

Murderer still at large; police collect evidence from student's apartment

By Catherine Blalock

Staff Reporter

Police are still looking for the person responsible for the murder of University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Martina McMenam. On July 25, McMenam was found dead in her south Lincoln apartment, at 4600 Briarpark #515, by her roommate.

County attorney Gary Lacey said McMenam died due to several wounds and a great loss of blood.

Lincoln Police have recovered two knives and four artificial fingernails from the apartment, according to documents filed with the Lancaster County District Court.

Police filed the affidavit to request a search warrant for McMenam's apartment. In the affidavit officers said McMenam's body was found laying on a carpeted bedroom floor.

The affidavit also said a large wood-handled knife was laying near the body in a pool of blood. Police found two knives, one "large" and one "small," as described in the affidavit.

Other items taken from the apartment include four towels, a washcloth and a sponge, a bed sheet, comforter, scarf, sweatpants, white jean shorts, a telephone, address book, date book and two aprons.

At this time no arrests have been made. The Lincoln Police Department is still following up leads.

Police are looking for someone who may have seen something the night McMenam was murdered, LPD Chief Tom Casady said.

In an August 3 press release, LPD gave the following description of a suspect: A white man, 18- to 22-years-old and weighing 150 to 170 pounds.

Witnesses said he looked quite thin. He is described to be light complexioned but witnesses have indicated that his cheeks were flushed and red.

He has collar-length wavy, dirty-blond hair. Witnesses have described the man as having his hair pulled back in a ponytail. One witness recalled that a majority of the man's hair used to make the ponytail was hanging out.

He was described as wearing tan or brown 3/4 top work boots or similar footwear with dark crew socks.

Witnesses said one side of his shirt was tucked in while the other was not. His clothing appeared to be dirty and dingy.

Casady said the individual police are looking for is not believed to be a jogger other sources have reported.

But police would like to talk with the jogger to see if he saw anything that might be helpful to the investigation, he said.

McMenamin was a 1994 high school graduate of Omaha Gross High school where she wrote for the newspaper, was an honor student and a cheerleader. She had just completed her freshman year at UNL, majoring in general studies.

America high on student's list

By Erin Schulte

Staff Reporter



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Noboyuki Watanabe talks with friends outside Selleck Quadrangle Friday.

Shaquille O'Neal, no. 32. Shawn Kemp, no. 40. Charles Barkley, no. 34. Chris Mullin, no. 17. Reggie Miller, no. 31.

These are just a few of the names and numbers of National Basketball Association players who Noboyuki Watanabe has memorized. In fact, he knows them all.

Watanabe is a Japanese university student spending his summer at UNL in the intensive English program. His obsession with American culture and hobbies turned him into a huge NBA fan.

The intensive English program at UNL attracts students mostly from Japan, Mexico and Malaysia, said the program's coordinator, Tom O'Conner.

Students do not get college credit, but most hope to stay in the United States after the program, hoping to pass the TOEFL (English proficiency) test and apply to college in the states.

Students in UNL's program live in Selleck Hall for one month and "learn English through submersion" as well as in English classes, O'Conner said.

They also spend one weekend with a host family to get a taste of American family life, and take field trips to Kansas City.

Going to parks, movies and bowling are popular activities for students in the program.

Watanabe went to see "Bad Boys" last week, and said that although he loves American movies, "they talk too fast, and you can't understand them."

Watanabe said fast speech is the main language barrier to foreign students.

Wide open spaces and diverse races are the best things about America, as opposed to the homogeneous and jam-packed Japan, Watanabe said.

He also pointed out that the cost of products, most notably clothing, are much cheaper in the United States.

The hot weather Nebraska has been facing, however, is definitely a drawback for Watanabe.

Watanabe said Japanese are very fond of anything American and really want to learn about American culture.

"I love things different from Japan," Watanabe said.

About 38 high school and 28 university students are involved in the intensive English program this month, O'Conner said.

New director to march band onto field

By Becky Keasling

Staff Reporter

This week, a group of University of Nebraska-Lincoln students will be practicing hard for the first big red game of the season. They will practice every day from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. until school starts on August 21.

No, it's not the Nebraska football team preparing for another championship season. The Cornhusker Marching Band is learning new formations and music.

The band will also learn to adjust to its new director, Rod Chesnutt. He will be taking the place of the former director Jay Kloecker.

Kloecker still serves as the associate professor of music, Director of Bands and wind ensemble conductor.

Chesnutt recently earned a doctorate degree in music education from Florida State University. While at FSU, he worked with the symphonic, concert, marching and pep bands.

"When the University of Nebraska offered me the job, I was delighted," Chesnutt said.

"UNL has one of the best marching bands in the country. The band has been wonderful for 100 years."

No major changes have been planned for the marching band, Chesnutt said.

"I've been really impressed with the students, faculty and staff here," Chesnutt said. "I'm also really looking forward to my first big red game."

The marching band will give a free performance at Memorial Stadium on Friday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m.