

# Daily Nebraskan

The Daily Nebraskan shares its picks for House, regents seats in Opinion/4

It's tournament time for the soccer team. NU hopes it's championship time. In SportsWednesday/10



An inexperienced cast cuts its teeth in the Theatrix performance of "Bad Girls" in Arts/8



## Truly coming home Alumni visit alma mater for week's activities

BY JILL ZEMAN

The meaning of Homecoming – to come home – can sometimes get pushed aside in the frenzy of the display-building, banner-making and Husker-celebrating activities of the week.

But those alumni who do choose to make the trek to Lincoln often center their events on another home of sorts – Memorial Stadium.

Ed Paquette, executive director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Alumni Association, said many former Huskers who come to Lincoln are the ones who usually attend the home football games throughout the season anyway.

But for the Husker faithful who come to Lincoln specifically for Homecoming Week, the Alumni Association targets them with a plethora of events.

"Homecoming is a big, important time," Paquette said. "We see a lot of alums coming back as early as Wednesday."

*"We work in lots of different ways to bring a community on campus, and that can't be done in just one week."*

James Griesen  
vice chancellor for student affairs

Paquette said alumni support during Homecoming has been "tremendous," and UNL's festivities are as good as anywhere in the country.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said it may not seem like a lot of alumni come to their alma mater because most people would rather come back to spend time with a group of their college friends.

For example, reunions tend to draw large crowds because alumni can see people they knew, as opposed to Homecoming where an alumnus may not see anyone he or she knows.

Emily Millard, assistant director of alumni relations, said this year, 12 players from the 1941

Husker football team who played in the Rose Bowl will be reunited Friday at the Wick Alumni Center.

All hope is not lost for alumni who can't make the sojourn to Lincoln: the Alumni Association has something in store for them, too.

This year marks the debut of a Web site, [www.zhuskers.com](http://www.zhuskers.com), filled with university news and history, along with information about the Homecoming royalty candidates.

And even though they won't be able to stroll Greek Row to observe the Homecoming floats, absent alumni can vote via the Internet for their favorite dis-

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## Professor's brother hurt in fighting

Andrew Wedeman learned Tuesday that his brother had been shot while covering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for CNN.

BY JOSH FUNK

When UNL professor Andrew Wedeman learned his brother had been shot Tuesday while reporting on conflicts in the Middle East, he simply called his brother's cell phone.

Ben Wedeman, CNN bureau chief in Cairo, answered the phone from his Gaza Strip hospital room where he was already up and walking a few hours after a bullet entered his lower back and exited his side.

"Actually talking to him, you'd hardly know he'd been shot," said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln political science assistant professor.

Tuesday morning, Ben Wedeman was covering the fighting between Palestinians and Israelis near the Karni crossing point between Gaza and Israel when he was shot.

In an interview Ben Wedeman gave to CNN from his hospital room Tuesday afternoon, he said he and his crew had just set up near an olive grove before the shooting started.

"It was relatively quiet," Ben Wedeman told CNN. "I didn't see anyone throwing stones. Clearly there had been some sort of exchange earlier."

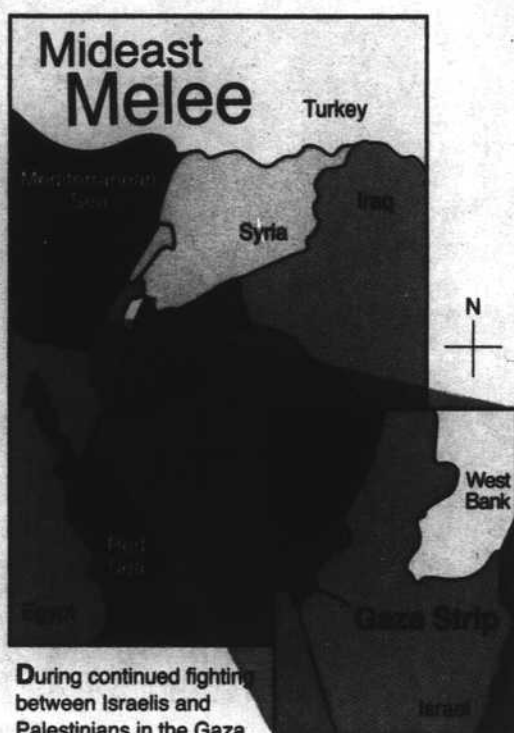
Ben Wedeman, 41, told his older brother that two CNN crews were caught in the crossfire when the fighting started, and Israeli tanks were firing in the reporters' direction.

Pinned down by gunfire, Ben Wedeman waited for a break in the firing to grab his tripod and withdraw, he told CNN. When the firing diminished, Ben Wedeman stood up and was shot in the back.

"I felt as if someone had just hit me in the lower right-hand side of my back with a sledgehammer," Ben Wedeman told his network.

Andrew Wedeman said his brother's global cell phone came in handy during the confusion.

"When he was shot, the other (CNN crew) didn't know what happened, so they called him (Ben Wedeman) on his cell phone," Andrew Wedeman said. "That's how they found out he was shot."



During continued fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip Tuesday, CNN correspondent Ben Wedeman was shot in the back, through not fatally. Wedeman's brother Andrew is a UNL political science assistant professor.

