



The Antelope

{ University of Nebraska at Kearney }



MADE AT U.N.K.

Speakers stress risks of alcohol

Chelsie Flanagan
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, the Loper Programming and Activities Council, or LPAC, brought two speakers to campus who spoke about the dangers of alcohol consumption.

Patty Spady of Beatrice spoke about her daughter, Samantha (Sam) Spady, who died of alcohol poisoning during her freshman year at Colorado State University in 2005.

Spady relayed the story of her daughter's last night alive, as she went around to different parties, drinking along the way. At the end of the night, Sam Spady passed out in an unused room in one of the fraternity houses and never woke up.

"I am here to let you know the dangers of alcohol," Spady said. "Sam drank too much and too fast in very little time."

Spady stressed the importance of knowing your limitations when drinking. She encouraged students to drink responsibly and in moderation.

"Drinking is not a numbers game," she said. "What

one person can handle, another cannot. Nobody is invincible, nobody's too smart."

Her daughter's death has inspired Spady to travel to college campuses across the nation offering advice for students to prevent more deaths from alcohol poisoning.

"Drinking is not a numbers game. What one person can handle, another cannot. Nobody is invincible, nobody's too smart."

Patty Spady
Mother of Sam Spady

She encouraged students to dial "9-1-1" if someone they are drinking with is unconscious or semiconscious, has irregular breathing, cold, clammy or bluish skin, cannot be awakened or



Photo by Kathlene Jordan

Patty Spady exhibits her daughter's art work who died on alcohol poisoning.

is vomiting without waking up.

"Never leave an intoxicated person alone," Spady said.

Keith Becker, a sophomore speech communications major from Kearney, also spoke at the event.

Becker spoke about the tragedy of losing his younger brother, Todd

Becker, a high school senior, in an alcohol-related accident last February. His message was about making the right choices and getting on the right path.

"If you want to see the reality of my brother's choices, go to the Kearney Cemetery," he said. "It's not about one night of partying, but about choices and this is

what he [Todd] got. Where is your life headed for eternity?"

Becker spoke about how the choices you make today will affect your life in the future. He said the night his brother died, he was drinking and he shared the moment that he made a decision that has changed his life.

"I have changed," he said. "When we buried my brother I made the decision to commit my life to a better choice. I don't want to see God drunk."

Becker quoted a verse from the Bible, saying, "Wide is the path and broad is the road that leads to

See **Drinking** on page 10

October is GLBT Month

Heather Berney
Entertainment/Layout
Editor

"I am who I am and I'm not going to apologize for it," said Josh Hermansen, UNK senior, in regard to homosexuality in light of the campus's observance of Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) History Month.

October marks the anniversaries of the 1979 and 1987 national marches on Washington, D.C. for lesbian and gay rights as well as National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11.

This October also marks the seventh year since Matthew Shepard was murdered. On Wednesday, a moment of silence was observed in honor of Shepard, as well as a public showing of "The Laramie Project."

The film is a depiction of Laramie Wyo. after Oct. 7, 1998, when Shepard was tied to a split-rail fence, then tortured and beaten. Shepard was 21 and a college student at Colorado State University.

Hermansen said, "I often wonder if we've learned anything from the Matthew Shepard story. Some people tried to learn from the situation, and some people tried to sweep it under the rug. Out of sight, out of mind."

Paula Rieder, the adviser for The Open Door, an orga-

nization on campus that welcomes members of the gay community and their supporters, said she believes that there is still room for education and understanding on behalf of UNK students, Nebraska residents and people nation-wide.

"Incidents similar to what happened to Matthew Shepard still happen," Rieder said. "Intolerance is still a big part of life for many people, and sometimes it's a risk to be oneself."

Rieder said she recognizes the advancements that have been made in regard to equal rights, but believes that the road ahead is a long one. She said she believes that a university campus, a place known for open-mindedness and self-expression, is the perfect place to address the issue of equal rights.

"It's hard for people to change," she said. "Growth means admitting you might be wrong about an issue and about certain people."

The Open Door meets every other Wednesday in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, room 116 of the Student Union, at 5 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 19th. Those wishing to join the committee can visit their Web site at www.unk.edu/student_org/opendoor.

Hermansen says he often weighs his desire to stay in



Photo by Erika Dimas

Paula Rieder, the adviser of The Open Door, a GLBT organization on campus.

the Midwest and change people's minds about gay rights with his aspirations to leave.

"There is a light at the end of the tunnel," Hermansen said. "I might not see that light in my life-

time. People must first become receptive to change."

See page 10 for judicial information on this issue.

Weatherman leaves legacy

Jared Blanton
Staff Writer

Bob Geiger, who covered weather for NTV for 23 years, died Friday, Sept. 30, at Good Samaritan Hospital. Geiger was 60 years old.

The NTV weather man had suffered from many health ailments since a severe car accident in 1999. In June he had a heart attack. Geiger was being treated for complications from the heart attack at Good Samaritan Hospital in late September. During this time, he suffered from a second heart attack, according to an NTV press release.

Geiger anchored the evening newscasts for many years. His broadcast schedule was modified in April when he began reporting the noon weather report weekdays and Saturday shows. Geiger had been a weatherman at NTV since 1982.

On the NTV Web site, many Kearney citizens and area residents expressed their sympathy for Geiger. To many, he was not only a reporter of the news, but also a representative of the community and central Nebraska for many years.

"I grew up watching Bob Geiger on the weather," Stacie Sich, in a written memorial on the Web site, said. "My favorite times were watching to see if school would be canceled due to the weather he was forecasting. As a beginning teacher, I turned to Bob's forecasts to see if we should close school at our one room school."

UNK students who work at NTV will also remember Geiger for his professionalism, his love for family life and his overall good nature.

Kate Garey, a production assistant at NTV and UNK senior from Polk majoring in mass media, noted that Geiger would always be very talkative with everyone working and enjoyed getting to know the people at the station.

"He always was excited to talk about his grandson. He was just so proud to be a grandfather," Garey said. "Everyone knew Bob and he would talk to you about life and he loved to get to know everyone at the station."

Alicia Liebsch, a senior from Allen majoring in advertising with a minor in graphic design, also works

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FRIDAY

Partly Cloudy
High 77
Low 41

SATURDAY

Clear
High 76
Low 44

SUNDAY

Chance of rain
High 66
Low 41



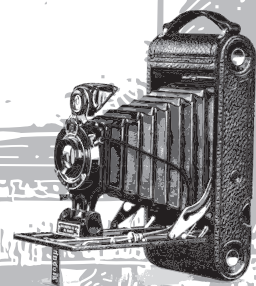


PHOTO of The WEEK

Photo by Daniel Nickel

The view from above the dam near UNK on a rainy Tuesday evening.

To submit pictures for Photo of the Week, save pictures as JPEG files and send them to antelope@unk.edu, or call 865-8716 for assistance.



