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Adventuresome Plimpton could be 'Paper Bruin'

By Mike Patten

George Plimpton's next adventure in what he calls participatory journalism will be this September when he plays hockey for the Boston Bruins, he said Wednesday.

Plimpton, author of *Paper Lion* and several other books, spoke to UNL students in the Nebraska East Campus Union as part of the Union's Grand Opening.

Plimpton said hockey is the last major sport he has not participated in, so he will play goalie for the National Hockey League Bruins.

He said he is humiliated every time he gets involved in participatory journalism, but said it is an effective literary device that has been used for years.

"The point of all this is to get as close to the institution as possible. It just seems to work best with the arts and sports," he said.

In addition to playing hockey, he said, he is thinking about touring with a rock group. He turned down an offer to skate for a roller derby team because the sport does not have a large following, he said.

"You have to pick sports that have a huge following if you want to sell books."

Photographer, comic

Plimpton has, among other things, pitched in Yankee Stadium, photographed for *Playboy* magazine, worked as a standup comic in Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and toured with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

He also has played a bit part in a John Wayne movie, worked a trapeze act for a circus and performed in a musical.

He said playing the triangle for the New York Philharmonic was the most embarrassing moment in his participatory journalism career.

"In sports you can make a mistake and nobody notices," he said. "But nobody playing with the Philharmonic is supposed to make a mistake."

Plimpton said he is finishing work on his latest book, *Shadowbox*. He said the book is about Muhammad Ali's fight to regain the heavyweight boxing title, a title Plimpton said was taken unjustly from Ali.

Returned to boxing

The title was stripped from him by the various boxing councils when Ali, then known as Cassius Clay, refused induction into the Army. Ali served more than three years in prison for draft evasion before returning to boxing.

"The book is really about people taking things into their own hands," Plimpton said.

In addition to *Shadowbox*, Plimpton said, he is working on a book with Bill Curry. Curry, former center with the Baltimore Colts and Green Bay Packers in the National Football League, is relating experiences to Plimpton for the book.

Plimpton said he could write about bankers and lawyers, but they are not as interesting to him as athletes.

"There is nothing more poignant about an athlete at 35 who realizes that he can't do it anymore," he said.

Plimpton also is the editor of *Paris Review* magazine, the director of the *American Literary Anthology* and an associate editor of *Harper's Magazine*.



Photo by Kevin Higley

Author George Plimpton of *Paper Lion* fame said Wednesday at the Nebraska East Campus Union that he is completing work on a book about Muhammad Ali's fight to regain his boxing title.

ASUN discusses financial aid for Free University

By Betsie Ammons

The Nebraska Free University, operated as a non-profit service by the ASUN Senate, needs \$600 to continue its programs this semester, said ASUN Second Vice President Joe Stavas at Wednesday's Senate meeting.

Free University lost money last semester because of poor planning, Stavas explained. He said too much money was spent on publicity and low course registration did not make up the deficit.

Stavas suggested that \$600 be taken out of an ASUN programming fund to finance Free University. However, Sen. Frank Thompson expressed opposition, saying he thought the money should be used to run ASUN elections for two days.

"I don't understand why you tell us we don't have the money to have two day elections, and then turn around and give money to Free University," he said.

ASUN President Bill Mueller asked that no action be taken on the fund transfer until he could study the budget further.

First Vice President Tony Williams also announced that \$600 was needed to replace books lost in the second semester ASUN Book Exchange.

In other business, the Senate voted to reconsider a resolution passed last week calling for formation of a task force to study UNL student government.

The resolution was approved as an alternative to Organic Act Four, which called for ASUN control of student fees allocation.

Sen. Dave Roehr, who proposed the resolution, asked the Senate to rescind their approval so he could amend the resolution. Roehr said Mueller told him he would veto the bill in its present form.

At last week's meeting, Mueller said he favored a

similar resolution proposed by Sen. Eric Carstensen. Carstensen's resolution called for formation of the task force by Ron Gierhan, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs.

Roehr's resolution states that representatives from student governing bodies, the faculty and the administration be chosen for the force by ASUN Senate.

He amended it to include a representative from the *Daily Nebraskan* and Chancellor Roy Young's office on the force.

However, no action was taken on the amendments because Sen. Scott Cook moved for adjournment before a vote could be taken.

Cook said he moved to adjourn the meeting because he thought there would be "discussion unrelated to the resolution."

Traffic violators allowed polygraph test in pending bill

By Paula Dittrock

Nebraska drivers charged with a traffic violation will have the option of using lie detector results as evidence if the Nebraska Legislature passes a bill heard Wednesday before the Judiciary Committee.

The committee took no action on LB278, which Adams Sen. George Burrows introduced.

Noting that he didn't intend for a polygraph test to be given for every traffic violation, Burrows said the bill would allow an alternative which could be used "to weed out police officers who made mistakes or did not tell the truth," concerning traffic charges.

Traffic violators should be granted as much dignity as is given accused felony offenders, he said. Burrows reminded senators that the polygraph test results are accepted as evidence in felony cases.

The defendant would pay for the test unless the state patrol would be willing to pay the cost to discover the truth in a particular case, Burrows said.

Attorney William Austin of the Lincoln city attorney's office estimated polygraph tests cost from \$150 to \$200. He said the cost of setting up a polygraph examination service would cost from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Rosalie Oaks of Denton testified in favor of the bill. She said her husband,

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Leonard Oaks, spent over \$1,000 in attorney fees fighting a speeding ticket he received two years ago.

Oaks, a professional truck driver, was found guilty and fined for driving 84 miles-an-hour although he said he was driving 48 mph, Oaks said.

She said the state patrol had clocked three different speeds for her husband and the arresting officer testified he clocked

Oaks as traveling 48 mph while driving behind him.

Despite readings of 47, 82 and 84 mph the judge ruled by the radar reading of 84 mph. Oaks said she has heard of similar incidents in Saunders County, where her husband was charged.

"As far as I'm concerned, Wahoo is kangaroo court," Oaks said.

Austin opposed the bill and said use of polygraph evidence would take more court time. Lincoln handles some 26,000 traffic tickets a year, Austin said.

Polygraph test results are not regarded as positive truth and different operators draw different results, he said.

Burrows said he was disappointed the city opposed his bill and said he disliked the assumption that the police are always right and the citizen is always wrong.

Speaking for the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, Barbara Gaither offered an amendment to the bill. Not related to

traffic violations, the amendment would prevent anyone in the private sector from being required to take such a test.

Burrows asked senators not to tack this amendment on LB278, which he said might lead to the bill's death.

Gaither admitted this proposal had been part of a bill already killed by the Legislature's Labor Committee.

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