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Lewis Committee plans changes in petition drive

By Liz Crumley

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An organized and more traditional canvassing approach to gather signatures for a grand jury petition was announced by the Justice for Lewis Committee Wednesday night.

The new effort is scheduled to begin Saturday.

The committee is sponsoring a petition drive calling for a grand jury investigation into the shooting deaths by police of Sher-dell Lewis and Elijah Childers.

However, committee chairman Jesse Payne said once a grand jury is convened its investigation can take any direction.

Committee members expressed the desire that police procedures also be investigated.

Lewis was shot by Lancaster County Deputy Sheriff Rodney Loos on Sept. 24 when police attempted to serve a search warrant at Lewis's home. Childers was shot by a Lincoln policeman Feb. 1.

2,500 signatures

The committee has approximately 2,500 signatures, Payne said, and needs 4,828 by January 15. The petition drive started Sept. 15.

Petitioners will start at 84th St. and work west, Payne said. Others will start at Highway 2 and work north, ultimately ending at O St.

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This should increase the probability of getting signatures, Payne said. He added the committee was relying on the validity of a Lincoln newspaper's survey showing which socio-economic areas were most likely to be sympathetic.

Problems the committee has encountered were also discussed at the Malone Center meeting.

Time is running out, Payne said, because of the approaching holiday season and the January deadline. He added that most of the petitions have been circulated by members of the committee who were not "members of the communities that should be concerned."

A difficulty in getting back signed petitions also has been a problem, according to committee members.

Payne cited a "very conscious calculated attempt by (County Attorney) Ron Lahners to discredit members of this committee through character assassination," which has hindered committee work.

Freshman wins bond raffle

The Student Veteran's Association announced Wednesday the winners of its tuition raffle. First place winner was Randy Bohaty, a freshman business administrative major from Lincoln and second place went to Mark Elsener, a Lincoln sophomore majoring education.

Bohaty won a \$300 tuition bond and Elsener won a \$100 bond.

The association sold 403 of 1,000 raffle tickets printed at \$1 each, but will be \$20 short after paying bills, said Bob Treadway, association treasurer.

Perhaps if we had printed 2,000 tickets at 50 cents each we would have come out ahead," he said.

Treadway said the fund raiser was an attempt to supplement its annual student fees appropriation of \$300, which he said basically is used to print a student veterans handbook.

Final's week bus schedule

Campus Police announced that the East Campus bus shuttle will run from Dec. 15 to 19 starting at 6:50 a.m. until 5:50 p.m.

Buses will leave Burr-Fedde Hall on East Campus 10 minutes before and 10 minutes after the hour.

From Dec. 19 to Jan. 11, there will be no shuttle bus service, but regular service will begin the first day of classes Jan. 12.