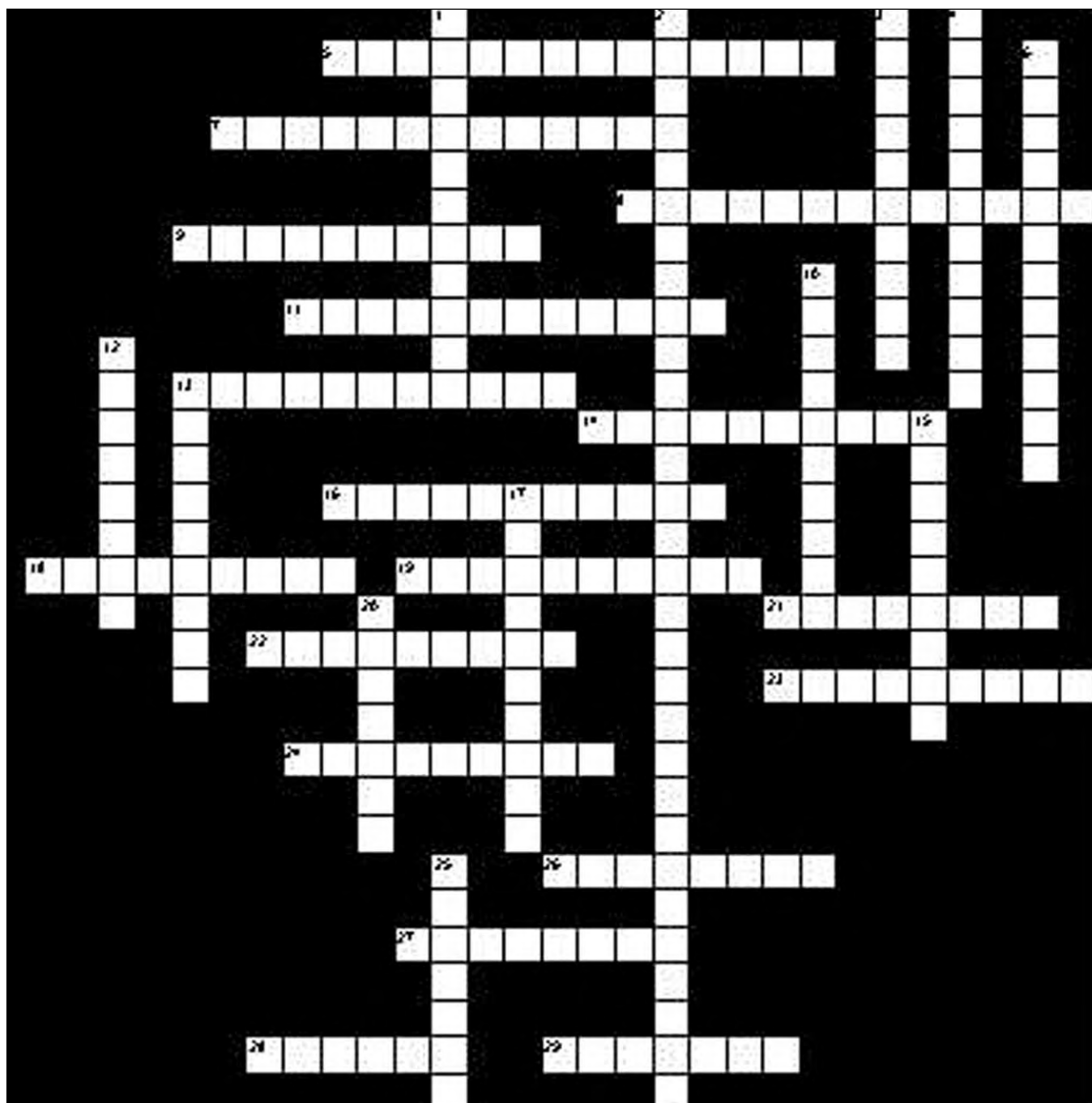
Vernacular-building crossword puzzle

ACROSS

5. The use of unnecessarily wordy or indirect language; a round-about expression.
7. This is used for gathering information statistically for a survey.
8. Any of a group of psychotic disorders usually characterized by withdrawal from reality, illogical patterns of thinking, delusions and hallucinations.
9. Indirect; circuitous.
11. The formation or use of words such as buzz or murmur that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions to which they refer.
13. A sudden breaking off of a thought in the middle of a sentence, as though the speaker were unwilling or unable to continue.
14. To represent as greater than is actually the case.
16. The use of indirect language.
18. Of, or relating to, the middle class; held to be preoccupied with respectability or material values.
19. Something you hurt if you fall down, possibly; of, or relating to, or affecting the sacrum and ilium and their associated ligaments.
21. A noncommissioned rank in the U.S. Army or Marine Corps that is above corporal.
22. The act of substituting a mild, indirect or vague term for one considered harsh, blunt or offensive.
23. A very small dog of a breed originating in Mexico, having pointed ears and a smooth coat and a very sharp bark.
24. Segregation; especially referring to discrimination in South Africa.
26. The omission of a word or phrase necessary for a complete syntactical construction but not necessary for understanding.
27. Being equal distance apart everywhere.
28. Grammar in which a single word, especially a verb or an adjective, is applied to two or more nouns when its sense is appropriate to only one of them.
29. Not a drug; rather, a female hero.

DOWN

1. Oblige, provide for, make suitable.
2. A nonsense word popularized by a song in the movie "Mary Poppins."
3. The direct or exact opposite; opposition.
4. Being in the process of passing out of use or usefulness.
6. Grossly irreverent toward what is or is held to be sacred.
10. Profuse bleeding.
12. A rhetorical inversion of the second of two parallel structures, used by Coleridge with some success.
13. A member of any of the indigenous peoples of Australia; a native.
15. Containing or derived from error, mistaken.
17. To irritate or torment persistently.
20. A king of ancient Egypt.
25. A seven-day African celebration.



Nebraska Writers Guild Fall Conference

Oct. 15, Copeland Hall 140
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Professional, award-winning writers will discuss writers' roles in society, share their secrets of writing and read some of their works on Saturday.



the bottom line

How far has the Midwest progressed in acceptance of homosexuals since the Matthew Sheppard incident?



"It has become more tolerant. I think it was a stepping stone to more acceptance on campus."

Aaron Dickey, Alliance
Sophomore



"I haven't heard of more incidents since then. Maybe it's progressed a little bit."

Allison Hoffman, Grand Island
Freshman



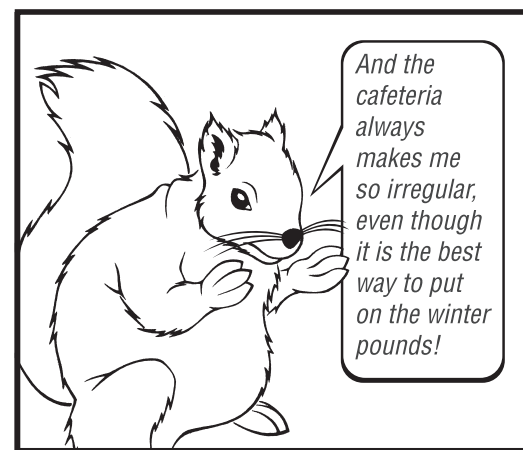
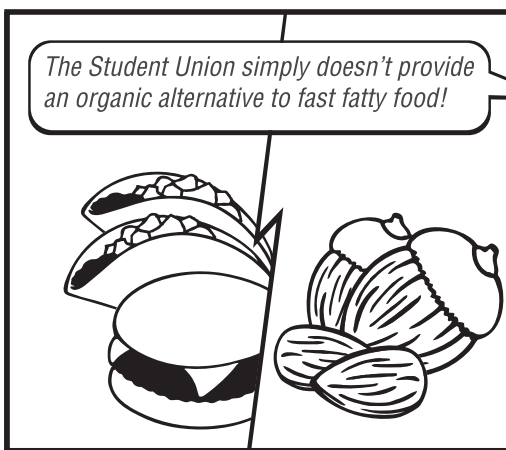
"Really, it depends on the area. Some are really progressive; others really aren't."

Josh Hermansen, Chadron
Senior



"I don't think we've progressed really at all. The thing with Sheppard could happen to anyone in the U.S. today."

Amber Hruby, McCook
Senior



holter: rawlingsjc@unk.edu



Whoever said that cartoons rot your brain was probably right. Oh well, it's too late for these guys. Sit back and enjoy another batch of cartoons from Mike Adelman and Jared Rawlings!

Tomoko Kadono Reader's Opinion

I am glad that a new hall will go up at UNK because a hall is more comfortable than off-campus living for freshmen and other students who come from other countries.

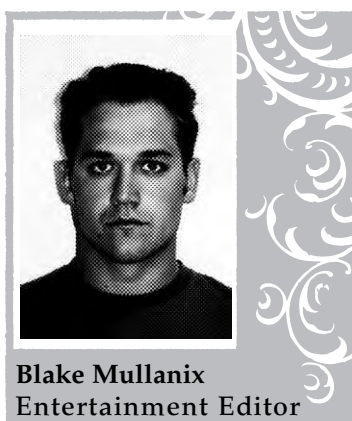
However, I feel sad that Case Hall will come down. I believe Case Hall is the best hall for international students because the hall is one of break housing, and residents do not have to pick up meal plans.

The residence office said they will not require students who do not pick up meal plans in this semester to pick up meal plans next semester. However, there

are no halls which have satisfying kitchens like Case Hall, and the residence office will not provide additional kitchen staff in the other halls.

