



They're in

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team got a second-place finish at home for the regionals and will head to Salt Lake City for nationals. **PAGE 9**



Russian through art

Vladimir Slobolev, whose work appears this month at the Noyes Gallery, is visiting from Moscow and painting America red. **PAGE 12**

April 12, 1999

A-OK

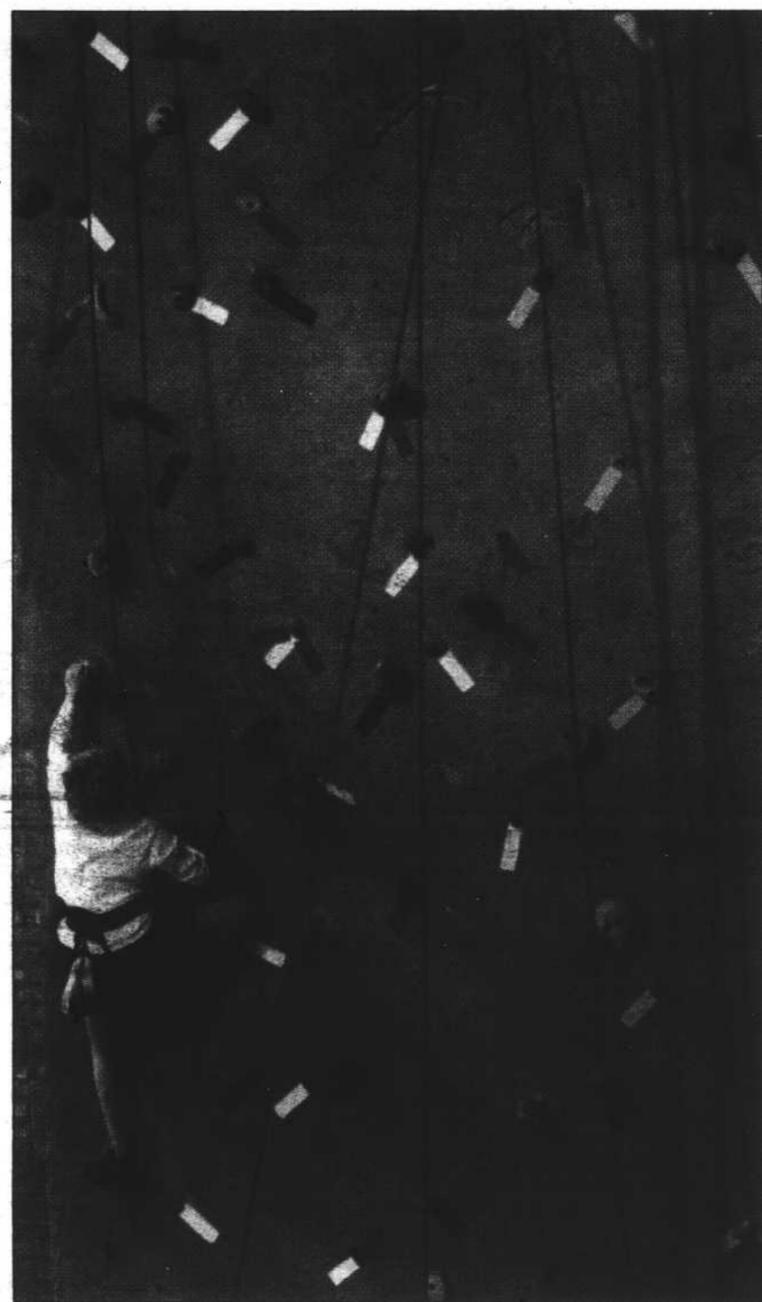
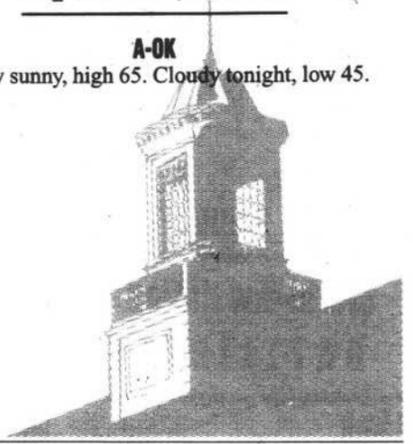
Mostly sunny, high 65. Cloudy tonight, low 45.

