

Fearsome foursome

The Nebraska women's 4x400 relay team is among the best in the nation, making the NCAA Indoor Championships, and it looks to improve in the outdoor season. **PAGE 7**



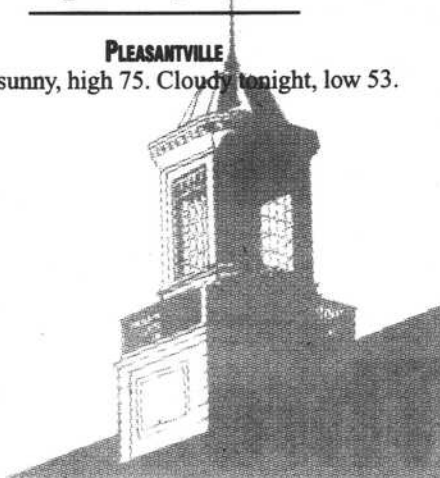
Play acting

Four student playwrights premiere their original plays this weekend at the Howell Theatre in this year's Masquers' One Acts. **PAGE 9**

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PLEASANTVILLE

Partly sunny, high 75. Cloudy tonight, low 53.



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New ASUN senate installed

“

Surprise me, surprise the university, and let's surprise ourselves with what we do.”

RACHELLE WINKLE
first vice president

By KIM SWEET
Staff writer

The new 1999-2000 student senators were handed their nameplates on Wednesday night while the new executive officers took the oath of office at the ASUN inauguration Wednesday night.

Along with executives and senators, the UNL Student Court, Committee for Fees Allocation and ASUN Appointments Board took the oath to serve the student body during the next school year.

While welcoming in the new senate, James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, took the opportunity to make remarks to the old senate.

“I'm looking forward to working with the new senate,” Griesen said, “I hope we can have as productive year as we did this year.”

Being the first to take the oath of office, first vice president Rachelle Winkle promised the senate and the student body that she would stand up for students and lead with integrity. She challenged the senate to unite after what was a potentially dividing student election.

ASUN

“Surprise me, surprise the university, and let's surprise ourselves with what we do,” Winkle said.

After administering the oath to second vice president Trisha Meuret, outgoing second vice president Eddie Brown talked about an experience he and Meuret have in common — coming into office without their running mates.

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Reeves' attorney files brief

■ The motion filed to State Supreme Court says that Reeves' rights were violated.

By JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

Randy Reeves should not die for the 1980 murders of two women, his attorney argued in a brief filed with the State Supreme Court earlier this week.

The state has until April 22 to file its brief on the appeal that prompted the Court to stay Reeves' scheduled January execution.

Reeves' attorney, Paula Hutchinson, appealed in January after the district court refused to hear the motion for post-conviction relief.

In the motion, Hutchinson argues that, among other things, executing Reeves would violate his right to equal protection under the law.

Assistant Attorney General Kirk Brown, who is handling the state's case, said the district court had a legitimate basis to deny the motion, and he plans to argue to uphold that ruling.

“There is nothing that would have prevented many of these claims from being raised earlier,” Brown said.

If the claims could have been raised earlier, by law, they would be excluded from consideration now.

Hutchinson disagrees about the validity of these claims.

“The events which give rise to these claims did not even occur until years after the defendant's direct appeal and the filing of his (first) post-conviction motion,” Hutchinson wrote.

Many of Reeves' claims are based on the State Supreme Court's resentencing done in Reeves' 1984 appeal.

The Court found error in how the trial court had weighed the aggravating and mitigating factors in the case.

Then, instead of sending the case back to the trial court for resentencing as it had with all other capital cases where similar error was found, the Nebraska Supreme Court resentenced Reeves itself.

In Nebraska, death sentences are automatically reviewed by the State Supreme Court, but because of how Reeves was resentenced, his case could not be reviewed under that provision.

“There is no reason that Randolph Reeves should be denied

Please see REEVES on 6

Me and my shadow



UNL SOPHOMORE FRANNY HIGH reads “Stone Butch Blues” while reclining on a retaining wall north of the Nebraska Union. High was reading the book for her 20th Century Women Writers class. **RYAN SODERLIN/DN**

Chambers attacks interstate bill

■ A bill that would increase interstate speeding fines and impound drunken drivers' vehicles meets opposition.

By BRIAN CARLSON AND JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writers

A bill that would secure Nebraska some \$9.6 million in federal highway funds by enacting tougher restrictions on drunken driving will have to overcome intense scrutiny from Sen. Ernie Chambers.

The Omaha senator said Wednesday he objected to several portions of LB585, a large and complex bill containing provisions including tougher penalties for drunken driving and increased fines for interstate speeding.

Under recent federal legislation, the state would

lose federal highway funds if it did not enact a ban on open alcohol containers in vehicles and allow the impoundment of repeat drunken-driving offenders' vehicles. LB585 seeks to meet these mandates.

LB585 sponsor Sen. Curt Bromm of Wahoo said he sought to produce clean legislation that met the federal mandates. The federal funds would be used for highway construction and highway safety programs.

“Virtually everyone stands to benefit from good roads and safe transportation,” Bromm said.

But just two days after fighting a bill allowing concealed-weapons permits to its apparent demise, Chambers let his colleagues know he planned to use some of the same delaying tactics to block LB585.

Chambers objected most strenuously to amendments that would increase fines for interstate speeding.

He said he would use all available debate time to

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argue against objectionable components, forcing bill supporters to garner 33 votes to force a vote. In a similar situation Monday, supporters of LB476, the concealed-weapons bill, failed to force an end to debate, damaging the bill's prospects for passage.

As originally proposed, LB585 would have allowed exemptions on the open container ban for rented vehicles such as taxis, buses and limousines.

Chambers introduced an amendment removing the exemptions. It passed.

“All I am asking is everybody in the vehicle is treated the same way under the law,” he said.

Chambers and Bromm reached a compromise on

Please see BILL on 6