

DailyNebraskan

American students help international students soak up their new surroundings
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Third-ranked Huskers take clean record to UConn Classic
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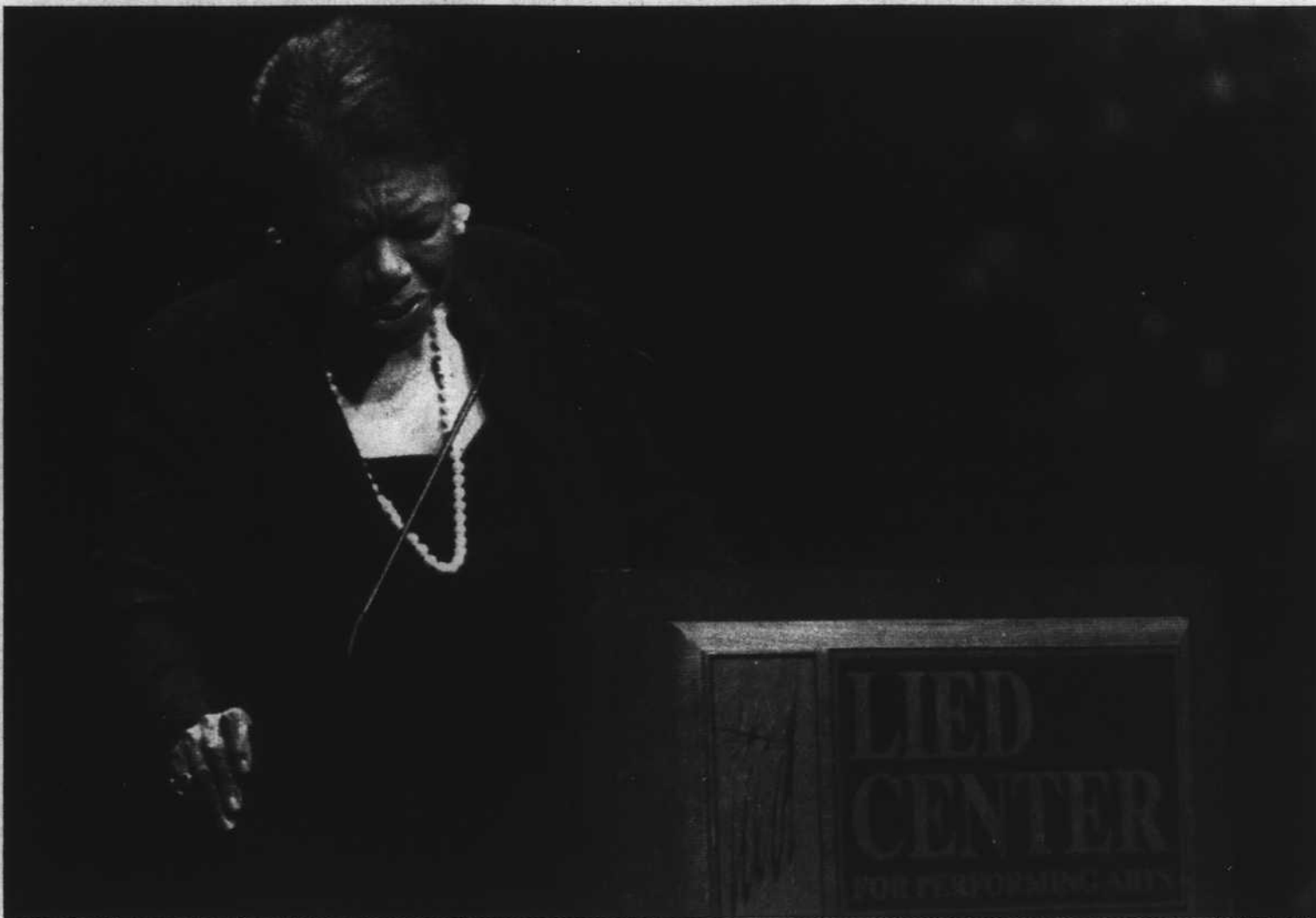


Robynn Ragland, acoustic guitarist, knocked down roadblocks to her success
In Arts/8



TOP: More than 2,000 people filled the Lied Center for Performing Arts on Thursday to listen to Maya Angelou's speech. Angelou urged people to compose their lives with laughter, acceptance and confidence.

