

Tonia's journey

Daily Nebraskan columnist John Gaskins chronicles the year of a volleyball player whose season hasn't gone exactly to plan. PAGE 12

In Your Face

"Face on the Barroom Floor," an American opera, takes over Crane River this weekend, leaving the distant stage for the intimate bar. PAGE 9

STILL LIVIN' THE HIGH LIFE

Mostly sunny, high 70. Clear tonight, low 45.

Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 99

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 60

Creech to begin 2nd church trial

■ The reverend has performed two same-sex marriages, one in Nebraska, one in North Carolina.

BY DANE STICKNEY
Staff writer

Traditionally, the Bible has been used to condemn homosexuality, but many Christians believe the teachings of Jesus Christ encourage tolerance, acceptance and forgiveness of all people.

Because of this fundamental difference, the United Methodist Church is split in its views about homosexuality.

Today, the second church trial questioning the practices of the Rev. Jimmy Creech, who has performed same-sex marriages in North Carolina and Nebraska, starts in Grand Island. The trial is more than just a debate about same-sex marriages; it is a debate of Methodist church doctrine.

In 1996, the members of the United Methodist Church national conference voted to include a statement in the Book of Discipline that discouraged Methodist pastors from conducting same-sex marriages.

In March 1998, Creech was brought to a church trial in Kearney for performing a marriage ceremony for two women in Omaha. Creech was found not guilty for violating church law because the statement in the Book of Discipline was not regarded as church law.

In August 1998, the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church declared that the statement would thereafter be church law.

After that decision, Creech conducted a wedding ceremony for two men in North Carolina. Consequently, he is now being tried again in Grand Island for breaking church law.

Jay Vetter, pastor of Lincoln's Christ United Methodist Church, said he is offended by the church's decision to try Creech again.

"This trial shouldn't happen," Vetter said. "He should not have been brought back to Nebraska to face another trial. I'm planning to go out and get arrested in the protest."

Vetter said the topic of same-sex marriages has become a political statement instead of a question of pastoral care.

"I feel like the church is trying to draw a line

Please see TRIAL on 7



MATT "SITTING BEAR" JONES, a UNL instructor in the Institute for ethnic studies, recently received the Mari Sandoz award for his storytelling and lecturing skills. Jones has been doing American-Indian storytelling for years.

Storyteller gets Sandoz award

BY JILL ZEMAN
Staff writer

Telling stories all day is a lot harder than it sounds.

Matt "Sitting Bear" Jones, University of Nebraska-Lincoln instructor in the institute for ethnic studies, learned this lesson early in his storytelling career.

"I've always been a storyteller," Jones said. But his first real performances began when he was a freshman at Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, Kan.

On Oct. 21, Jones was honored with the Mari Sandoz award for his storytelling and lecturing skills.

Jones debuted his storytelling skills at a small-town festival, thinking he would tell a few stories and repeat them throughout the day. To his surprise, his audience never left.

The same people sat for eight hours, through all 16 of his performances.

"People have the image of Indians never laughing, and through my stories I hope to fight that stereotype."

MATT "SITTING BEAR" JONES
storyteller

"I came back from my break and thought I had a new audience, but instead the people from the back had moved to the front," Jones said.

Jones made it through the day without repeating a single story.

"I was most proud that I gave the audience a new perspective of my culture in each performance," he said. Jones grew up on reservations in Oklahoma and Kansas as a member of the Kiowa and Ote-Missouri tribes. Jones' background provides much inspiration for his stories.

He attended Haskell Indian Junior College and Wichita State University, receiving a bache-

lor's of arts degree in mass communications.

Jones incorporates storytelling into his lectures by highlighting different styles and techniques.

These techniques include animation, pantomime, voice, movement and characterization.

Jones has been teaching for three years, with courses including University Foundations 101 and Curriculum and Instruction 330.

Jones' favorite part of storytelling is the opportunity to interact with all types of groups,

Please see JONES on 7

Phi Delta members hope to move back into house

BY KIMBERLY SWEET
Senior staff writer

Members of UNL's oldest fraternity hope to return to their house next semester after facing the threat of shutting down permanently.

After recruiting two new members and several prospects, members of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity are making plans to re-occupy their house after being forced out earlier this year.

"I'm ecstatic that our house is reopening," said Tom Butler, a senior member of the fraternity. "The house contains three years of memories for me - I'm happy that the new guys we're recruiting will have more of those memories."

The tentative move-in date is spring 2000, pending necessary loans from the Phi Delta Theta general headquarters, said David Lempp, president of the fraternity.

Members found out they would be able to move back into their house after recruiting men during a formal rush conducted by the Inter-Fraternity Council last week.

The housing corporation is helping the fraternity secure loans to keep the house running as it builds its membership, Lempp said.

The house recruited two members to add to its six during a formal rush conducted last week by the Interfraternity Council, said Troy Bartles, director of expansion for the general headquarters. The general headquarters will help the fraterni-

ty recruit more members to occupy its house, which holds 69 members.

"We are planning a full public relations campaign starting around January," Bartles said.

While fraternity members are excited about the prospects of moving back into their house, the hardest part is yet to come.

With six of the eight members graduating in May, Bartles said the fraternity would have to do a lot of work to recruit men who will jump quickly into the house's leadership roles.

Members of the general headquarters will come to Lincoln in January to take over the process.

"We're going to sell it as a leadership opportunity," Bartles said. "Members will have a chance to

be president or hold another office right away."

Bartles said he thinks the fraternity would have better luck recruiting men during the year than they do during the summer - the time UNL fraternities typically try to draw men.

With chapters at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Creighton University, there will be plenty of members to help out, Bartles said.

Alumni will also be part of the rebuilding process, he said.

Members are preparing themselves for the recruiting efforts that will take place when members of the general headquarters arrive on campus.

Please see HOUSE on 8