



Slice of leadership

Nebraska senior golfer Elizabeth Bahensky is ready to step up and lead the Huskers into action this fall. PAGE 9



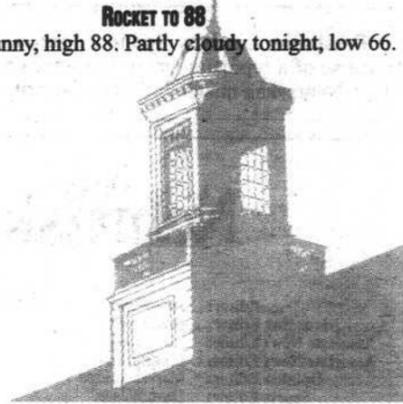
Sex and the City

A group of local theater regulars ditch the safety nets of established theater and put up their own dough for an independent production. PAGE 11

August 25, 1999

ROCKET TO 88

Mostly sunny, high 88. Partly cloudy tonight, low 66.



Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 99

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 4

UNL's college rank rises

BY KIMBERLY SWEET Senior staff writer

Thanks to increased rates of retention and graduation, those perusing the latest edition of U.S. News and World Report will find UNL listed as a second-tier school in the magazine's college rankings.

The listing in this week's edition of the magazine means the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ranks between 51 and 120 out of 228 universities nationwide.

In 1998, the rankings listed UNL as a third-tier school, dropping it down from the second-tier position it held the year before.

UNL also was designated as one of the Great Schools at Great Prices - meaning it is one of the top 48 universities based on quality and price.

Reporting the results during his

annual State of the University address Friday, Chancellor James Moeser said rising rates of freshman retention and graduation helped the university's standing in the ratings.

"They are two factors that are considered by U.S. News and World Report when it publishes its annual rankings of national universities," Moeser said.

Retention rates in this year's edition were reported at 76 percent. Last year's data showed UNL's freshman retention rate at 75 percent.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said the retention rate printed in the magazine is wrong - it should be 79 percent.

UNL had a graduation rate of 47 percent in this year's ratings compared with 46 percent the year before.

Griesen said he was not surprised at the university's ascent from the third tier, given the weight the rank-

ing system puts on the entering freshman class.

The magazine puts weight on categories such as SAT and ACT scores, the percentage of entering freshmen in the top 10 percent of their class, the university's acceptance rate and the retention rate, Griesen said.

Thus, it was not surprising that as the higher, more selective admission standards adopted a couple of years ago began to take effect, UNL moved up in the rankings, he said.

"All of those things are related to how selective you are at the time of admission," Griesen said.

While Griesen said he was happy to see UNL in the second tier, the rankings did not always correlate with academic reputation and quality - something he said hasn't changed, even when UNL was in the third tier.

"Our academic reputation was just as strong when we were in cate-

"Our academic reputation was just as strong when we were in category three."

JAMES GRIESEN vice chancellor for student affairs

gory three," he said.

While UNL has moved up and down between the second and third tiers in the last few years, Griesen said he hopes the university stays in the second tier as better-prepared freshmen move through the system.

"With a little bumping of those

Please see RANK on 6

Colleagues remember professor's contribution

BY VERONICA DAEHN Staff writer

While the late Nicholas Babchuk was known around the world for his extensive research, his family and friends said he was much more than a research agent.

Babchuk, a professor emeritus in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's sociology department, died Aug. 18 from prostate cancer.

Babchuk began teaching classes at UNL in 1959 and after retirement remained with the university to conduct research.

He published more than 60 sociology-related articles and was a reviewer for more than 15 research journals.

Robert Benford, UNL associate professor of sociology, said Babchuk influenced many students.

"A lot of students will be sad when they hear the news," Benford said. "He was a very sweet man."

Wayne Babchuk, Nicholas' son, said helping graduate students with their careers was important to his father.

"He was a force here and a class act," Wayne Babchuk said. "He was influential in the sociology department and helped all his students."

Babchuk wanted to help the university, his son said, and was very unselfish.

"There are very few people like him in the world," Wayne Babchuk said.

Besides the research, Benford said, Babchuk volunteered for several service organizations.

"His claim to fame was voluntary associations," Benford said. "He was an expert."

He was an active member of the Kiwanis Club, the Masons and the Knights of Columbus, Benford said, and he was involved and well-known.

Wayne Babchuk agreed his father was involved not only with his work but also with his family.

"It's amazing that someone who accomplished so much in his career would have so much time to spend with his family," his son said. "He always spent so much time with me."

Babchuk's son said he would always go to his dad for advice, and they were best friends. "At every stage in my life, he was there for me," Wayne Babchuk said.

Babchuk lived in Lincoln but died while visiting a relative in Los Angeles.

As soon as Wayne Babchuk found out his father was close to death, he boarded a plane to California.

Bianca Babchuk, Babchuk's widow, said she sat with her husband and encouraged him to stay with her until the rest of their children arrived.

Wayne Babchuk, his brother and two sisters made it to Los Angeles in time to say goodbye.

"I feel like a different person," Wayne

Please see BABCHUK on 7

Quake's shock felt in Lincoln

Turkish student awaits word on family members

BY KELLI LACEY Staff Writer

In less than a minute, thousands of lives were lost when an earthquake shook Turkey on Aug. 17.

A native of the country, Ali Sezer, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student, awaits information about some of his close relatives and friends who may be among the lives that were lost.

"A lot of my relatives live in Izmit (the center of where the earthquake hit), and we haven't heard from them yet," Sezer said. "I don't know what happened to them. If they are dead, we probably wouldn't know for months. We have no idea."

After living through the earthquake, which measured a magnitude of 7.4, many Turkish UNL students are urging others to find some way of helping their country recover from the disaster.

Sezer, who is working toward his master's degree in chemical engineering, was in Turkey visiting his family when the earthquake hit early last week.

The day before, Sezer said, was a very unusual day. "There were weird things happening, but we never thought to connect it to an earthquake," he said. "The cats and the birds were going crazy all day."

The cats were running around scratching and jumping on people, Sezer said, while the birds were chirping so loudly that the cages had to be covered with blankets to make it appear to be nighttime.

Sezer said his family assumed the recent eclipse, which had just occurred in Turkey three days before the earthquake, was the reason for the animals' strange behavior.

"It was unbelievably hot, which is very unusual for Istanbul because it is right on the (Aegean) sea, and we usually have an afternoon breeze," he said.

Because of the high levels of humidity, the animals were uneasy for several days, Sezer said.

The evening of the quake, Sezer was at his sister's house for a family gathering and decided to stay the night instead of going back to his mother's house.

Please see TURKEY on 3



ALI SEZER, a student at UNL, was in Istanbul, Turkey, when the earthquake struck Aug. 17. Sezer's immediate family was unharmed, but Sezer says no one has heard from his aunt's family in Izmit, which is 50 miles from Istanbul.

MIKE WARREN/DN