I have a bit of concern about residents during next semester. People who live in Case Hall have to move out against their will. We love Case Hall, and some of us do not have interest in other dorms. However, the residence office will require \$500 if we move off-campus. I cannot understand why we must pay \$500 in this situation. I think the residence office at UNK does not support us well. I really feel depressed about moving out of Case Hall.

Attention citizens of planet Earth



Blake Mullanix
Entertainment Editor

In light of recent events, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Osama bin Laden and his group of kamikaze cronies, because look out al-Qaida, Mother Nature has awoken from her mighty slumber and decided to remind all of us that we are but fleas on the hairy back of the dog that we call life, capable of being shook off at her will. Please exit stage right, al-Qaida. Don't call us, we'll call you.

After al-Qaida masterminded the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, governments throughout the globe converged to thwart any other would-be terrorists from unleashing such devastation again. What a novel idea.

Pay attention, you may see a trend appearing.

In particular, the United

States government, and namely President George W. Bush, were quick to respond to this new enemy, establishing the Patriot Act and the Department of Homeland Security. It is debatable whether or not these adjustments to our way of life have helped to prevent another attack, but it is reassuring to know someone is at least looking out and that our government is concerned.

Mother Nature does not board planes, she is not a stowaway on a ship and she does not cross borders. She is the facilitator to the elements who makes these feats possible, not only to a terrorist, but to everyone.

Last week when the ground split between India and Pakistan, killing upwards of 40,000 (the numbers are still out on this one), CNN was not on hand to report of al-Qaida's latest diabolical escapades. In fact, the terrorist dime store dirty bombs were nowhere to found. Somewhere bin Laden is scratching his head and drueling, but not because of fleas and dysentery.

Indonesia, 2004: A tidal wave generated from the largest earthquake the world has felt in four decades smashed the coast-

lines of many islands in the Indian Ocean, killing hundreds of thousands. Eat your heart out al-Qaida.

And that's not the half of it. Let us examine the past year, no wait, the past two months in the United States alone. While numbers regarding the loss of life from the destruction of hurricanes Katrina and Rita are still out, it is safe to say that fatalities will probably match the total from the attack on New York City in 2001. The bad news, hurricane season is just getting warmed up.

Meanwhile, wildfires are scorching the pristine hills of southern California, New Mexico and Arizona, threatening the lives of thousands of citizens, and egad, even our beloved celebrities! And how much did all of this cost those supporting the jihad against America? The same as it costs me to pay the first month of cable service, care of Charter Media. Nothing!

Where am I going with this, you are asking? It is time to take action. Sure preparation is key in saving lives when natural disasters occur, ask former director of FEMA Michael Brown. He might have something to say, but prevention can be a risk-avoidance altogether. We are attempting to pre-

vent another al-Qaida attack, but when do we begin preventing another natural disaster?

It is a weak cop-out to put this all on the government, though they do control the funding (or lack thereof) to researchers and scientists who are unraveling the reasons for Mother Nature's ill-tempered behavior. Get a bike, skateboard or at least a hybrid vehicle and try to be pro-active. Reduce, reuse and recycle. It shouldn't be hard if you are a broke college undergrad.

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Any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions should be sent above.

Residential halls raise controversy

Matt Ringen
Staff Writer

The new UNK Residential Halls, planned for construction next semester, have raised discussions. Some are concerned with the cost of living in the new dorms that are supposedly double the charge of traditional housing. Others wonder if the attractiveness of that area of the campus could be diminished with the possible elimination of trees.

According to Richard Larson, the Residential and Greek Life associate director, the reason for this renovation is due to the current halls having poor air circulation, water damage and high costs in repairs. Renovating Case and Ludden Halls, built in 1930 and 1961, respectively, would cost more than building new halls in their place.

"Our existing halls are experiencing much deferred maintenance issues that just aren't providing the accommodations students are seeking today," Larson said.

The Residential and Greek Life associate director explained that the older facilities do not accommodate newer accessibility guidelines by the American

with Disabilities Act (ADA). The fire and life safety systems, such as sprinklers and keyless access control, along with ramps and elevators, that are now required features would have been difficult to add to the old halls.

Larson said the new halls will house approximately 300 students and could be a

"I compliment our students for being so courteous, when in fact, they weren't treated very well at all."

Dr. Bill Wozniak
Professor of Psychology at UNK

selling point to many students deciding to attend UNK. The series of three buildings will be built suite-style with two single-bedroom suites and four single-bedroom suites with a shared living room space, kitchenette space, storage and one or two bathrooms,

depending on the number of rooms. The halls will include a commons space with computer labs, laundry areas and kitchens. Lobby areas will have desk and mail operations.

"Our new facilities will allow heat and cool air to be controlled nearly instantaneously to regulate the temperature," he said.

According to Larson, students were surveyed in November 2003 and a sufficient number of students agreed that they would pay for what it would take to construct suite-style housing.

"The cost for new suites will be in line with what comparison schools are charging for new housing," he said. "UNK is being very conservative in not overbuilding this style of housing due to the expense and price sensitivity."

Primary objectives of the halls are to retain upper division students in campus housing, recruit new students, to provide diverse housing options and to increase student satisfaction.

Many students have only been given a short notice on the plans for the new halls. Some have to find other living arrangements or move into other residential rooms with more people so the two

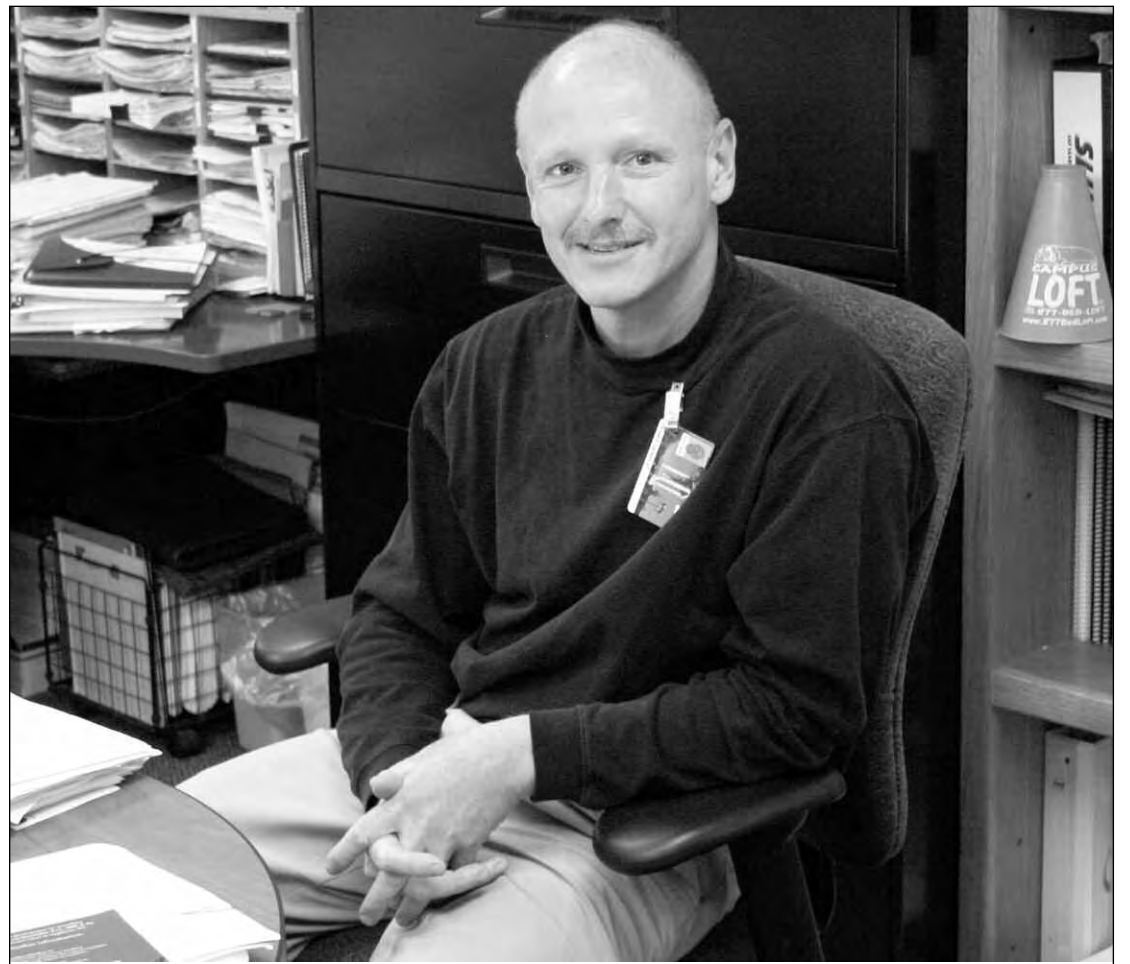


Photo by Matt Ringen
Richard Larson, the Residential and Greek Life associate director.

buildings can be evacuated before demolition and construction take place.

