

English instructors say DN reports false

By Michael Zangari

English instructors Maria M. Lemon and Linnea Johnson have released a nine-page rebuttal to charges published in the Daily Nebraskan that two men were excluded from a women's poetry class on Aug. 29. In it they maintain that the Daily Nebraskan's "assertions were in error and misleading, and that in fact, all allegations were false."

Lemon demanded the paper print a retraction of the stories and apologize to Johnson (the poetry class instructor) for the damage she said was done to her professional reputation.

Daily Nebraskan Editor in Chief Amy Lenzen said the paper will stand firmly behind its reporters.

"We believe they accurately conveyed what they were told. The Daily Nebraskan made no allegations, we simply transmitted the news," Lenzen said that at this point the paper has no intention of issuing an apology or retraction.

Lemon maintains that with the exception of one woman, "not one of the witnesses interviewed by Daily Nebraskan reporters and others corroborates the Daily Nebraskan's reports."

Lenzen said besides the woman in question, Wordie Wright, one of the men who was in the class, told the reporter there was a vote. When asked by the reporter how the vote originated, Johnson said it "arose out of the class," Lenzen said.

Lemon said comments by all three were distorted, and that it remained a charge presented by one person.

"Basic standards of investigative reporting say that allegations made by one party about a wrong supposedly done to another party do not provide sufficient evidence for the printing of such allegations. The story on Sept. 27 should not have been printed until all potential witnesses had been interviewed.

"As a university newspaper, the purpose of which should be to guard student rights and academic freedom, the Daily Nebraskan is responsible for knowing the standard procedures outlined in the bylaws for investigations into either allegations or charges against instructors," Lemon said.

"When allegations are made, the supposedly wronged party is contacted to see if charges are to be made. If no charges are made, the matter is closed. Since Wordie Wright did not wish to press any charges, John Robinson (head of the English department) could not, and should not investigate further."

Randy Essex, news editor, said that at all times the paper was interested in printing the truth, and that "it is difficult to report when key sources (i.e., Robinson and Johnson) refuse to comment."

"After the initial story is printed, it is our policy to wait one full day for the sources to respond before we make editorial comment. Without any such action in Ms. Johnson's behalf, we had no reason to believe that the article was in error," Lenzen said. "Anything which is written and is not disputed takes on the aura of truth."

Lemon says that one student, Pat Kovanda, called Lenzen the day after the story had run, and continued to call every day after until Lenzen told her not to call anymore, and that the paper was working on the story. Kovanda is a class member who, according to Lemon, objected to the initial coverage.

Lenzen says this is untrue. "I think the first calls came on Oct. 1 or 2. It was well after the weekend. They concerned the coverage of the story in the paper."

A letter signed by class members describing the events in question appears on page four of today's paper along with excerpts from Lemon and Johnson's rebuttal.

Editor's note: Due to the nature of charges leveled against the Daily Nebraskan, the Daily Nebraskan ombudsman will act as a reporter in matters concerning the charges.

He is not a member of the editorial staff, and is not subject to editorial policy.

Simants unhappy with wife-witness

By Val Swinton

A former girlfriend of Erwin Charles Simants described him as a man obsessed with fears and as a person who thought very little of himself.

Simants, 33, is standing trial in Lancaster County District Court for the murders of six members of a Sutherland family. He is also accused of sexually assaulting three of them.

James Henry Kellie, 66, his 57-year-old wife Audrey Marie Kellie, their son David and his two children, ages 5 and 7, were found shot in the head in the Kellie home on Oct. 18, 1975. Simants was living next door to them in Sutherland when they were murdered.

This is the second trial for Simants. The first murder trial, held in North Platte, was overturned by the Nebraska Supreme Court, because a Lincoln County sheriff contacted sequestered jurors during the trial.

Defense attorneys have maintained that while Simants committed the murders and sexual assaults, he was insane at the time.

Hazel Wing of Omaha, lived with Simants from May through September, 1968, in a North Platte rooming house.

"HE DIDN'T have any self-confidence," Wing said. "He had low self-esteem. He didn't feel like he was the man he wanted to be."

Although Simants thought little of himself, Wing testified, he adored his baby daughter, who had been living with Simants' wife. Wing said the couple had been separated for some time when Wing moved in with him.

"He stayed married because he wanted to see his daughter," Wing told the jury.

"He really loved his daughter," she said. "He was really upset she had to be the way she was."

The girl was born with birth defects and died a short time after Wing and Simants broke up.

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Photo by Mark Billingsley

Big Red in Iowa

"George's" cafe in 3426 W. Broadway in Council Bluffs, Iowa, is evidence that Big Red spirit does not quit at the Nebraska border. George Pappas, owner and former Lincoln resident, said he is anxious to move back to Lincoln. For more, turn to page 10.

No temporary tickets given

Gate crashers caught in many poses

By Rich Jurgens

Gate crashers not only come in all ages at UNL football games, but the ways of getting or trying to get into the games also differ.

Capt. Ron Lundy of the UNL police said that most of those trying to get into football games without paying are young children. Most of the youths try to get into the games by climbing the fences.

Lundy said youths climb the fences because they can't afford, or are unable to get tickets. He mentioned that at one time children were given knothole seats underneath the stadium on the north and south sides for a dollar. However, this was no longer done.

Students also try climbing the fence after selling their ticket and then deciding they want to go to the game, Lundy said.

Another trick used to get into the game for free is carrying a supposed money bag.

According to Lundy people who work with conces-

sions outside the gates are allowed in for free through special gates. Sometimes people will say they were selling concessions and try to get in by carrying a money bag.

Lundy said some students and adults try getting into games by hanging underneath concession trucks. Concession trucks are allowed in through special gates and some people allow themselves to be dragged in order to get in. However, officers now visually inspect incoming trucks.

Most gate crashers are escorted out and told that they can get into the stadium after the third quarter, Lundy said.

Yet, there are instances where arrests have been made as a result of personal injuries.

Some people try getting into the games free while in line with ticket holders, Lundy said. The non-ticket holder will wait until he gets up to the ticket-taker and then force his way in. He said some ticket-takers have been hurt with this type of gate-crashing.

Officers now are stationed behind the ticket-taker and an arrest will be made if someone is hurt.

If someone loses their ticket, Lundy refers them to the ticket office.

Jean Walcott, student ticket manager, said no temporary tickets are given for lost tickets because of the large number of lost tickets reported. She said the ticket office does take all the information needed to try and get the ticket back, and will notify the person who lost the ticket if it is found.

Tickets are confiscated for various reasons. Walcott said 67 student tickets were taken away during the Utah game, 29 during the Penn State game, and 22 during the New Mexico State game.

inside friday

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