BOTTOM: Maya Angelou accepts a standing ovation at the beginning of her speech Thursday night at the Lied Center for Performing Arts. Angelou said the human spirit could rise above anything.



David Clasen/DN

STILL RISING... Angelou's spirit moves crowd

BY VERONICA DAEHN

The poetic lyricism of Maya Angelou was enough to bring goosebumps to the flesh and the Lied Center audience to its feet — three times by the end of the famed poet's Thursday night talk.

"Hey, there I go," Angelou said before she left the stage, pointing up toward the sky. "Rising. Composing."

For close to an hour, one of the world's best poets held an audience of more than 2,000 people captive in the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Angelou, best known for her autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," spoke about embracing laughter, love and optimism: They are what compose the human spirit, she said, and life is about learning how to compose.

"You are in this institute of higher education so you can learn how to compose," Angelou said. "So you can learn to compose this world in which we find ourselves."

Through a series of poems — most of them written by black authors — Angelou told audience members how to live their lives to the fullest. She told them how to embrace what is important in the world.

She said laughter and love should play key roles in anyone's life.

"I love laughter," Angelou said. "I never trust people who don't laugh. To know what you came

here for and why you're supposed to compose yourself, you must laugh."

Angelou said she loved poems that made her laugh. Poetry is crucial to a happy life filled with tenderness, she said.

Courage is also important. Angelou told at least two stories about people whose paths of life taught them to be courageous.

One story was about her son, who was paralyzed because of a car accident years ago. He has since learned to walk with a cane and underwent his seventh spinal operation last year, she said.

While he was getting his stitches out — 122 of them — he called his mom and asked her to recite the poem, "Invictus" by William Henley, which she had encouraged him to memorize when he was a child.

That helped him through the pain, she said. "Everyone has gone to bed with pain, fear, grief, terror and disappointment," Angelou said. "And each of us has risen. There's a nobleness of the human spirit. Despite it all, still we rise."

Kristen Perk, a freshman undecided major, said she came to hear Angelou for a class. It was well worth the effort to fulfill the assignment, she said.

"She has such a good outlook on life," Perk said. "She was very inspirational."

Jessica Tok, a freshman biology and computer science major, agreed that Angelou was a worthy speaker.



"She was fascinating," Tok said.

Though Angelou spoke for only a short while, her message lingered even after she had left the stage.

"By all means, keep the laughter in your hearts and keep the poetry in your minds and souls," she said.

Vedral testimony unshaken

■ The prosecution could not find cracks in the former NU football player's story, while the two police witnesses' accounts were quickly contested.

BY JOSH FUNK

At times Thursday afternoon the prosecution looked flustered as suspended NU linebacker Mark Vedral testified on his own behalf.

The state concluded its case at noon before Vedral and a medical expert took the stand to challenge the first-degree sexual assault allegations in the trial's third day.

The defense will present its final witnesses in Lancaster County District Court this morning before closing arguments when the case will be turned over to the jury.

Among the final prosecution witnesses Thursday were two police officers who investigated the case and presented potentially damning evidence, but it was quickly contested.

Lincoln Police Investigator Richard Doetker said he found an unopened condom and a discarded pair of red and black Calvin Klein boxer briefs in Chris Kelsay's bedroom where the alleged attack occurred.

The defense acknowledged both the items were Vedral's. The defense admits Vedral and the woman had sex during the early morning hours of May 6. The woman, who is a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student, said she awoke to find Vedral on top of her, fully penetrated inside her and having sex.