Ginny Schwarz, a college transfer from Kansas Wesleyan, was a resident of Ludden Hall at the beginning of the fall semester. Schwarz received a letter two weeks prior to the beginning of school that the two halls needed to be evacuated by next semester, and she needed to find an alternative place to live.

The college would assist Schwarz if she needed help finding a place. She said, "It is inconvenient how we have to talk to them to find an alternative for the situation. We were not given enough notice about the matter."

Dr. Bill Wozniak, professor of psychology, commends students for having such a good attitude and being polite about the situation.

"It seems to me like the administration is certainly legal, but what they are doing to students is not very nice," Wozniak said. "I compliment our students for being so courteous, when in fact, they weren't treated very well at all."

Larson said the plans for the new halls are projected north of Founders Hall,

south of the current visitor parking area, and where Case and Ludden are currently located. There will be three buildings, two in place of the old ones and a new building in the area north of Founders. A modern-looking archway will connect the two buildings, which will be above the commuter parking and pedestrian walkway area where many student and visitors enter the campus.

Although the general area is set in place, Wozniak said, "How many of the old growth trees we have in that area will be sacrificed for these residence halls?"

He added that the area north of Founders, along with the strip just north of Case Hall, is one of the only wooded areas that makes the campus beautiful.

Wozniak brought up the question at last week's monthly faculty senate meeting, but the executive committee of the faculty senate will pursue the question at their next meeting with administration.

He has been a psychology professor and member of the faculty senate at the college for many years, yet he was uninformed about the plans for a long period of

time, just as the students were.

"The first I saw the plan for the new halls was in the Alumni UNK Today publication," Wozniak said. "I don't know if it has really been discussed broadly enough to think of whether or not the campus community wants to sacrifice where the halls will be in terms of the attractiveness on that part of campus."

Mark Hayden, a current resident of Ludden Hall, does not think the new halls are necessary because he feels the current dorms already meet the students' needs. Hayden said that socializing with other students will not be as easy within the new halls.

"It will be kind of sad when the halls are destroyed because I have enjoyed the social atmosphere of this place, and it won't be the same," he said.

With the surrounded controversy, construction is still planned to begin in spring of 2006.

Photo by Matt Ringen

Ludden Hall, built in 1961, will be torn down next semester.



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

S.A.F.E. Center talks on dating violence

Katherine Thomas
Staff Writer

In honor of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Spousal/Sex Abuse Family Education Center, or S.A.F.E. Center, gave a presentation on campus, entitled "A Perspective on Dating and Domestic Violence: Prevention, Recognition."

Criminal Justice Advocate Cari E. began the presentation with shocking statistics. From ages 18 to 65, one out of four women are abused. She said it takes some more than seven attempts to successfully leave an abusive partner.

Sometimes it is because of children, financial reasons, a lack of self-esteem or a lack of support.

She told the audience about the different services that the S.A.F.E. Center provides, including a 24-hour crisis line and an emergency shelter for victims in need of a safe, confidential location.

A video viewing was canceled at the event due to technological difficulties. Instead, audience members were encouraged to ask questions to gain better understandings about dating violence.

Andrea Peachey, a senior majoring in graphic design, attended the presentation.

"It is good to know if you're in an abusive rela-

"There is a great need for a unit on campus that would take an active role in providing educational and informational resources."

Dr. Carol Lilly
Professor and chair of history department

tionship that there is a place to go to get help. I like the kind of services they [S.A.F.E. Center] provide

and the approach they take to talking to someone about it," Peachey said.

The event was sponsored by the women's studies honor society, Iota Iota Iota. Both men and women were encouraged to attend.

The S.A.F.E. Center is currently working in conjunction with the women's studies program to start a women's center on campus.

Typically, when there is an assault on campus, students go to the women's studies program instead of the S.A.F.E. Center, which is located off-campus.

Dr. Carol Lilly, professor and chair of the history department and co-director of the women's studies program, said, "There is a great need for a unit on campus that would take an active role in providing educational and informational resources for male and female students concerning gender inequality and women's health and safety."

Lilly believes the recent sexual assaults on campus have reinforced the need for women's activism and they have been a reminder of the existence of sexual violence in our society.

"There is a tendency that here in the Midwest we live in a haven," she said. "It is always a shock to be reminded that violence takes place right at our very doorstep. It is not that we do not intellectually know it is true, but we tend to forget. We feel isolated from the worst of those abuses."

The administration is interested in providing students a women's center, but there are budgetary constraints. Lilly believes the administration is seeking to improve communication on campus about public safety and that there will be progress in eventually establishing the women's center on campus.

"You don't want anyone to live in an atmosphere of

fear," she said.

Other S.A.F.E. Center events will take place this semester. There will be a self-defense class on Oct. 13, in Cushing 120, at 7 p.m. and the 9th annual Candlelight Vigil at 7 p.m. on Oct. 18, in the parking lot of the Museum of Nebraska Art. Polly Mitchell, a survivor of domestic violence, will speak at the vigil about her experiences.

The S.A.F.E. Center
3710 Central Avenue,
Suite 10
Kearney, NE 68847

24-hours Crisis Line:
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All services are free and confidential.

News media play role in society

WWW: The death of print?

John Christian Ludwig
Guest Writer

Newspaper circulation and readership has been steadily declining for over 40 years.

According to the Newspaper Association of America, less than 50 percent of adults will read a newspaper each weekday by the end of the decade, down from more than 80 percent of American adults reading a newspaper each day in 1964.

The Internet, since its inception, continues to be the fastest growing medium in history.

Weboptimiser.com, a research firm that specializes in web analysis and search engine rankings, reports that the number of registered Internet domain names has nearly reached

77 million.

The growth of the Internet and online news sources has not led to the downfall of print. The numbers have pulled out of their downward plunge and, much like the "dot-com" bust of the late 90s, the successful publications have found ways to weather the storm.

Online media have not become the falsely prophesied doom of print. As they have grown, the two media have become heavily intertwined.

In the mid-90s, the focus of the news-print industry was to create Web sites that may one day supersede or replace their print publications. However, after the initial scare wore off, it became apparent that both print and online news sources had to change the way they conducted their

publishing in order to attract new readers and hold onto existing ones.

Now the focus is to create a print publication and an online publication that are designed to compliment one another.

The Online Journalism Review reports, "Newsprint editions can exist without the online editions, but online editions can't exist without newsprint editions."

Many of the early online news sources that inundated the Internet in the 90s have since disappeared. News sources that have no print version have a difficult time surviving against print giants such as the New York Times or The Washington Post.

"Ten years into the era of publishing via the Internet, online editions still depend almost totally upon

newsprint editions for content and financial support."

Mike Konz, managing editor for the Kearney Hub, said it's important for a newspaper's Web site to balance the print version. A successful news Web site does not have all of the content of its print edition and vice versa.

The Kearney Hub's print version has more than 13,000 subscribers and their Web site has grown to over 4,000 readers.

Web sites have not spelled the doom for print publications, and it doesn't look like they're going to in the immediate future.

However, these two media will have to continue to grow and adapt together in order to successfully compete for readers' attention.

'Accuracy is the key to reporting'

Katrina Campuzano
Guest Writer

A little mistake can go a long way.

"Once, a picture I took for The Antelope was captioned wrong. The name of

about the recent survey findings regarding society's view of journalism credibility.

He said the public's lack of confidence in journalism is due to sensationalism and inaccurate reporting.

"People are bothered more by error than bias," he said. "You can tell right away if someone is biased. You can't tell if they're inaccurate."

Todd Gottula, the business reporter for the Kearney Hub, has his own way of making sure his reporting is accurate.

