



Defensive gem

Needing a victory to keep its NCAA tourney hopes alive, the Nebraska basketball team pounded Texas Tech 69-50. PAGE 7



Artistic comeback

Comic actor Ross Brockley starred in several TV commercials and on New York stages before returning to Nebraska to make his first film. PAGE 9

UNDER THE SPRINKLER

Sprinkles possible, high 40. Cloudy tonight, low 23.

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Galligo acquitted in Schmader murder

■ Although Timothy Hopkins tried to implicate his former housemate, the jury found him not guilty.

By JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

After seven hours of deliberation, Tony Galligo's jury found him not guilty of murder Thursday night. Galligo, 19, was cleared of any involvement in the 1995 murder of

Michael Schmader. The state's main witness, Timothy Hopkins, confessed to the murder on the stand and to police last year. Hopkins, 20, tried to implicate Galligo in the crime as part of a plea agreement he signed with prosecutors in June 1998. After the verdict, which came on what would have been Schmader's 21st birthday, his family was shocked. "Where's justice?" said Roxanne Schmader, Michael's mother. "If Michael was their son, wouldn't they have thought about it longer?" Galligo's attorney, Kirk Naylor, said

justice had been served. "I'm obviously relieved," Naylor said. "I believed my client was innocent." Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey refused to comment on the verdict or Hopkins' plea agreement. Galligo, who will be released this morning, told his lawyer he is anxious to get home to his child after 10 months in jail. "He told me tonight (Thursday) that he is going to go home to Omaha and get two jobs to support his child," Naylor said. As part of his plea agreement,

Hopkins was required to tell the truth, so if prosecutors determine that Hopkins lied, they can charge him with first-degree murder. Hopkins pleaded guilty to manslaughter and the use of a weapon to commit a felony. He was sentenced to 15 to 20 years in prison for the weapons charge, and he has yet to be sentenced for manslaughter. "Whatever process got that plea agreement approved needs to be seriously re-examined," Naylor said. Hopkins, Galligo and Schmader all lived in the same south Lincoln group

home in 1995. On Oct. 18, 1995, Schmader was brutally beaten and stabbed to death in an Antelope Creek storm-drainage tunnel under 48th Street. Hopkins said he killed Schmader for stealing two cartons of cigarettes from Hopkins and Galligo. But Galligo testified Wednesday that was not the reason. "Hopkins was saying that Schmader was bisexual," Galligo said. Schmader's body remained buried in the tunnel until Dec. 22, 1995, when

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Legislature



Fetal death subject of legislation

■ Bill would make drunken drivers accountable for manslaughter when wrecks end in fetal death.

By JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

In Nebraska when a drunken driver plows into a car with a pregnant woman inside and her unborn child is killed, the state is powerless to prosecute the drunken driver for homicide.

A bill heard by the Judiciary Committee on Thursday would give the state the power to charge people with offenses such as manslaughter and motor vehicular homicide, if they are committing an unlawful act when the unborn child is killed.

LB111, sponsored by Sen. LaVon Crosby, redefines statute definition of a person to include an unborn child from the time of conception.

"LB111 is written to acknowledge life from the very beginning," said the Lincoln senator.

The bill would not only apply to drunken driving offenses, it would apply to any illegal offense such as speeding or assault.

The law would not affect legal abortions; it would put responsibility of the death of the fetus on a third party. The woman could never be held accountable.

American Civil Liberties Union-Nebraska Executive Director Matt LeMieux supported the bill's concept, but opposed it because of loopholes.

Under the bill, people who are speeding and hit a car with a pregnant woman in it, consequently killing her fetus, could be charged with manslaughter.

"I don't think that was the drafters' intention," LeMieux said.

Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers pointed out that men who get in a wreck while speeding to the hospital with their wives in labor in the car could be charged if the fetus were killed in the accident.

Chambers also said the statute seemed to exclude fertilized eggs in test tubes, which he said were technically unborn children.

Please see FETAL DEATH on 6

Coming into the light



MATT MILLER/DN

ALLISON FRANZEN, a freshman Spanish education major, strolls through the south hallway of Oldfather Hall late Thursday afternoon.

English lecturers rally for unionizing

By IEVA AUGSTUMS
Senior staff writer

“The real question here is whether a group of lecturers could be considered separate from faculty.”

JOHN RUSSELL
associate vice president for business and finance

Seeking to fulfill the need of equal representation within the university, some UNL English department lecturers are contemplating the possibility of forming a universitywide union.

“We are seeking stability and representation on this campus,” said Paul Eggers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln English department lecturer. “At the moment we are just exploring the idea.”

The union idea stemmed from the NU Board of Regents decision last June to restructure the ranking of titles for non-tenure-track faculty at all University of Nebraska campuses.

Eggers said one reason he was exploring a

union was because of the dramatic increase in English department lecturers created by the Regents' decision.

“When it dawned on me how many lecturers we have in the department, I was amazed,” he said. “The university is saving money by hiring more of us.”

In 1997-98, the English department had seven non-tenure-track assistant professors, 14 instructors and eight lecturers, said Linda Rossiter, an English department administrative assistant.

Currently 30 non-tenure-track lecturers teach in the department, she said. There are about 200 lecturers at UNL.

English department lecturer Anne Whitney

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