

No more general

Several teams across the nation, including Missouri, have to replace veteran quarterbacks for the 1999 season. PAGE 10

Love and the stage

Canadian playwright Brad Fraser introduced himself to Lincoln last night with a talk on AIDS; his play "Human Remains" opens tonight. PAGE 12

APRIL 15, 1999

SNOW PROBLEM

Wind and rain, high 43. Snow tonight, low 25.

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Sex, Drugs & Saving Souls

Making the Grade

Sex education fails to reach many Nebraska students

Story by Kim Sweet

Janet Tucker remembers escaping into a school bathroom one day before she was scheduled to teach health class.

Peering back at herself in the mirror of a cold, empty restroom where every word echoed, the health and physical education teacher at Lincoln East High School tried to spit out the words that she would have to repeat numerous times to a classroom of curious middle-school students.

"I had to practice saying the words 'penis' and 'vagina' in the mirror," Tucker said.

That day marked Tucker's first confrontation with sex education.

Nearly 25 years later, Tucker no longer must practice saying the words that once felt so taboo. She's comfortable with sex education — comfortable

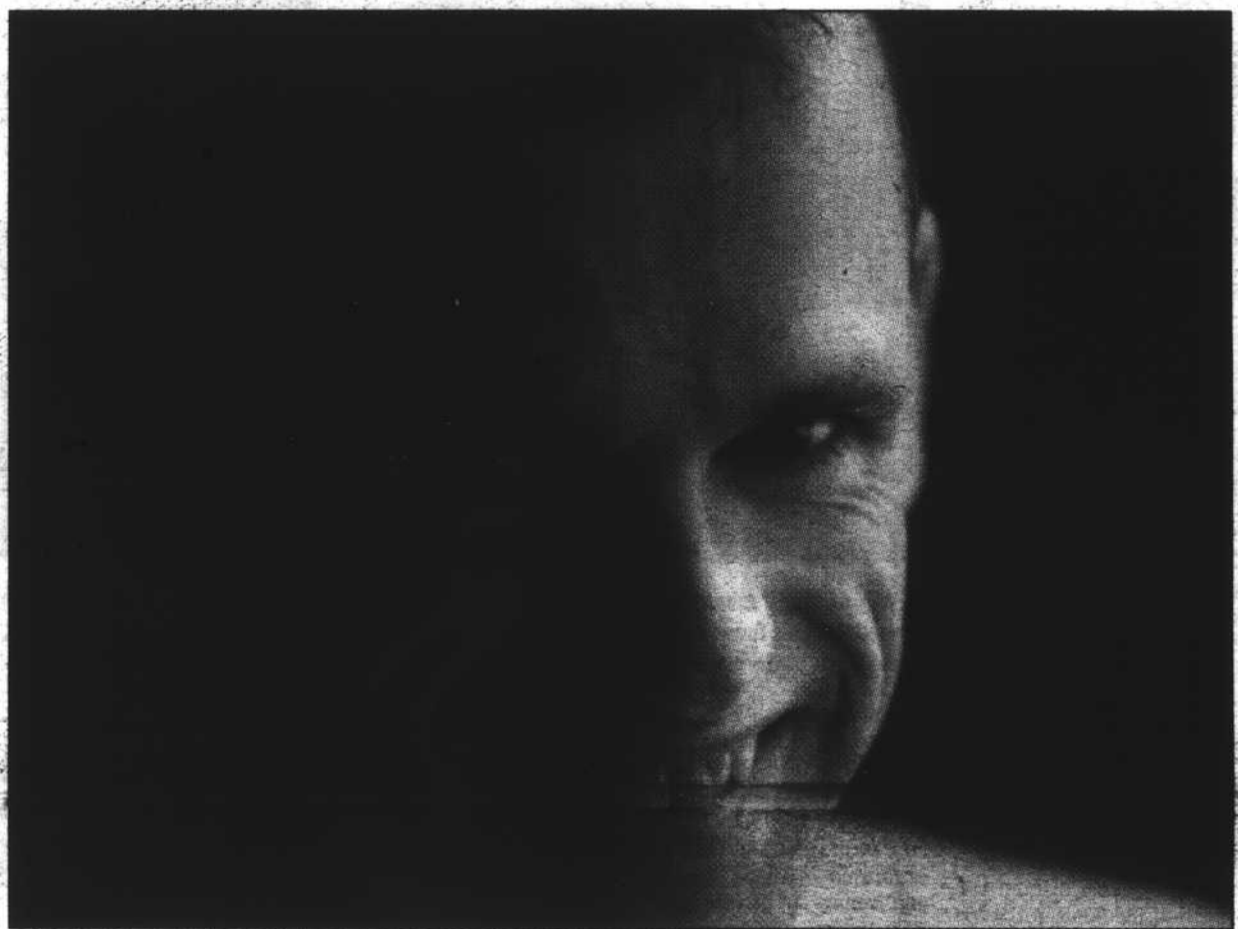
enough that she can instruct her students using a game of Pictionary in which they draw pictures representing masturbation or french kissing.