"One of my own policies is that anytime I publish a phone number, I call it myself to make sure it is correct. I also double-check all addresses by using our city directory, the phone book and chamber of commerce directories," Gottula said. "Doing these things takes a little extra effort, but I've found it's made a big difference in cutting down on the number of mistakes in my stories."

Mike Konz
Managing Editor
Kearney Hub

the person did not match up with the photo," Jennifer Klingelhofer, a UNK graduate and former communication department student, said.

Mike Konz, managing editor of the Kearney Hub, told UNK journalism students Monday that though the mistake was probably only recognized by those who knew the man in the photo, mistakes like this cannot be tolerated.

Konz told students

Reporting sways the case

Jennifer House
Guest Writer

The news media play very crucial roles in criminal court trials and the way they are portrayed by the general public.

Journalists have the job of trying to find the fine line between the public's right to know and the victim's right to privacy. Although there are many services that protect the rights of victims, it is still up to the media to realize what they should and should not report.

According to a 1997 study by the Center for Media and Public Affairs, the coverage of murders on networks has increased by 700 percent since 1993.


Some victimization rights groups feel that this persuades the general public to think about a person in the wrong way, therefore,

libeling them wrongly in the eyes of the public.

Kristina Gray, a senior from Kearney, said she feels that news coverage or inaccurate reporting can present the public with the wrong idea about a person before that person has had a chance to prove innocence or guilt.

"In reality, it's a nice ideal concept that they [the public] never have a preconceived notion about a case, but more times than not, you would be hard-pressed to find a jury that did not already have knowledge or prejudice about a case," Gray said.

"It'd be nice to think newspapers had nothing to do with the outcome of a court case, but they usually do."



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Concert gives Katrina victims hope

Derek Wakefield
Staff Writer

Hurricane Hope came in the form of a concert on Oct. 6 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. where local bands played for freewill donations.

The hurricane relief concert, originally located by the fountain on the campus of UNK, was moved to the Ponderosa room in the Nebraskan Student Union due to cold weather.

Tables were set up inside for raffles, Tenth Hour Calling memorabilia and freewill donations including books, money, blankets, toiletries and nonperishable food items.

All of the profit from the food, donated by local vendors, was sent with the donations to help victims of the hurricane.

Photo by Mika Arai

Wavlando Nolde of The Darts rocks for relief on bass.



The concert started with Luke Mills, of After the Order, singing and entertaining the audience with jokes and stories.

"When tragedy hits someone else and has not hit you, God has enabled you to help," Mills said.

Ben Shafer of Tenth Hour Calling followed Mills, while The Darts set up. Many audience members responded to the bands' enthusiasm about getting people to participate in donating.

Zach Houdek, UNK senior, said, "Support for national disasters comes from everywhere, even the heartland of Nebraska. We are showing people why we are called the heartland."

Logan Stickney, a senior from Kearney and chief of staff for Student Government, said that groups around campus have been wanting to do some-

thing for a hurricane relief effort. Many groups around campus got together to com-

"Support for natural disasters comes from everywhere, even the heartland of Nebraska. We are showing people why we are called the heartland."

Zach Houdek
President
UNK Ad/PR Club

bine forces and sponsor the event.

"A few people in our groups have good connections to some of the band members. One of the club members has a brother in Tenth Hour Calling and another has a friend in ATO so it wasn't too hard to get something together," Stickney said.

Between bands, Stickney mentioned he thought the event was turning out great and anticipated more people to show up later in the evening. Having moved the concert inside, the bands could be heard throughout the building, which drew more people who came to see what was going on.

According to Stickney, Cash-Wa trucks will be taking the donations to the victims of the hurricane.

Megan Boss, a senior from Bellwood and president of the Psychology Club, said, "It's awesome that local



Photo by Mika Arai

Ben Shafer, lead singer of Tenth Hour Calling, also played a solo set at the relief concert held in the Ponderosa Room of the Nebraskan Student Union.

bands take the time to support such a good cause. ATO has been my favorite local band since my freshman year when I started going to some of the events they were at."

Nearly all of the pizza places in Kearney donated

food to the event, and the campus radio station, KLPR, and Hits 106 donated airtime. Other sponsors included NTV/FOX, Student Government, Ad/PR Club, Mortar Board, Leadership UNK, Psychology Club, The Antelope newspaper, sever-

al Greek houses, Old Chicago, Pizza Hut, Domino's, Papa John's, Little Caesar's, Pepsi and several local businesses.

Mochas and Music hosts Shevy Smith

Sheena Rader
Staff Writer

Shevy Smith, songwriter and performer, entertained UNK students for the Mochas and Music event held on Friday evening at the Nebraskan Student Union.

Smith is a Kansas native, but has been living in Nashville, Tenn., for the past four years. She's traveled to 43 states and spent the summer in Europe singing for troops at military bases. Since then she's been busy traveling to college campuses to perform.

Smith said, "The best thing about being a musician is that I get to travel and meet people. I also have lots

of friends who are writers, and I like the emotional reaction payoff I get from reaching people with my music."

A New York producer discovered the Kansas native when he heard one of her recordings as a 16-year-old, and she's never looked back.

This producer did the soundtrack for the movie, "Dirty Dancing," among others. Because of his credentials and previous success, Smith said she knew she was in good hands.

With a lot of musical background, Smith put her first album out last year entitled, "Blueprint," which is the title of the first song on the record.

She started playing piano at age four and picked up a

guitar when she was 14 years old. Her music is all original, influenced mostly by Tom Petty, Jackson Browne and Sheryl Crow.

"There's a difference between being a singer and being an artist," Smith said. "For instance, like Sheryl Crow, she's an artist. She's got something to say. That's what I like most about doing what I do. I have the opportunity to say something. I can take a message and translate it into a song."

"Singers are a little bit different than artists. They are typically just about their image."

Along with a good song, well-written lyrics and a voice to sing with, is a message to reach the audience.

"One message I hope to send to my audience is hope," she said. "It's comforting to know that other people are going through the same things that you are, and there are many reasons to be happy."

Since she performs for a lot of young people at college campuses, she said it's easy for her to relate to their lives and experiences, connecting with them through her original lyrics.

Smith said she believes that some things are inevitable and unplanned.

Her music has apparently reached listeners from all over the world, and she said she's even managed to learn a couple things about herself since becoming a songwriter and performer.

She said being on the road and having a crazy



Photo by Erika Dimas

Shevy Smith played an original acoustic at the Nebraska Student Union. Smith is one of many performers who will take part in the Mochas and Music series at UNK.

schedule can do a number on your health and well-being.

Laughing, she said, "I've definitely learned that I function better when I'm eating healthy. I also figured out that I need lots of sleep and time alone. It's important to me to have a good deal of alone time because it

allows me to clear my thoughts and slow down."

Next on Smith's schedule is a visit to Chicago, Ill. She'll be there all next week and then it's back to Nashville for a writing session where she'll continue making new music.

Mochas and Music is funded by UPFF and spon-

sored by Loper Programming and Activities Council. For more information on Mochas and Music and future events, call 865-8655.

Graphic by Jaime Flores



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Foster Field nearing completion

Derek Miller
Staff Writer

The Renovations at Foster Field are ongoing, but it is going to be well worth the wait.

On April 6, 2004, Chancellor Doug Kristensen announced the initiation of a project to improve the outdoor sports and recreational facilities on campus. Upgrading Foster Field was always atop the list of campus improvements and now is close to being done.

The field already has a new synthetic FIELDturf surface and a new scoreboard, lighting, sound system and game clocks. The new field is paying dividends.

"It helps us from an image standpoint. It's one of the first things you see when you arrive on campus and it didn't sell UNK very well in the past. It was time to bring it into the current age," Athletic Director Jon McBride said.

The renovation also includes a new press box, which includes a new training room, bathrooms, an official room and a new locker room for both UNK and the visiting team. This has helped in recruiting students and student athletes to campus.

"It paid off instantaneously. We sold the Health and Sports Center and our weight room more so than we did our football stadium - it is now part of the recruit-

ing efforts," McBride said.

The question on many minds now is, when is the construction going to be done? The original date was set for Aug. 27, the University of Nebraska Omaha game, but that date was a bit premature.

"We were pretty optimistic that we would get some things done, probably a little to ambitious. Hopefully by the end of the football season it will be complete, but I don't think it will be 100 percent complete until next football season," McBride said.

