



SPORTS

The national champ

Jason Hardabura was crowned as the national champion in the all-around Thursday night at NCAA Championships PAGE 12



A & E

Psychology pays off

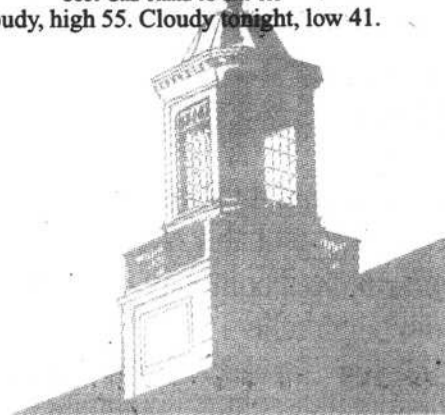
Lincoln psychologist Mary Pipher earned the spotlight on family therapy with "Reviving Ophelia," her new book focuses on the elderly. PAGE 8

FRIDAY

April 23, 1999

JUST ONE THING TO SAY ...

Cloudy, high 55. Cloudy tonight, low 41.



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Sex, Drugs & Saving Souls

PORN in the U.S.A.

Defenders, foes of smut fight ongoing battle

Story by Sam McKewon

Got access to a computer? Good. Because the only way to ever completely understand the peripheral debate surrounding pornography is to see where it flourishes the most.

Go to it. Right now, if it's possible. Log on to the Internet. Go to a search engine.

Now type them in — the most sexual words that come to mind. The flagrant ones, the nasty ones, the ones that make most people squirm. Because there's no understanding porn — why some hate it, why legal wars have been fought over it — until one sees it.

That's what many anti-porn activists will say, that when one sees porn, they'll know it. Seeing is knowing, they say.

Now behold the response elicited by the information superhighway.

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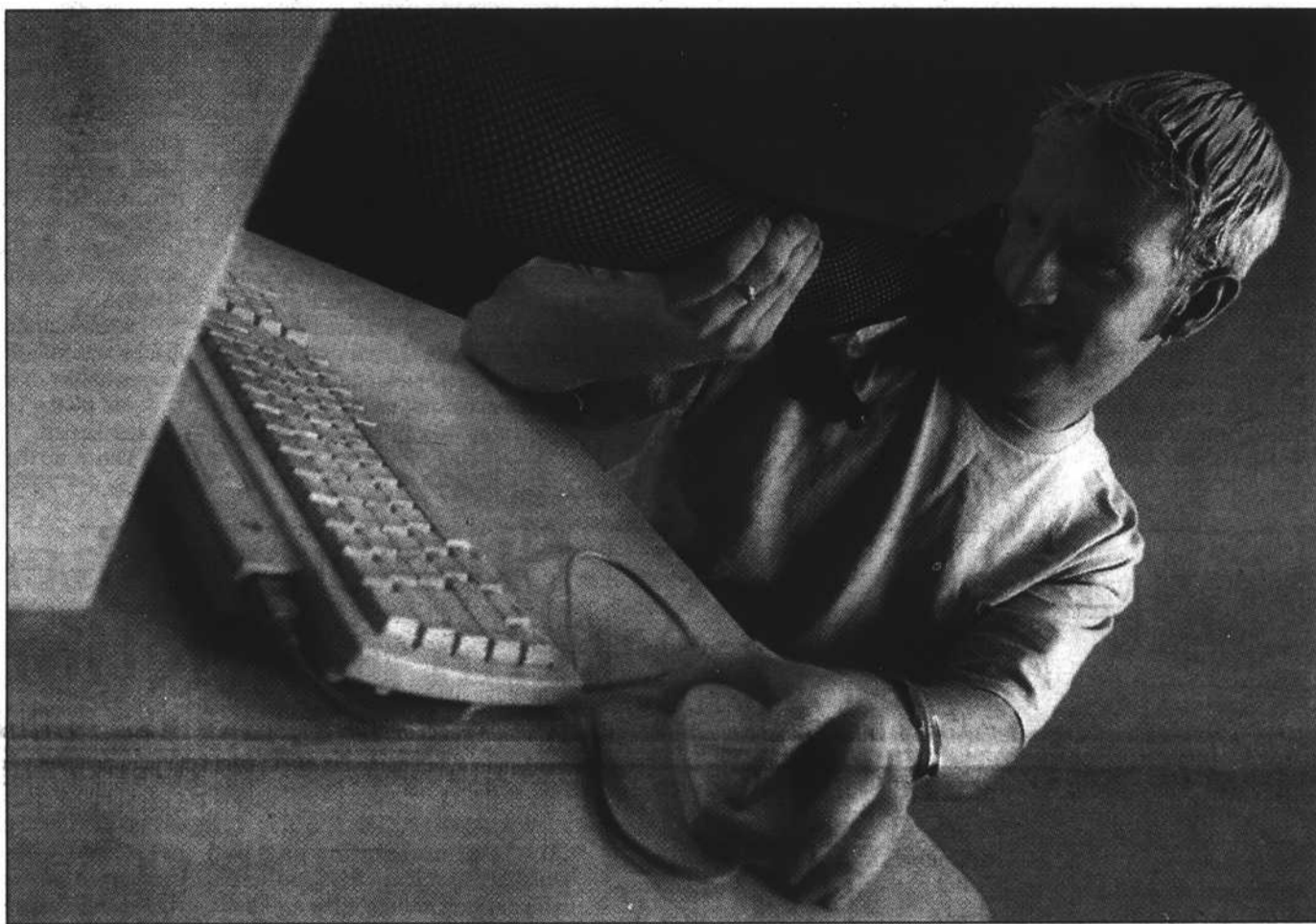


