



QBs Unplugged

Bobby Newcombe and Eric Crouch talk to reporter David Wilson about the quarterback race that awaits them in the fall. PAGE 9

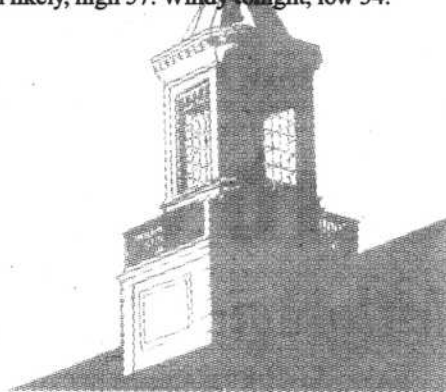


Seek Shelter

Omaha's Shelterbelt Theatre offers only first-run plays, giving Nebraska writers a safe haven for experimental work. PAGE 11

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HERE COMES THE RAIN AGAIN
Rain likely, high 57. Windy tonight, low 34.



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Sex, Drugs & Saving Souls

Series tackles students' risks, consequences

Editor's note: For many students, college is synonymous with frolicking in high-risk behavior.

During their undergraduate years, they sample sex and alcohol and suffer consequences. Some just have a good time.

Other students fight against collegiate vice, perhaps by working to educate others, by joining activist groups or by just quietly following their own convictions.

Regardless of how students approach sex, drugs and the ministries trying to protect students from poor choices, each subject touches all those enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In the next eight days, the Daily Nebraskan will chronicle how high-risk behaviors touch students' lives and how campus, local and state groups, as well as laws and educators, combat or support such risk taking.

Today, we examine how UNL students view sex and sexuality, and how three university women dealt with their unplanned pregnancies. The series then will examine the following:

Day two

The state of sex education at the university and in Nebraska

Day three

State MIP law and how drug and alcohol use influences crime and punishment

Day four

Illicit drugs on campus and in Lincoln

Day five

Binge drinking on campus

Day six

The fight to curb binge drinking

Day seven

How ministries reach and affect students by teaching morality through religion

Day eight

How personal convictions drive secular activists, including Tom Osborne, to fight vices such as pornography and drug use



MEGAN BASSETT AND daughter, Mia, share a quiet moment while Bassett dresses Mia after a nap. Bassett said while she always planned on keeping Mia, she just wanted to make sure she made the right decision.

No SMALL CHANGE

STORY BY
LINDSAY YOUNG

PHOTOS BY
HEATHER GLENBOSKI

Unplanned pregnancies alter three women's lives

Megan Bassett accepted that her student life would drastically change.

Tara Smith, whose last name has been changed at her request, just sat and shook. It couldn't be happening.

Tara Christiansen was more calm but knew she wasn't ready for this.

Once, these three University of Nebraska-Lincoln students went to classes, worried about weekend plans and left their dorm rooms on midnight Kmart runs.

But when they found out they were pregnant, their lives rapidly went from simple to complicated.

No longer could they go out with their friends until 3 in the morning. They needed their sleep instead.

Smoking and drinking were out of the question, and one big decision had to be made: What would each do with a baby she never planned on having this soon?

Deliberation was limited to exactly nine months.

Please see PREGNANT on 6

Legislature

Cigarette tax bill shelved

Senators delay further debate on the bill after a proposed amendment, which would have raised the proposed tax increase by 36 cents, fell one vote shy of passage.

BY SHANE ANTHONY
Staff writer

After a failed attempt to soften the blow of a proposed cigarette tax hike Monday, state senators delayed further debate on the bill.

Sen. Dave Landis of Lincoln introduced an amendment that would have increased the price of cigarettes by 66 cents a pack instead of 30 cents. His amendment fell one vote short of the 25 needed - 24-23. Senators then passed committee amendments but delayed further debate.

During discussion, Landis said the bill's intent was to encourage young people not to smoke. He cited a number of statistics to plead his case. But some senators said the Legislature could deter smoking in other ways.

"I think smoking is probably the stupidest thing people can do, and I was stupid for 47

Please see SMOKING on 8

City Elections

Debate goes on despite absence

BY KIM SWEET
Staff writer

What was supposed to be a full-fledged debate between Lincoln mayoral candidates Don Wesely and Cindy Johnson turned into a forum for Wesely after his opponent didn't show up.

The forum, sponsored by the ASUN Government Liaison Committee and Delta Sigma Pi, attracted fewer than 25 people to hear Wesely's view on issues such as UNL's Master Plan, transportation in Lincoln and other issues affecting UNL students.

Johnson, the Republican candidate, didn't show up because of a conflict with a neighborhood meet-

Please see DEBATE on 8