The new Foster Field will be one of the finest stadiums in Division II when it is complete. The official unveiling will be at the beginning of next football season.



Photo by Daniel Nickel
Construction for new facilities for the athletes at Foster Field is near completion.



Photo by Daniel Nickel
A view from the front of the new press box at Foster Field.

All Lopers on the right track



Ben Goetz
Brandon Wright
Guest Columnists

Mark it on your calendar: Nov. 11-13. Clear your plans, cancel appointments, postpone road trips, and if necessary, sell the farm. OK, you probably shouldn't sell the farm, but you should definitely be in Kearney that weekend to experience one of the best sports weekends of the year for the Lopers.

If the teams continue playing like RMAC leaders, UNK could host postseason games in both football and volleyball.

The UNK football team is currently 6-1 and undefeated in the RMAC after a pivotal victory over Colorado School of Mines, this past Saturday. After falling behind 14-6 in the first quarter, the Lopers showed grit, determination and tenacity while coming back to defeat the Miners, 35-24.

Entering this game, both teams were 3-0 in the RMAC, and they knew the winner would be in the proverbial driver's seat for a championship run.

The combined record of the Lopers' final four regular season opponents is 11-16 with four of the wins coming from a 4-2 Fort Lewis squad who is figured to be the Lopers' toughest remaining competition.

The Skyhawks' four conference wins come against 2-5 Fort Hays State, 2-5 Chadron State, 3-4 Mesa State and 0-7 Western State. They haven't exactly been playing the North Dakota Fighting Sioux's of Division II college football.

Look for the Lopers to keep rolling on the gridiron and moving toward the

possibility of hosting a first-round playoff game on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Like football, volleyball has also been cruising. The Lopers are No. 1 in the conference and region, and No. 1 in the country.

UNK is the favorite to not only host the RMAC tourney that weekend in November, but also the Southwest Regional Tournament the following weekend, both for the second consecutive year.

The Lopers face several tough tests late, such as the yearly in-state battle with the Mavericks of UNO, a very tough road match against division rival Metro State, and home contests against traditional rival Fort Hays State and West Division leader Colorado Colorado Springs.

However, the Lopers remain the favorite to take the top spot in the region and earn the right to bring the Southwest Regional tournament back to the Health and Sports Center.

Fans of UNK volleyball should be excited to see the Lopers seek out their third straight Elite Eight appearance at home, Nov. 11-13.

In addition to potentially hosting the regional tournament, there is always the possibility of winning the bid to hold the Elite Eight tournament right here in Kearney.

After just missing out last year, you can bet the UNK athletic department will work very hard to bring the tournament here this year if the Lopers claim the regional crown.

We realize there are a lot of games to be played between now and then, but Loper athletics show no signs of letting up.

We hope the Lopers are able to host postseason games, and that UNK supporters continue to show the region and the nation that Kearney has the best fans in all of Division II.

As always, see you at the game.

Chris Parks
Staff Writer

The UNK volleyball team continues to impress with a 25-2 record and a No. 2 national ranking.

In the past two weekends, the Loper volleyball team has traveled over 3,000 miles to compete against Mesa State, Western State, Adams State and Fort Lewis.

Through all the tiresome travel, the team managed to win all four matches, losing only two sets.

The Lopers don't have to worry about spending time on a bus for a while as they now play four straight matches at home. Success on the road is one example of this team's resiliency.

One major setback is that the Lopers have to deal with

the recent loss of senior setter Bethany Spilde for the season, due to a broken bone in her right foot.

Head Coach Rick Squiers said, "The loss of Bethany is a huge blow to all of us because we care so much about her and we know how hard she has worked to get to this point. We are very fortunate to have another very good setter in Rachel Gerdes who has stepped in and played very well."

"Bethany has been a huge part of the great recent success of Loper volleyball including anything we can do this year. Without her, however, we are very confident that Rachel can bring her own strengths and flare to the court."

UNK volleyball's success shows no signs of letting up no matter what obstacles are

thrown in their way. So with all the success of Loper volleyball in the past few years, how does this team differ from the rest?

"This year's team has its own personality just like every team," Squiers said. "They are all different. I would describe this team as experienced and not easily rattled. We have demonstrated that we can play well in close games, which is a good trait. It is an even keeled team."

Squiers said he feels this team is very close to being where they thought they could be this season. The only thing he feels the team needs is a little more consistency. After last season's 40-1 record, with the one loss in the final four, there were high expectations.

Squiers explained how

the Lopers try to meet those expectations.

"With the tradition of UNK volleyball, it is always a challenge to meet or exceed high expectations," he said. "We try to focus on smaller things by setting specific goals for every game. If we stay committed to that concept, hopefully we will win our share of matches. It is not always easy, but we are lucky that it has become part of our program."

Squiers' favorite aspect of this year's team is that the team has "a lot of different personalities which makes every day interesting. They are also a team that expects to win and has the courage to set very high goals."

Professor Darnell hands out grades

Darnell Wood
Staff Writer

San Diego Chargers - 2-2
Overall

Offense: They are beginning to realize, if running back LaDainian Tomlinson doesn't touch the ball enough times, the Chargers will lose a lot of games.

Defense: The defense is improved, but still giving up the big plays too much.

Grade: B

AFC North:

Cincinnati Bengals - 4-1
Overall

Offense: The offense is exploding and wide receiver Chad Johnson is having a MVP-type season.

Defense: The defense is good, but not great. Against Jacksonville they actually looked human.

Grade: A

Cleveland Browns - 2-2
Overall

Offense: Quarterback Trent Dilfer looks like he did the year he won the Super Bowl - and that's not good for opponents.

Defense: This unit has been improving, but can they stop the run?

Grade: C+

Pittsburgh Steelers - 2-1
Overall

Offense: Running back Willie Parker has this offense booming, with a little help from quarterback Big Ben Roethlisberger.

Defense: This defense swarms to the ball like no other team. Strong safety Troy Polamalu is a star in the making.

Grade: A-

Baltimore Ravens - 1-3
Overall

Offense: This offense looks extremely bad and is

getting worse.

Defense: With all the big name stars like linebacker Ray Lewis, strong safety Ed Reed and defensive end Terrell Suggs, why does the Ravens' defense look that bad?

Grade: D-
AFC South:

Indianapolis Colts - 5-0
Overall

Offense: Not the scoring team we saw last year, but something tells me quarterback Peyton Manning will have his say in that.

Defense: The best defense, by far, in the NFL. They only give up 5.8 yards a game.

Grade: A+
Jacksonville Jaguars - 3-2
Overall

Offense: Quarterback Byron Leftwich is doing well, but where's running back Fred Taylor?

Defense: The defense is solid at each position and can harass the quarterback more than any team in the AFC.

Grade: B
Tennessee Titans - 2-3
Overall

Offense: Quarterback Steve McNair is looking better each game, but he really has no help.

Defense: This is a young squad that plays very inconsistently.

Grade: C-
Houston Texans - 0-4
Overall

Offense: Is quarterback David Carr playing like a first round draft pick? I think not.

Defense: The defense can't stop anyone and the

season just keeps getting worse.

Grade: F
AFC East:

New England Patriots - 3-2
Overall

Offense: Teams are finding out that if they put pressure on quarterback Tom Brady, he actually doesn't look like Superman.

Defense: The defense looked very suspect against the Charger's.

Grade: B
Miami Dolphins - 2-2
Overall

Offense: The offense is okay. Wide receiver Chris Chambers and tight end Randy McMichael are the only real playmakers.

Defense: The defense is solid and doesn't give up many points.

Grade: C+

Buffalo Bills - 2-3
Overall

Offense: Where can we find wide receiver Eric Moulds? Are you anywhere out there? Quarterback J.P. Losman looks like a rookie, not a veteran.

Defense: With linebacker Takeo Spikes out for the season, the Bills' defense will get throttled.

Grade: C-
New York Jets - 2-3
Overall

Offense: With quarterbacks Chad Pennington and Jay Fiedler out, the Jets have gone to Vinny Testaverde to lead the team to victory. Isn't he about 50 years old?

Defense: The defense has stars on this team, they just don't play together too well.

-- D+

Intramural sports fun for many

Megan Kulhanek
Staff Writer

What is there to do at UNK? As high school athletes shift to the role of focusing solely on their academic career, they can become frustrated with their lack of activity. Many students miss the days of high school sports. The answer to all of this is UNK intramural sports.