While Tucker has overcome her apprehension about addressing sexuality in the classroom, other teachers have not, said Marybell Avery, a physical education and health curriculum consultant for Lincoln Public Schools.

JANET TUCKER
educator

"I had to practice saying the words 'penis' and 'vagina' in the mirror."

Please see **SEX** on 7



HIV-positive man gives face to illness

BY CHRISTOPHER HEINE
Senior staff writer

Darren McCarty stood in Neihardt Residence Center, listing off HIV phobias: toilet-seat and doorknob germs, general homophobia and the belief that just sexually promiscuous people get HIV.

The 34-year-old with beefy biceps and a chiseled chest has been teaching sex education for eight years to such groups. He has devoted himself to volunteer public speaking about safe sex, drugs and alcohol, and has been one of the most requested speakers for those subjects in the state.

He looked at the Neihardt group.

Please see **HIV** on 8



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN
DARREN McCARTY was among the first people in Lincoln to be diagnosed with HIV in 1985. He has spent the past eight years educating others about sex and sexually transmitted diseases. **McCARTY HOLDS** a daily dose of 48 pills that he must take to stay healthy.

Meth-dealing penalties could increase

"I don't want to create excess punishments."

ERNIE CHAMBERS
Omaha senator

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

The high from the drug can last up to 16 hours. It's cheaper than cocaine, and it is increasingly being made in makeshift labs across the state.

Sen. Chris Peterson of Grand Island calls methamphetamine the "Midwest Nightmare."

Lawmakers advanced a bill 26-0 on Wednesday that would increase sentences for meth dealers, making the penalties comparable to dealing crack.

"It is less expensive, more readily available than cocaine, and it has a longer-lasting high," said Peterson, who is sponsoring the bill.

Legislature

Currently, people who deal 7 ounces or more of meth receive a flat sentence of one to 50 years in prison. With no mandatory minimum, a person could be eligible for release after serving the minimum of one year.

Under LB299 a person caught dealing 7 to 16 ounces of meth would spend at least three years in prison — which is the mandatory minimum — with a maximum of 50 years.

Dealing 16 ounces, 1 pound, or more carries a sentence of five to 50 years, with a five-year mandatory minimum. Dealing up to 3.5 ounces

and 3.5 to 7 ounces would also carry sentences, but with no mandatory minimum.

The final version of the bill was a compromise between Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers and Sens. Peterson and Kermit Brashear of Omaha.

Chambers originally motioned to indefinitely postpone the bill after 15 minutes of debate. He objected to the bill because of the harshness of the penalties.

"I'm not opposed to dealing with the meth problem. ... I don't want to create excess punishments," Chambers said.

Chambers withdrew his motion after he reached the compromise with Peterson and

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