



SPORTS

Dear Mama

NU sprinter Vince Brown runs for glory, and his mother, as he tries to grab the Big 12 and national crowns. **PAGE 12**



A & E

Regional realist

With stories about ruined families, ugly relationships and dark histories, playwright Robert Vivian startles readers - including his parents. **PAGE 9**

THURSDAY

February 18, 1999

GATHER ROUND THE FIRE

Blustery today, high 40. Cloudy tonight, low 25.

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Flaming good fun



SANDY SUMMERS/DN

JACK HOWARD HOPKINS, a junior art education major and member of the UNL Juggling Club, juggles fire batons outside of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Culture Center. Hopkins said he enjoys juggling because of "the chaos you're in the middle of." The club's president, Jeff Dixon, said veterans and beginners alike are invited to juggle with the club every Sunday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Culture Center.

Chi Phi Fraternity sanctioned

■ The university levels 12 sanctions after finding the fraternity violated the student code of conduct.

BY ERIN GIBSON

Editor

Chi Phi Fraternity has lost half its members and will face 12 disciplinary sanctions because of events leading to a drunken sophomore falling from a third-floor window of its house on Jan. 31.

"We have put in place sanctions - a dozen of them - that we know will work," said James Griesen, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, at a press conference Wednesday.

The sanctions are "as severe as (the university) can go" without closing the house, Griesen said. Sanctions resulted from house violations of the student code of conduct's alcohol and unlawful acts policies.

The sanctions are intended to help the 100-year-old chapter rebuild and to help reduce its chances of future violations. The last of the sanctions, including a university-employed graduate assistant living in and monitoring the house, will expire in May 2001. Chi Phi and its alumni chapter will repay the university for the assistant's salary and will pay his room and board.

Thirty-seven of the chapter's 79 members will be allowed to remain members and live in the house. Two other members will continue to live off campus with family members.

Those excluded from the house, including UNL senior Jason P. Hardy, who was Chi Phi president at the time of the incident, did not pass a membership review conducted by the fraternity's local alumni association during the past two weeks.

The remaining members are committed to following university rules and rebuilding their fraternity, Griesen said.

Sanctions followed university and Chi Phi national office investigations into the fraternity's role in events leading to the Jan. 31 falling injury of 20-year-old UNL sophomore Kara Bliven of Red Oak, Iowa.

Bliven had been drinking with her boyfriend, UNL freshman Andrew Devault, at the fraternity's initiation party held off campus at a house on the 600 block of South 28th Street.

A 21-year-old Lincoln man has been charged with buying three kegs of beer for minors at the party. Griesen said chapter funds paid for the alcohol, and Chi Phi members acknowledge violating university alcohol policy and state and local laws.

Bliven returned to Chi Phi with her boyfriend after the party and fell out of a third-floor window shortly after 2:30 a.m. She had been vomiting out of the window.

A Community Service Officer found Bliven lying on the ground outside the house around 3:20 a.m. She was hospitalized for several days and treated for broken ribs and a broken arm and pelvis. Doctors also removed her spleen.

Bliven, who lived in a UNL residence hall, is now recovering at home in Red Oak.

All Chi Phi activities were suspended after her fall, pending completion of the university's investigation of the chapter.

Griesen said he was pleased with the men remaining in Chi Phi and believed they were committed to changing the culture of their house.

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Legislature



Concealed weapons examined

“Even if 1 percent more guns are out there on the street, that's 1 percent more guns I have to worry about.”

STEVE GRABOWSKI

Fraternal Order of Police representative

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

Children finding handguns as they forage through their mothers' purses for candy and car thieves stealing guns from vehicles were several scenarios put forth Wednesday by opponents of a bill that would allow Nebraskans to carry concealed handguns.

But supporters of LB476, sponsored by Nickerson Sen. Ray Janssen, told the Judiciary Committee that fears of increased violence have not been realized in the 43 other states that allow concealed weapons.

Under the bill, certain places, such as restaurants, could elect to prohibit gun-toting citizens from entering. People would not be allowed to carry concealed weapons into places such as courtrooms, prisons and schools.

Stanton Sen. Stan Schellpeper, who sponsored a similar bill in 1996, said the bill was much safer than laws in other states.

"This bill should be called a safety bill," he said. "No other state has as rigorous a bill as LB 476," he said.

The bill would require people who apply for

Please see **GUNS** on 2

Legislature weighs merits of arena bill

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Staff writer

A bill that would assist communities seeking to build convention centers would benefit not just Omaha, but towns across Nebraska, supporters of LB382 said Wednesday.

While supporters of a proposed convention center in Omaha have been promoting the idea for some time, other communities could

receive financial assistance for convention centers tailored to their needs, supporters told the Legislature's Revenue Committee.

"If we don't do something like developing a convention center in Nebraska so we can compete with cities like Kansas City, St. Louis and Denver, we might just have to forget about it," said Omaha Sen. Dan Lynch, sponsor of LB382. "Others will beat us to the punch."

The bill would authorize the state to support communities' con-

vention centers by "turning back" tax revenues, Lynch said.

By attracting conventions whose delegates spend money in the community - for lodging, meals and other purchases - convention centers could provide an economic boost and additional tax revenue, supporters said.

A state board would estimate how much additional tax revenue was generated by convention center activities, then return a portion of those revenues to convention cen-

ters to help defray debts and other expenses.

The formula is based on an Arkansas law. Barry Travis, executive director of the Little Rock, Ark., Convention Board, said state support had allowed Little Rock to build and operate a successful convention center.

"The convention center's success has been very good for the city,

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