Perrin Schmidt, a freshman from Gordon majoring in industrial distribution, said, "I like the competition. I am a very competitive person, and intramural sand volleyball allows me to continue to play sports competitively. The t-shirts for the winners is also a big inspiration, everyone wants to win the champions t-shirts."

Schmidt does have some complaints about intramurals, though.

"The time of the games definitely needs to change," Schmidt said. "They need to have more games later in the evening. In the afternoon a lot of people are still in class, so they don't get to participate."

Other sand volleyball players also dislike some aspects of intramural sports.

Luke Ballmer, a freshman from Gothenburg majoring in emergency medicine, said, "I hated wearing shoes. They told us we couldn't

play barefoot, and I think we should."

Even though there are some complaints, many people enjoy the opportunity to participate in intramurals.

"The sand volleyball area is close to the dorms, so everybody can participate. The teams didn't have to go very far for their games," said Ballmer.

Chelsey Bellamy, a freshman from Elwood majoring in management, said, "I get to spend time with my friends, and we have a lot of fun playing sand volleyball."

"We didn't think we would be very good, but we won quite a few of our games. Winning is always fun!"

The intramural teams at UNK are made up of veterans of the sport and newcomers alike. Intramural sports at UNK are competitive, but the participants have fun, too.

Lacey Reiss, a senior from Wilcox majoring in broadcasting, said, "I loved it! I had never played volleyball before intramurals this year. I got talked into playing, but I had a great time. Even though it was my first time playing, I didn't feel like the worst player there."

"Intramural volleyball was a good ending to the day. I could take out my frustrations and get away from homework for a while," Reiss said.

Opportunities to be involved with intramurals are vast, and there really is something for everyone; from the players to the referees to the student assistants.

Joy Iromuanya, a senior from Lincoln majoring in journalism, said, "It's fun to participate and to referee. I was involved in athletics in high school, and if you don't play at the collegiate level, it's a great way to get exercise and stay active in college."

While it's not the real deal or collegiate athletics, intramurals are highly competitive and highly active.

Everett Mayberry, a senior from Winnebago majoring in criminal justice and accounting, said, "Intramurals give me something to do. It's not as physical as real football, but it's fun. I can get good physical exercise without it being too time consuming."

"If I could change something about intramurals, it would be the rules. There seems to be too many rules. I mean we're big boys, and it kind of detracts from the fun of it," he said.

Scott Olsen, a junior from Omaha majoring in accounting, said, "I love the competition, and it's a good way for me to be active. I pretty much do every sport. Well, all except soccer."

Although students may

be busy, intramurals finds its way into many schedules.

Amber Davis, a sophomore from Sidney majoring in molecular biology, said, "I don't really have time to play intramurals with my class load and homework, but I make time because it's so much fun. Throughout the year I play flag football, 3-on-3 basketball, 5-on-5 basketball, softball and I participate in Hot Shot."

Davis was the 2005 champion for UNK Intramurals Hot Shot, and will be back again for the upcoming competition.

Intramurals can be a way for students to make new friends, but they also get to be reacquainted with old ones.

Anna Fagot, a freshman from Elwood majoring in criminal justice, said, "Intramurals is a great way to catch up with old friends. Friends from high school can become distant acquaintances, but through intramurals I got to spend time with some of them again."

And for some students, intramurals is fun, but not a year-to-year commitment.

Valeri Czaplewski, a senior advertising major from Lexington, said, "I didn't play this year, but I have in previous years. It was a lot of fun to meet new people, and make new friends. I miss playing, but I'm just too busy this year."

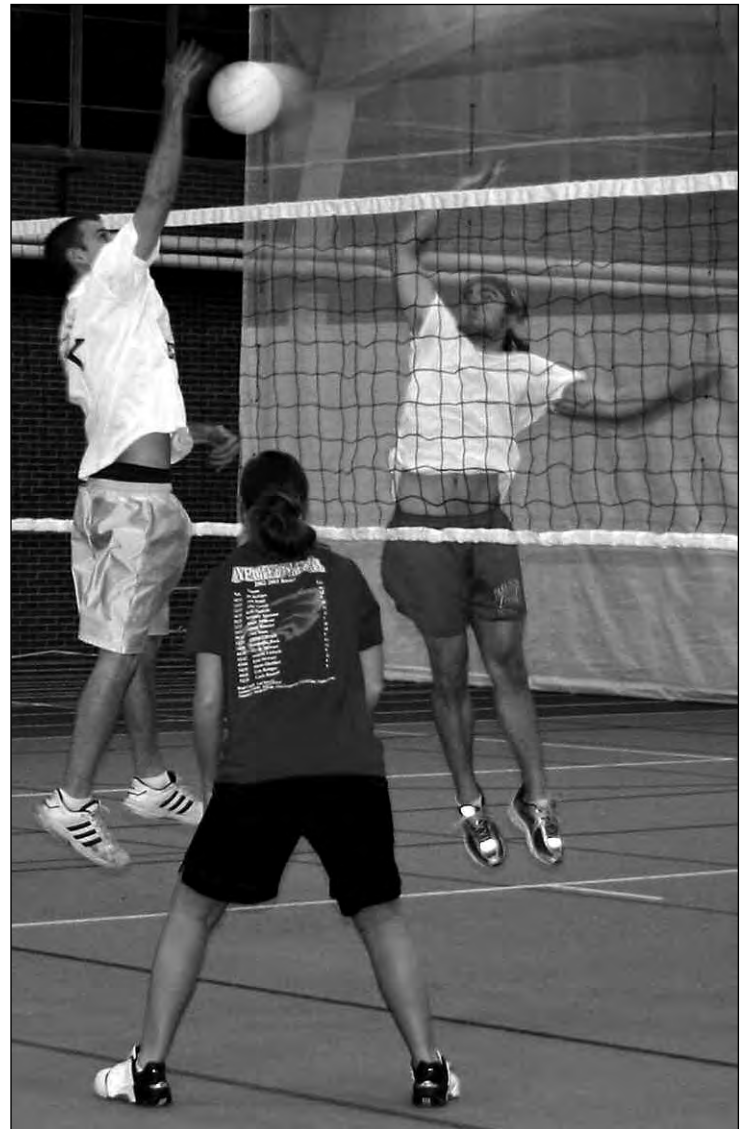


Photo by Kathlene Jordan
(from left) Ryan Grunke, senior from Norfolk, attempts to block the ball after John Lee, senior from O'Neill, spiked it during an intramurals match on Tuesday.

There are a variety of intramural sport options at UNK that provide competition and a way to get away from studies, while including exercise.

New intramural sports will be starting soon. Check out what's available at the UNK Intramurals office located on the north end of Cushing Coliseum.

Loper Zone inhabits Chartwells for lunch

Chris Parks
Staff Writer

The Loper Zone is the newest place to get your sports fix on the UNK campus. Loper Zone is a live sports talk show that takes place inside Chartwell's from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. every other Wednesday.

The show is put on by the UNK athletic department in conjunction with KLPR 91.3 FM. Loper Zone includes interviews with UNK athletes and coaches, updates on stats and scores from UNK events, promotional giveaways and updates on campus events and intramurals. Each show is broadcast live on UNK's own 91.3 The Power.

The show is geared toward getting the students more involved with Loper athletics and is set up to mimic the feel of ESPN's "College Gameday."

The UNK athletic department puts on a similar event on Thursdays called the Loper Luncheon, but Shawn Fairbanks, the assistant to the athletic director, with the help of others, came up with the idea for Loper Zone to create a more student-friendly event.

"Loper Luncheons are geared more toward adults, and some professors find time to stop by and listen to coaches and have lunch for \$5," Fairbanks said. "Students may want to hear about Loper athletics but either can't afford to, or don't know the event is going on. We thought it would be good to put on a student-oriented show."

The show's producer, Riley Ross, said, "The

biggest thing we wanted to do is get more student involvement. Anything to get excitement up and establish a presence of UNK athletics with the everyday lives of students."

The show is also associated with Killion Motors and their Killion Kash giveaway, as well as the Antelope Bookstore, which helps provide items for giveaways.

The chance to win free cash and Loper gear isn't the only benefit of the show.