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MISSY TALBER, a graduate of Midlands College, climbs the wall at the Campus Recreation Center as a part of the Flatland Climbing Competition. About 35 climbers participated in the competition on Saturday.

RIGHT: A CLIMBER STRUGGLES for a hand-hold at Saturday's competition. The competition was sponsored by the UNL Climbing Club.



Climbers scale peaks of excitement

BY JOHN HEJKAL
Staff writer

Ascending 37 feet up a vertical wall may not be the usual trail to weekend excitement. But that's just what 35 avid climbers did Saturday.

The second annual Flatland Climbing Competition was held Saturday at the Campus Recreation Center.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Climbing Club organized the event, which was open to students and non-students.

Senior English major Justin Reese, president of the Climbing Club, said he was pleased with the event.

"People climbed really well," he said. "It was a

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Lincoln woman, 34, strangled

Police arrest co-worker after attempted suicide

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

Police have one man in custody after a Lincoln woman was found strangled in her home Thursday afternoon.

Betty Bich Tran's sister found the 34-year-old woman lying in her bed in her house on the 4500 block of South 47th Street just before 2 p.m. and called police.

Preliminary autopsy results Friday showed she had been strangled and her wrist had been slit, Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said.

Shortly after 9 p.m. Thursday, police contacted their suspect, 28-year-old Dat V. Nguyen, at BryanLGH Medical Center West after he had attempted suicide, Lincoln Police

Chief Tom Casady said.

From Nguyen's apartment on the 2500 block of Vine Street, his brother reported to 911 that Nguyen had cut himself and was bleeding.

After Nguyen was treated and released at the hospital for cuts on his wrists, Casady said police took him to the station for questioning where he was later arrested just before midnight.

Casady said the death was "suspicious from the outset," partly because there were "no obvious signs of death."

Police said that Tran and Nguyen had a social relationship and the two carpooled to work in Crete.

Casady said that police knew of Nguyen's social relationship with the victim, but he was not a suspect until he was questioned about the attempted suicide.

Tran's death was the fourth Lincoln homicide of the year and the second last week.

Thursday morning David Higgins, 42, died in the hospital from a gunshot wound suffered during an argument Monday. On March 21, James Allen, 38, was found in his apartment stabbed to death. On Feb. 18, Brandon Pickinpaugh, 17, was found with a gunshot wound to the head in the parking lot of the Van Dorn Plaza, 48th and Van Dorn streets.

Nguyen is expected to be charged with murder today.



Nguyen

Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity gets charter

"(Receiving our charter) was a mixture of emotions. It was a big sigh of relief, but also really exciting. It is the highest point of my extracurricular life so far."

JARROD CROUSE

Pi Kappa Alpha chartering chairman

BY VERONICA DAEHN
Staff writer

A colony of 64 men became official Saturday as Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity received its official charter.

An initiation ceremony Friday preceded Saturday morning's chartering convocation, and Saturday evening's banquet.

"(The charter) is what we've been working the entire year for," said Brian Feller, a sophomore computer engineering major and Pike member.

Though the fraternity is without a house, the charter is its first step toward acquiring one, members said.

Last April, Pike members had their first

meeting without expansion recruiters.

In order for a fraternity to receive a charter, members must be a colony for at least one semester and goals must be set and achieved beforehand.

Chartering chairman Jarrod Crouse said the colony's goals included standards in community service, campus involvement, fund-raising and GPA.

Pike members were involved in community service, Feller said, logging more than 4,400 total hours by the end of the first semester this academic year.

The average member completed 60 hours of community service, he said.

Pike members will continue to be involved in several activities, including philanthropies and intramural athletics.

This group of Pi Kappa Alphas is not the first on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

Two groups were present before this one. The first fraternity existed 75 years ago from 1924 to 1941.

Pikes surfaced once again in 1967. That group lasted 10 years until it disbanded in 1977.

Feller said two expansion consultants began gathering and recruiting members in February 1998. Soon after that, there were enough interested members to form a colony.

Once the fraternity's goals had been met, an inspection was necessary, Crouse said. Pike members gave a two-hour presentation outlining activities they've done and goals they've

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