



SPORTS

Surviving the Birds

It took a breakout performance from wingback Bobby Newcombe to preserve Nebraska's win — and possibly its season — against KU. PAGE 6



A & E

The Business of Art

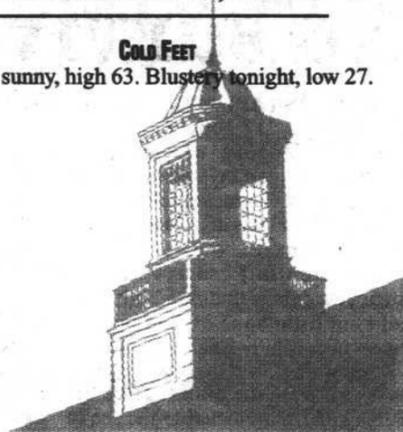
Lincoln's Haydon Gallery helps artists sell their own work so they can spend more time doing what they love — making art. PAGE 9

MONDAY

November 1, 1999

COLD FEET

Partly sunny, high 63. Blustery tonight, low 27.



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Court: Former student can sue university

■ The ruling reverses a lower court's decision that the university did not have a duty to protect the pledge who fell out of a window.

By JAKE BLEED
Senior staff writer

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled Friday that a student who fell from the third floor of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln fraternity house in 1993 can sue the university for negligence.

Jeffrey K. Knoll fell from the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity while trying to escape a "pledge sneak" hazing on Nov. 3, 1993.

"The university had a duty, a legal duty, to protect someone such as Mr. Knoll," said attorney Joseph McQuillan, who represented Knoll in court.

Friday's ruling reversed a district court ruling that said the university did not have a duty to protect Knoll.

As part of the hazing, members of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity kidnapped Knoll from the basement of Andrews Hall, tackled him and handcuffed him to a member of the fraternity before taking him back to the house, the court opinion said.

Once inside, Knoll was handcuffed to a radiator and given 15 shots of brandy and whisky and three to six beers in a two-and-a-half hour period, the opinion said.

Knoll became ill and was taken to a third-floor

“The university had a duty, a legal duty, to protect someone such as Mr. Knoll.”

JOSEPH MCQUILLAN
Knoll's attorney

bathroom where he was handcuffed to a toilet pipe, the opinion said. Knoll escaped from the handcuffs and, in trying to shimmy down an outdoor drain pipe to escape the fraternity house, fell three stories and suffered severe head injuries.

The state Supreme Court has held in the past that a landowner is liable for the safety of a guest. Although the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity is not

on university-owned property, Knoll was abducted on campus.

Describing Knoll's abduction as "horseplay," university lawyers argued Knoll's abduction was not a criminal act and Knoll knew what he was getting into.

Please see COURT on 3

Former NU leader dies at 82

■ Woody Varner, who served as president of the NU system for seven years, died Saturday.

By DANE STICKNEY
Staff writer

When Woody Varner's name is mentioned, most of his friends will immediately comment on how warm and friendly he was.

Durward B. "Woody" Varner, who was president of the University of Nebraska system for seven years, died Saturday after a battle with Parkinson's disease.

Varner was 82, but his friend Bill Swanson, who was a state senator and worked in the governmental relations office at UNL, said Varner's age and illness couldn't stop him from enjoying life.

"Woody had three loves: his wife, Paula, his family and Big Red football," Swanson said. "He even went to two games and some practices this year. He had an intense interest right up to the end."

Varner became chancellor of the NU system in 1970. His title was later changed to president.

Varner was the first president of the NU system to operate in an office that was not directly affiliated with one of the campuses.

Before 1970, the UNL chancellor was also chancellor of the NU system, but the Legislature felt that a separate office was needed to erase any bias from NU system decisions.

James Griesen, vice chancellor of student affairs at UNL, said Varner was ideal for the role.

"He really fit well into the plans because he was very effective in advancing the idea that all three of the campuses had important roles to play in the state of Nebraska," Griesen said.

The original NU system consisted of UNL, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The University of Nebraska at Kearney was added to the system in 1991.

At the time Varner became chancellor, UNO was concerned about not being on an equal level

Please see VARNER on 3



FIZZIG, a Pomeranian, awaits the results of the Capital Humane Society's fourth annual Howl-O-Ween Costume Contest for Dogs. Fizzig and his owner, Rebecca Hughes, walked away with the evening's top prize.

SHARON KOLBET/DN

Dogs dress up for annual contest

By CHRISTINA FECHNER
Staff writer

I am a dog. I am a dog. What are you doing to me? Wings? Wait, I don't need any wings. I have black and yellow stripes and antennae on me. I look like a bumble bee.

What is going on?
OK, let's get it right. My name is Fizzig, and I'm a Pomeranian. My owner is Rebecca Hughes, and I should not be dressed like this.

I was confused for awhile, but then I real-

ized my owner entered me in the fourth annual Howl-O-Ween Costume Contest for Dogs.

About 20 dogs participated in the contest at the Capital Humane Society on Friday. The contest was sponsored by the Humane Society and Treats! A Bakery & Gift Shop for Dogs.

Teri Richardson, humane educator at the humane society, said this year a silent auction was an added fund-raiser. She said she was excited about the event.

"(The dog show) is a fun outing. Halloween is considered a holiday for kids. This is a chance

to take out your animal kids," Richardson said.

One of the canines, Sheba, a Husky mix owned by Carla Miller, was in costume as a Husker fan complete with a red and white jersey.

Miller said she entered Sheba in the show because it was something new.

"We're not afraid to show our colors," Miller said.

Sarah Halverson, 8, dressed two golden retrievers, Tigger and Katie, as Super Dog and

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