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN SODERLIN/DN

SOME PEOPLE CONSIDER pornography to be a dirty mark on society, but today it has taken another foothold. Magazines and movies are no longer the only way to view it, as pornography is readily found on the Internet.

Gymnastics teams face mortality

By JOHN GASKINS
Staff writer

Lincoln was the center of attention in the world of NCAA gymnastics Thursday night. And for 20 years, the town has practically been its adopted home.

But since it became that home in the early 1980s, the glory days of the sport have come to an end.

If the trend continues, the sport itself may be on its way out.

In the back of his mind, Francis Allen, Nebraska's legendary 30-year head gymnastics coach, knows things aren't the same as those early '80s glory days, when men's gymnastics was a premier NCAA sport with more than 70 teams. Back then, he would never have expected the sport to be on the verge of death.

Men's gymnastics — die?

It's a distinct possibility.

No one has more memories of the events than Allen, who has guided his team to eight national titles — five of them at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Allen takes great pride in the years from 1980-82 when NU reeled off three consecutive titles at the Devaney Center and performed before more than 10,000 screaming fans — most cheering for the hometown Huskers. He said he hoped his team would rekindle



MATT MILLER/DN

NU'S DEREK LEITER takes a moment to prepare before the beginning of the NCAA Championship meet Thursday night at the Devaney Sports Center.

those memories this weekend as NU competes for another national championship.

This weekend, for the 10th time in the history of the 62-year-old sport and the 10th time since 1980, the Bob Devaney Sports Center and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are hosting the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Championships.

But behind the showcase and pride for men's gymnastics, this week has been one very harsh reality — the sport is slipping into obscurity at many universities. Since 1983, 45 of the 71 men's gymnastics programs that existed then have been dropped. Only 26,

Please see GYMNASTICS on 6

Legislature

Meat-pricing bill advances in Legislature

By SHANE ANTHONY
Staff writer

After a compromise in the Legislature on Thursday, a bill that would require price reporting for meat packers passed second-round debate.

In exchange for an emergency clause that would allow a provision outlawing packer feeding of animals to take effect immediately, LB835's chief proponent — Sen. Cap Dierks of Ewing — agreed to an amendment pushing back the starting date for price reporting by a month and a half.

"What we lost in time was really not all that great," Dierks said after senators advanced the amended bill on a voice vote.

He said he is confident the bill will become law. The compromise, he said, means the statutory outlawing of packer feeding will be enacted more quickly.

The amended bill changes the date when meat packers would begin reporting price, discount and meat quality information to the state and U.S. departments of agriculture from Jan. 3 to Feb. 15.

Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha introduced the first

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