The other officer, Detective Sgt. Greg Sorensen, interviewed Vedral, 22, after the alleged assault. Comments Vedral made to Sorensen during the drive to the police station before he had been arrested were admitted after Judge Bernard McGinn determined Vedral made them freely.

Sorensen said he told Vedral that an ex-girlfriend of Chris Kelsay's had said she "woke up to having sex with Mark Vedral, and she didn't want to have sex with Mark."

Vedral and Kelsay shared the 1005 Michelle Court duplex in southwest Lincoln with Tracey Wistrom and Kyle and Keith Vanden Bosch. The woman had been at their house with Kelsay for a May 5 graduation party.

Sorensen said Vedral told him he "had gone into (Kelsay's) room and lay on the bed. Then he said they started kissing and having sex."

"He said then she realized that I was not Chris and asked me to stop."

But when Vedral took the stand he told a different version of the conversation in the car. On cross examination, Sorensen admitted several hours passed between that conversation and the time the report was written.

Vedral said he was the one who told Sorensen the woman had said she mistook him for Kelsay when she awoke. Vedral had learned that from his roommates and two neighbors, who had talked with the woman after the alleged attack.

Please see **VEDRAL** on 7

Slack no more: UNL gives boot to online notes

BY VERONICA DAEHN

Last year, some students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln were not just attending classes to learn, but some were also making money on the side.

An influx of online note-taking companies bombarded the college scene last year, and UNL students were not shy in signing up for the job.

But because of action taken by the NU Board of Regents in June, students can no longer sell their lecture notes to an online service. If they do, they will be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct, according to the motion passed by the board.

Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Lyons said students selling lecture notes to online companies were undermining the teaching and learning processes.

"Students learn more by going to class," Hassebrook said. "These notes allow students to not go to class."

Companies such as versity.com, notesu.com and allstudents.com hired a herd of university students from across the country last year to post their lecture notes on the Web.

Students received up to \$400 for a semester of note-taking.

Studentsu.com listed 82 courses for which UNL students had taken notes.

Please see **NOTES** on 7

Club doors still shut; owners face liquor charges

BY JILL ZEMAN

A glance inside Studio 14's dark-tinted windows reveals adornments of the highest scale: statues and fountains — without a Nebraska football helmet in plain sight.

The yet-to-be opened club, at 1415 O St., is all polished and ready to go, but without that important piece of paper that makes everything work out: the liquor license.

The marquee of the former State Theater, which earlier had proclaimed the club's debut, now offers a more dubious display.

"R U Ready?" its asks. "We're Not."

The club is headed by a slew of former Husker football players: Lance Brown, CEO, along with Joel Makovicka, Chad Kelsay, Matt Turman, Jeff Lake and Billy Haafke.

The hearing for the license is set for Sept. 22, said Frosty Chapman, Nebraska liquor control commissioner.

Chapman said the application has neither been accepted nor denied, rather it needed to be reviewed before the commission can decide.

The status of the club is up in the air because of two separate incidents that may prevent Brown from obtaining a liquor license.

Brown had been charged with his second offense of driving while intoxicated, Chapman said.

To add to the group's troubles, the club has suffered an after-hours liquor violation, he said.

But these charges don't automatically dismiss the club from obtaining a liquor license, he said.

If the club is approved for the license, it will open the night of the hearing, Brown said.

The club will not open without its liquor license, he said.

Brown said he would not talk about any aspect of the hearing or the club itself, upon advice of his lawyer.



Mike Warren/DN

Studio 14 had its grand opening postponed several times and is trying to obtain a liquor license from the City Council.

"We'll just have to wait until Friday," he said.

The club was originally scheduled to open its doors Sept. 7.

But the hype surrounding Studio 14's potential opening hasn't affected other clubs on O Street, said Kimbe Meares, Club 1427 co-owner.

The club, at 1427 O St., plays mainly European dance music. Meares said the overall spirit of patrons who may attend Studio 14, if it opens, should be beneficial to the downtown dance scene.

"If they can bring more people to dance, it's a good thing," Meares said.