



SPORTS

Ready to Run

Though his times have yet to improve, Nebraska sophomore runner Marcus Witter is racing stronger than he ever has. **PAGE 8**

A & E

Where the Crowds Are

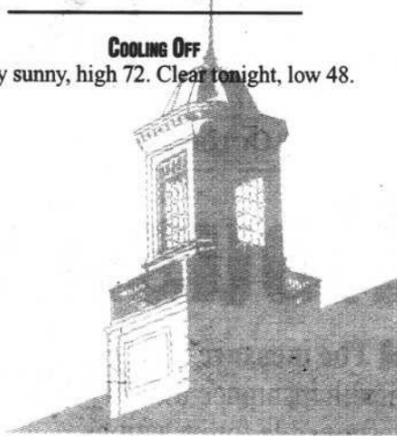
The Haymarket is a hustling and bustling center, but as more businesses open shop, the parking crunch becomes tighter. **PAGE 12**

FRIDAY

October 8, 1999

COOLING OFF

Partly sunny, high 72. Clear tonight, low 48.



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MATT MILLER/DN

TOP: Smoke and flames erupt from the roof of the Embassy Suites Hotel, at 18th and P streets, Thursday morning. The cloud of black smoke was partly the result of burning tar- and petroleum-based roofing material that is used to waterproof the roof.

RIGHT: Taken from the roof of the Georgian Place building, 139 N. 11th St., the fire that erupted in the Embassy Suites Hotel started at about 10:30 a.m. Thursday. Minor injuries were reported, and the blaze forced some downtown streets to be temporarily closed.



Hotel roof catches on fire

■ The blaze at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Lincoln was started after a steel kettle of tar overheated, fire inspector says.

BY JAKE BLEED
Senior staff writer

The roof and top floor of the unfinished Embassy Suites Hotel at 10th and P streets caught fire Thursday morning after overheated tar in a steel kettle on the building's roof ignited, Chief Fire Inspector Bill Moody said.

"The fire could've been prevented if the tar kettle would've been monitored," Moody said. "It appears as if it overheated and ignited the deck itself."

Killian Construction Project Manager Ron

Barrett said fewer than five men were on the roof of the \$42 million hotel when the fire started.

The roofers laying the tar were contracted from Boone Brothers Roofing Inc. in Omaha. A Boone Brothers representative refused to comment on the cause of the fire.

The heavy, black smoke rising from the burning building could be seen across the city. Demarcus Weaver said he was driving downtown to take his son to lunch after a doctor's appointment and could see the smoke from the intersection of 84th and O streets.

Despite the large amount of smoke, Barrett said, the building was insured, and damage was limited and would not delay construction of the hotel.

"We don't think it's going to set us back," Barrett said. "We're going to work a little harder."

The hotel's target completion date will remain May 1, 2000, Barrett said, who added

that investigators were still trying to estimate the cost of the fire.

"We have to pull some things apart to really see what happened up there," Barrett said.

One injury was reported during the fire. A construction worker was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital with a head injury but was later released, a hospital spokesman said.

Barrett said about 140 people were working in the hotel at the time of the fire.

"We accounted for every individual as soon as we evacuated the building," Barrett said.

Firefighters were dispatched to the burning hotel at 10:44 a.m., Emergency Communications Manager Julie Righter said. Lincoln Mayor Don Wesely said firefighters arrived in fewer than three minutes.

Ten fire companies took part in combating the blaze, Fire Chief Mike Spadt said.

Because the building was still under con-

Please see **FIRE** on 3

Mourners reminisce on Melvin Jones' life

BY GEORGE GREEN
Staff writer

Darryl White silenced a somber audience Thursday with a solemn trumpet rendition of Amazing Grace.

White, a UNL assistant professor of trumpet, opened a memorial service for the late Melvin Jones, vice chancellor for business and finance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jones died Sept. 28 in Washington, D.C., after suffering from a heart attack.



Jones

Jones' memorial service was held Thursday at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. Friends, family, co-workers and students gathered there to celebrate Jones' life.

UNL's Office of Public Relations estimated that as many as 750 people attended the service, which lasted an hour and a half.

Chancellor James Moeser welcomed the

Please see **JONES** on 3

Tom Green brings act to Memorial Stadium

BY DEREK LIPPINCOTT
Staff writer

For probably the first time in history, the Nebraska football team was not the center of attention inside Memorial Stadium.

The football team made its scheduled appearance last night at the annual homecoming "Tailgate on the Turf" pep rally, but it was not who most people came to see.

For most of the students who filled the west stadium, MTV's Tom Green was the show - and not the annual Husker Howl skits happening at the same time as Green's appearance.

And after Green did his thing and left, so did the majority of the students.

Tom Cabela, a sophomore English major, said he didn't come to see the pep rally.

Please see **GREEN** on 6