Melanie Falk/DN

Ben Wedeman, who was wearing a helmet and bullet-proof vest when he was shot, was taken to a Gaza City hospital.

Andrew Wedeman said his brother was supposed to be transferred to an Israeli hospital Wednesday and then to London later this week.

Ben Wedeman probably won't know how long he will be away from work until doctors in London examine the wounds, his brother Andrew said, but "if it was up to him, he'd be back in Gaza."

Intense fighting at the Karni border crossing left four Palestinians dead and another critically injured, Gaza hospital officials said. Thirty-four days of fighting have left 147 people dead, most of them Palestinians.

Ben Wedeman has been with CNN since 1994 and has been covering the struggling peace process and conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians extensively since fighting renewed in October.

Some people may question the wisdom of walking into an area where fighting is ongoing, but Ben Wedeman told CNN that he takes every caution he can. For Ben Wedeman, the danger is sometimes part of the job.

"If you're not a journalist, you would think to go anywhere near these places you've got to be not

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David Clasen/DN

YUM, YUM: Erin Rice, 6, reaches for a cookie Tuesday night while trick-or-treating with her mom, Samantha Rice, at Love Memorial Hall on East Campus Tuesday night. Rice took her children to the hall because she thought it would be a safe environment.

## Weird weather baffles state

The National Weather Service says though Nebraskans may have found Tuesday's tornado warnings odd, they must remember: It's Nebraska.

BY BRADLEY DAVIS

Tornado warnings on Halloween?

The seemingly weird weather-patterns that moved through the area Tuesday were expected to continue through most of today, the National Weather Service reported.

But even though storm sirens in October might seem bizarre, it's not all that odd to have severe weather this time of the year, a National Weather Service meteorologist said.

After all, this is Nebraska: tornado warnings one day and snow plows the next.

"Since we're in a transition (of seasons,) you can get almost anything," said Dave Fobert, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Valley.

Fobert said Tuesday's weird weather was caused by warm, moist air and a strong upper-level system traveling over the southwest part of

the state. The upper-level system destabilized the atmosphere, which produced severe weather.

Though tornado warnings were issued for parts of Western Kansas and Southwest Nebraska, no tornadoes were reported to have actually touched down.

There were reports of severe thunderstorms with heavy rain also throughout the state.

Today's weather probably won't be as spooky as yesterday's Halloween storms, Fobert said, though rain is possible at least until the evening.

Even though tornado warnings aren't seasonal commonplace, Fobert said people should always be on their guard when it comes to storms.

"Usually, you don't expect it at this time of the year, but they still need to watch out for the severe weather, he said.

Lincoln's high Tuesday was 77 degrees, which was unseasonably warmer than the normal Oct. 31 high of 59.

Despite the looming thunderstorm threat, rain measured at Lincoln's airport reached only .02 of an inch.

Though it's nearing winter, most sweaters will stay packed in drawers with today's temperature expected to reach 65 to 70 degrees.

## 'A trail of two cities' to connect Omaha, Lincoln

A new bridge linking hiker and biker paths will be built over the Platte.

BY GEORGE GREEN

Nebraska's two largest cities will be only a bike ride apart thanks to the work of local government agencies and trail groups.

The final steps were taken Oct. 25 in building the Platte River Connection, a nearly half-mile-long hiker and biker bridge across the Platte River.

The plans were solidified when the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District Board approved a \$2.3 million bid to build the bridge, said Glenn Johnson,

general manager of the Lower Platte South NRD.

The Lower Platte South NRD teamed with the Papio-Missouri NRD, the state Game and Parks Commission, the Nebraska Trails Foundation and the Great Plains Trails Network to plan and pay for the bridge, he said.

Located near South Bend, the connection will eventually link hiker and biker trails from Omaha and Lincoln.

"It's the trail of two cities," said Rich Rodenburg, president of the Great Plains Trails Network, a not-for-profit trail advocacy group.

Construction workers won't actually build a new bridge to link the two cities,

Johnson said.

Instead, he said, they will renovate an old Rock Island Railroad bridge, which was last used for trains in 1981.

Steve Oltmans, general manager of the Papio-Missouri NRD, said work to renovate the tracks will begin in mid-November. He said it would open to the public in the summer of 2002.

Currently, the MoPac East trail, which begins in Lincoln, extends to Elmwood, has a further extension to Wabash under construction, Johnson said. A 7-mile section from Wabash to South Bend is not developed yet, so bikers will use designated county roads until the trail is complete, he said.

On the other side of the river, developers are working to secure area for the trail and to raise money for construction, Oltmans said.

Fortunately, he said, most of the money for the bridge and part of the trail project has already been raised.

To pay for the project, Oltmans said, each NRD received a \$500,000 grant from the Department of Roads.

Each agency will also hand over an additional \$300,000 for the project, he said.

The remaining money will be raised by the Great Plains Trail Network and the Nebraska Trails Foundation, groups that work to raise money for hiker and biker

trails, Rodenburg said.

Rodenburg said his group is talking to businesses and foundations to solicit donations, but is taking donations from individuals, too.

The Nebraska Trails Foundation is also looking for all the money it can get, said Ross Greathouse, president of the group.

"We are looking for any spare change," he said.

Greathouse said his group is also planning and raising money to extend the MoPac trail to City Campus.

The extension will connect both UNL campuses, as well bring Lincoln and

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