

Officials suspect food poisoning in student illnesses

By Kathy Stokebrand

Food poisoning has not been ruled out as the cause of several student illnesses, according to Garland Bare, medical director of the University Health Center.

Several students arrived at the health center Sunday complaining of flu symptoms, Bare said. While symptoms for influenza and food poisoning are the same, food poisoning is likely when large numbers of people display the symptoms simultaneously, he said.

Regents: Allegations of ASUN in error

By Michelle Carr

Two members of the NU Board of Regents have denied making derogatory statements toward students and student concerns, which arose from two separate incidents.

Mark Hirschfeld, chairman of the Government Liaison Committee, was quoted in a Sunday Lincoln Journal and Star story as saying that when he offered a blue balloon to a regent, the regent told him where he might choose to inflate it.

Hirschfeld told the Daily Nebraskan that the incident occurred during a speech given by Regent Ed Schwartzkopf last Thursday in the Union. Hirschfeld said he couldn't recall exactly what Schwartzkopf said but "it was kind of derogatory and he wasn't too pleased. He didn't take the balloon."

Because of the heavy emotions and high tempers of the question and answer portion of the speech, Hirschfeld said he could understand Schwartzkopf's feelings.

According to Schwartzkopf, he did not tell Hirschfeld where he might choose to inflate the balloon. Hirschfeld's "antics" during the speech did provoke a statement, but he declined to say what it was.

"I don't see how that (repeating the statement) would enhance the quality of education at the university," he said.

Schwartzkopf said that Hirschfeld did not hand him the balloon, but rather "thrust" it at him with no explanation about its significance.

"I wasn't aware what the balloon stood for. If he would have said, 'Here's a balloon representing student concern for you to let go at the game,' it would have been different."

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Sunday morning 12 members of Chi Omega sorority suffered nausea, diarrhea, and upset stomachs. The illnesses spurred an investigation for possible food poisoning, Bare said.

The women had eaten together during the preceding 48 hours, at a Friday night father-daughter dinner in the Nebraska Union ballroom and at a brunch Saturday morning at the Chi Omega house, Bare said.

Del Weed, a staff member at the Environmental Health and Safety Division of UNL, said the symptoms probably were caused by food.

He said some of the fathers also had flu symptoms, but added that some daughters and fathers who ate both meals had no symptoms.

Two of the women were severely dehydrated and one of them was given intravenous fluid. All of the other women were put on fluid diets.

Bare said lab specimens were taken from those who

had diarrhea. Test results have not shown any organisms that would indicate poisoning, he said.

However, Bare said, food poison organisms are not present in the body for long periods of time.

"Organisms remain in the body only as long as the acute symptoms, vomiting and diarrhea, are there," Bare said. If the girls had come in sooner, food poisoning organisms might have been detected, Bare said.

"It is hard to establish any particular cause," Bare said. Health officials attempted to pin down the cause to certain food items but couldn't, he said.

Bare said he has little fear that the symptoms are contagious.

More sensitive follow-up tests will be done on the specimens and the results should be known within a week, Bare said.

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Photo by Tom Gesner

Tuesday's dreary drizzle made for an unpleasant bicycle ride to campus for Donna Stuver, a UNL English major.

Thousands won, lost in student's weekend sports ritual

By Mike Sweeney

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Editor's note: This is the last in a three-part series on campus football gambling.

A touch of Irish luck and a few well-placed bets have given a UNL student a \$7,000 car.

They also have given him gray hairs and upset stomachs on his way to winning \$16,000 in the last two years. "Last year I was surprised I didn't get an ulcer," the student said.

"Like during the World Series, I'd pace through here a couple times and then go out on the porch and spit. It seemed every time I'd do that the team kept on doing good," he said.

Marshall (not his real name) said he bets an average of \$1,100 on every televised football game. He sometimes bets as little as \$220 to make a game interesting, but will bet \$2,200 on a game if he likes it, he said.

The bets often add up to \$5,000 for a weekend of college and professional football games, Marshall said. One weekend he won \$4,800; another he lost \$4,200.

"It usually evens out," he said.

Fortunately, he has won more than he has lost, he said, and so far this year he is ahead \$4,000. He won \$12,000 last year.

MARSHALL, A JUNIOR, doesn't need the money to pay tuition or college expenses. A summer construction job paid him \$4.50 an hour, he said, and he lives comfortably in a UNL fraternity.

He bets because it is something to do, he said. He puts his winnings in a bank account where they earn interest.

He is able to afford thousand-dollar bets because of that bank account, filled with money from previous betting sprees.

Marshall said he first started placing bets when he was in junior high school. The bets started out at \$10, but increased as he kept winning, he said.

Three years ago, he got his first big win.

Marshall said he was at the Ak-sar-ben races when he got a tip from a millionaire he knew. He bet \$3,000 to win, \$300 to place, and \$300 to show—and walked away with \$5,000, he said.

Although he regularly bets hundreds of dollars, Marshall said he has no system for picking winning teams. He used to read football magazines to learn more about the teams, but now "I take a guess," he said.

"I usually bet the opposite of everybody else," he said. "It seems to be the kiss of death if you find out everyone else is betting the same way you are."

HE SAID HE only bets on familiar teams. The Pittsburgh Steelers were a good bet in their prime, he said, and a few college teams consistently beat the point spread.

"I usually bet on 'Bama and Ohio State," Marshall said. "I always look for a team that runs up the score. Devaney (former Nebraska coach Bob) was good. He always liked to blow out opponents."

Marshall said he has done well betting on Nebraska this year, winning four of four. Book makers gave no point spread for either Utah State because it was the Huskers' first opponent, or New Mexico State because it was such a poor team.

Besides his World Series porch-spitting routine, Marshall has a pre-game ritual that helps his teams win, he said.

"I always have my pre-game pop," he said. "That's why I lost last night (San Diego's NFL loss to Oakland). The pop machine wasn't working and I didn't have my pre-game pop."

Despite his winning record, Marshall said he is cutting down on his bets.

"I hope to get out of it fairly soon," he said. "You've got to call it quits sooner or later."

Watching his teams on television cuts into his study time, he said.

He said a person has a hard time quitting once he is hooked on gambling. However, he said he needs to stop because his winning percentage has dropped dangerously low.

He is winning only 50 percent of his bets," he said. Gamblers need to win about 53 percent to cover their losses and pay their bet runners, he said.

His mother, who doesn't know how much he bets, also has been urging him to quit, he said.

"My mom always tells me sooner or later I'll lose my ass."

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