KLPR disc jockey and host of Loper Zone, J Reed, feels that the show "Gives students a great opportunity to catch up on all the scores. I know as a busy student with work and everything else, I can't keep track and attend all the games."

Reed also thinks the show is a great opportunity to get the athletes involved as well.

"It shows everybody that they're just normal kids like us, they are just gifted in certain things. It's great to hear their opinion," he said.

Ross agreed and said, "It's great for the student-athletes to get up in front of their peers and talk about what they work so hard at, out of the classroom."

Ross believes the show benefits the coaches as well.

"It's an opportunity for coaches to get in front of the students and interact with them. It's not very often that happens," he said.

Fairbanks thinks the show can also help promote attendance to UNK athletic events.

"We want to let the students know they have a great opportunity for entertainment here on campus. They can get in for free, and the event is what they make it," he said. "Both our volleyball and football teams have been very successful this year (25-2 combined record) and they put on a heck of a show."

The show benefits everyone involved, including those making it happen. Ross said sports administration and marketing students are getting experience by being involved with promoting and setting up the show.

Ross also said he feels the show is a great opportunity for the campus radio station to give people experience, like host J Reed, and help build the station's reputation.

Reed said, "This gives me a lot of experience in front of a crowd. This is what I want to do as a career - this is a perfect experience for me."

Everyone involved with the show said they are pleased with how the show has progressed, but they hope the students become more involved by asking questions to coaches and athletes, or possibly answering some trivia. Everyone is looking forward to the show expanding and they think other events will stem from this.

"It's up to them (the students and others) how far we can take this," Reed said.

The next Loper Zone will be Oct. 19, at 12:15 p.m. inside Chartwell's. The show will continue every other Wednesday.

Hustler's Corner

Derek Miller
Staff Columnist

After a horrible week, I have rebounded with a solid performance, going five of eight with my predictions last week. Let's get to the action.

The University of Nebraska lost its first game of the season, as predicted right here in the Hustler's Corner to Texas Tech University. They played well enough to win the game, but didn't, and proved that Bill Callahan and company are on the right track. I think Husker fans can now start to see the light at the end of what has been a long, dark tunnel.

In other college football action, the University of Georgia manhandled a tough University of Tennessee team in Knoxville, 27-14. The University of Texas proved to be way too much for Oklahoma University as they finally won the Red River Shootout, 45-12.

In the battle of California, the University of California Los Angeles beat California

University, their rival from upstate, in the last minute of the game, 47-40, to stay undefeated.

Around the NFL, the action was fast and furious. The New England Patriots just keep winning and Tom Brady keeps throwing touchdown passes as they beat the Atlanta Falcons, 31-28.

Dallas was all over Philadelphia from the get-go, and dominated the Eagles, 33-10. Cincinnati fell from the ranks of the unbeaten, as predicted right here last week, as they lost to a tough Jacksonville Jaguars squad, 23-20.

There is now only one undefeated team in the NFL after week five and that team is the Indianapolis Colts. They already have Peyton Manning, and now that their defense is giving up a league minimum 5.8 points per game, they are going to be tough to beat.

Let's get to the predictions:

•The University of Nebraska will get it done against a very tough Baylor University team, 24-23.

•The No. 1 University of

Southern California will once again prove to be too much as they beat No. 9 Notre Dame University in South Bend, 41-31.

•The No. 2 University of Texas will pass its toughest conference test to date and beat No. 24 Colorado University, 35-24.

•Finally, I like No. 15 Ohio State University to bounce back from a loss and beat No. 16 Michigan State University, 31-27.

In the NFL:

•Pittsburgh will win its second game in a row in a low scoring affair, 20-13, against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

•New England will beat Denver in the Mile High City, 27-24. I want to pick Denver, but let's just say I'm tired of picking against Tom Brady.

•The Kansas City Chiefs will get back on track against the always tough Washington Redskins and win at home, 27-21.

•Finally, in the Monday Night game, I like the Indianapolis Colts to beat the St. Louis Rams in what should be a high scoring game, 41-28.



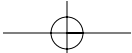
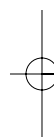
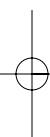
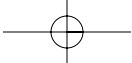
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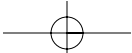
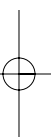
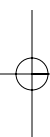
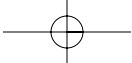
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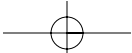
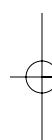
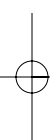
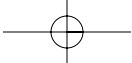
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Initiative 416 waits for federal court

Heather Berney
Entertainment/Layout
Editor

Controversy in the judicial system regarding equal rights for homosexuals in Nebraska is a reminder of how things once were and perhaps, a sign of things to come.

In 2000, an amendment was made to the Nebraska Constitution known as the anti-gay-union law. Seventy percent of Nebraskans voted to implement the law that would not only ban gay marriage, but restrict couples from lobbying for the rights recognized of hetero-

sexual couples.

Initiative 416 was viewed by many as the most restrictive in the nation because it not only banned gay marriage, but also prohibited legal recognition of civil unions and domestic partnerships.

For example, one couple affected by 416, Judy Gibson and Barbara DiBernard of Lincoln, have been in a relationship for over 14 years. Gibson has a severe degenerative disease that requires her to use a wheelchair, but because of Nebraska's law, DiBernard cannot advocate for a policy authorizing her to take time off from work to take Gibson to her regular medical

appointments. In other words, the couple is denied the ability to even propose the policy to lawmakers.

Paula Rieder, adviser for The Open Door, said she believes that if people knew what they were voting for, the law wouldn't have passed.

"Many pro-family groups lobbied in the Midwest, saying that gay marriage would harm the concept of family," Rieder said. "People were voting pro-family, not anti-gay."

In 2003, ACLU Nebraska and Lambda Legal from Omaha challenged the amendment, saying that the state law violated the U.S.

Constitution.

In challenging this law,

"People were voting pro-family, not anti-gay."

Paula Rieder
Adviser
The Open Door

opponents were not asking for the right of homosexuals to marry, but were asking for the right to "lobby for legislative relief."

On May 12, 2005 a federal court struck down Initiative 416, stating that the constitutional amendment denied people access to government resources.

Amy Miller, legal director for ACLU Nebraska is one of the attorneys responsible for this victory, but the fight is not yet over. Miller will represent the ACLU when the state appeals the latest decision to overturn Initiative 416.

"The judge was clear that states can't enact amendments that bar gay people from the democratic process," Miller said.

At this point in time, challengers of 416 are waiting for

the case to enter the 8th circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. ACLU Nebraska is unsure of when the case will go to federal court, as well as the decision that will result.

Eric Aspengren, administrative assistant of ACLU Nebraska said, "There is absolutely no way to make predictions. The issue is obscure and more complicated than many people believe."

Aspengren is referring to the fact that many believe 416 is about gay marriage and not the right to lobby to legislation.

More information on Initiative 416 can be found at www.aclunebraska.org.

Drinking

Continued from page 1

destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and few will find it."

Becker said that many students do not think a tragedy like this can happen to them, but it can. He told students that it is okay to say no to alcohol and okay not to follow the crowd.

Foundations have been set up in the name of each of the students who died. The goal of the Sam Spady

Foundation is to promote alcohol awareness on college campuses with an emphasis on alcohol poisoning and high-risk consumption. The Todd Becker Foundation, founded by Keith Becker, wants to support students in making the right choices when facing important issues.

The event was held in the Ponderosa Room of the Nebraska Student Union and was free and open to the public.

For more information on alcohol awareness and the two foundations, visit www.samspadyfoundation.org and www.toddbecker.org.

Geiger

Continued from page 1

at NTV. Liebsch started working at NTV in May and didn't really know anyone at the workplace.

"[Geiger] made me feel really comfortable and welcome. He was always so nice and always ready to listen to what you had to say and then he always had something to say in return," she said. "He brought humor to the atmosphere. If you were having a bad day he would always make you feel better."

Geiger's importance to the area is something that the employees at NTV have seen first-hand and heard from members of the community.

"He was known as the weatherman everywhere," Liebsch said. "Just from talking to older members of the community, it was like, 'I remember watching Bob when I was little and every time I'd turn on the news there was Bob and he made you feel like you were part of the community if you knew who Bob Geiger was.' It was pretty sad to see him go."

Photo courtesy of NTV
Bob Geiger



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