Don Stenberg said, while the courts consider two motions in the case.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the Nebraska Supreme Court issued a stay of execution and withdrew the death warrant that said Reeves was to die Thursday.

In a statement, Stenberg said the court was rewarding the defense counsel's delay tactics by issuing the stay.

But for Reeves' attorney, the families of the victims and Reeves' family, the stay provides a chance for their concerns to be heard by a judge.

"For the first time, a court is finally willing to listen to the fairness issues in the case," said Paula Hutchinson, Reeves' attorney, "and determine whether death is appropriate."

The Nebraska Supreme Court agreed to hear argument on a motion alleging execution would violate Reeves' rights under the state's newly adopted equal protection amendment.

Nebraska's equal protection amendment, which voters approved in November, states that no citizens will be denied their rights under the law.

Hutchinson argued that, based on statistics, the death penalty discriminates against minorities, which she said is illegal under the new amendment.

But prosecutors argued that statistical evidence about the death penalty does not

Please see REEVES on 8



RYAN SODERLIN/DN
RANDY REEVES' ATTORNEY, Paula Hutchinson, (right) hugs Audrey Lamm in celebration of Reeves' stay of execution. Audrey's mother, Vicki Lamm, was one of the two women Reeves killed in 1980.

ASUN pushes for King day participation

BY KIM SWEET
Staff writer

Sleeping in or spending the long weekend at home may be tempting for students, but administrators and campus leaders hope the celebration of a pioneer in the civil rights movement is more important.

Through tactics such as fliers, booths and voice-mail messages, ASUN will attempt to beckon students to Monday's planned events for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska is trying to draw students to the special events, which will take place on a day void of classes as UNL shuts down for the holiday for the first time.

"We recognize that a flier is not going to bring in students," said Andy Schuerman, Chairman of the ASUN Human Rights committee. "We're really relying on the network of people helping with it."

Twelve to 13 student organizations are involved in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day events.

These student organizations will be working with ASUN to coordinate activities during the day to encourage student involvement.

Some of the activities will focus on what Coretta Scott King emphasized during her visit to the university last year - service and community involvement.

ASUN is working closely with Student Involvement and UNL's chapter of Habitat for Humanity to coordinate volunteer efforts that will go on throughout the day, weather permitting.

Booths sponsored by ASUN and Student Involvement will be promoting events all week.

During his shift at the ASUN booth on Tuesday, student Sen. Jeff Woodford said interest was lacking.

"Turnouts have been pretty low, but there's still a few days left," Woodford said.

Besides the booths and fliers, voice mail messages will be left with student assistants so they will be reminded to promote the events to residents, Schuerman said.

With the number of student organizations involved, Schuerman said he hopes members will recruit their peers to support their activities throughout the day.

He also said he believes the lineup of events that are sponsored by Experion, the UNL Student Alumni Association and the Lied Center for Performing Arts will be enough to encourage students to stay on campus for the planned events.

Bertice Berry, a comedian who hosts an interactive talk show called USA Live, is one of the main reasons to come, Schuerman said.

Berry, who holds a doctorate in sociology, has appeared on many talk shows, such as "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and CNN's "Crossfire."

While Schuerman recognizes that some students will not participate in Martin Luther King Jr. Day events, he said he is confident that those who have an interest in the day will take the time to show up.

Students should look at the day's events as a chance to have fun and learn at the same time, said ASUN President Sara Russell.

"A lot of (the events) are going to be fun and more interactive," she said. "Not like a typical day of class."

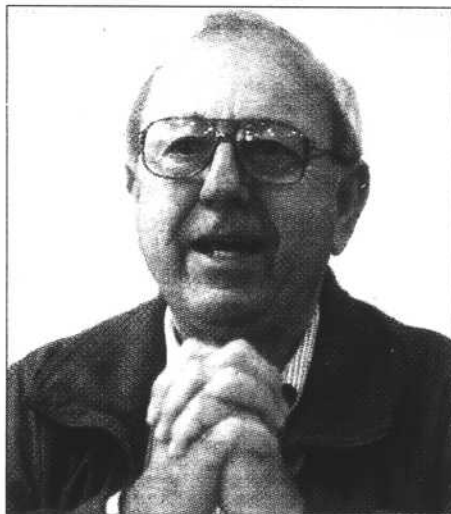
It is important that students observe the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in some way, she said, because King's contributions have affected everyone.

"The contributions of Dr. King and other civil rights leaders have impacted everyone's lives in one way or another."

“Turnouts have been pretty low, but there's still a few days left.”

JEFF WOODFORD
ASUN senator

Wish granted for protesters



MIKE WARREN/DN

TUESDAY AT THE Cornerstone Church on campus, Bud Welch, who lost his daughter in the Oklahoma City Bombing, spoke to a small group about his feelings against the death penalty.

Several activists celebrate the postponement of Reeves' execution, but warn that their fight for clemency has yet to end.

BY VERONICA DAEHN
Staff writer

Tuesday afternoon, Yolanda Few Tails-Castellanos said it would take a miracle to save Randy Reeves' life.

Around 5:30 that night, she found out her hope for a miracle had become a reality.

Fewer than 40 hours before Reeves was scheduled to die in the electric chair, the Nebraska Supreme Court on Monday granted him a stay of execution.

Even with the event, Daniel Justice called for "cautious optimism."

"It's just a stay of execution, not an order of clemency," he said. "We still have to work hard to make sure it's a permanent

decision."

Justice, a member of the American Indian Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, said he hoped the decision would serve as a breakthrough for all American Indians and rid the system of racism which he said permeates it.

Becca Amen, a Ponca Nation member, had similar feelings.

"I'm happy to hear he got a stay of execution," she said. "Before, they didn't give him a proper trial, and I think they just passed it off as him being a minority, nothing special."

Both Justice and Amen are members of the University of Nebraska Intertribal Exchange. UNITE is made up of American Indians and other students concerned with American Indian issues.

Most UNITE members are opposed to Reeves' execution, Justice said.

"It's fairly consistent that we're all disturbed by it," he said. "The state has really

Please see REACTION on 8