

# Attorney: Scientific cases need new approach

By D. Eric Kircher

An explosion of science and technology-related information created a need for change in the law profession and courtroom practices, a New York attorney said.

Milton Wessel, an author who also teaches at Columbia and Duke universities, told students at the UNL College of Law's Cline-Williams Lectureship he was here to recruit them into a new branch of law.

Technological cases requires a new approach to law, Wessel said.

In complex technological cases after World War II, juries haven't understood the evidence, he said. They tend to reach verdicts using collateral evidence - damaging evidence that isn't related to the case.

"I'm convinced that this is the next generation's opportunity to debate the issues," Wessel said. "There are some exciting, rewarding and important things to be done."

"We need to avoid the production of collateral evidence," Wessel said. He cited the Ford Pinto trial, the Kodak-Berkey trial and the Corvair-Nader case as times when outside evidence swayed people's opinion. In some cases, lawyers perjured themselves, and the jury seized the perjury as evidence of guilt, he said.

General Motors stopped producing the Corvair because of adverse public opinion "when it was the safest compact

car," Wessel said.

The "sporting or game" approach to law encourages lawyers to use any method to win cases, including using or producing unrelated but damaging evidence, he said.

Large firms employ outside lawyers to defend them, he said, and although many aren't familiar with the business' technology, they are expected to win the case.

"We need a change in the techniques employed by lawyers on behalf of clients," Wessel said.

Wessel, who has been involved in the Agent Orange case involving deadly deFolaint used in Vietnam, and several nuclear power trials, said law must be developed

to allow safe use of new technologies.

"It is a simplistic approach to just say 'stop it' or argue for no growth," Wessel said.

Cases are beginning to be argued on a risk-benefit basis, which will allow society to weigh safety against risks of new technology, he said.

"It seems to me it's the only sensible way to solve the problems," Wessel said.

Legislatures should decide the amount of risk to accept, he said, but the courts now decide. Until legislatures act, courts must, he said.

Wessel was the fifth lecturer sponsored by a Lincoln law firm to speak at the UNL College of Law.

## Chemical fire forces evacuation

A small chemical fire that created toxic fumes and forced the temporary closing of Manter Hall Life Sciences building and Hamilton Hall was apparently a freak accident, according to a UNL chemistry professor.

Henry Baumgarten said a piece of equipment broke, allowing two toxic chemicals to come in contact with either the air outside the container, or the heating element under the glass vessel, causing the fire.

Students in the room put the fire out immediately Hamilton and Manter Halls, forcing an evacuation.

Interim Chancellor Robert Rutford said he had not seen official reports of the fire, but would investigate.

Baumgarten said authorities were notified promptly, but acknowledged that some students didn't evacuate with a fire extinguisher.

"Some had experiments going and didn't even hear the fire alarm," he said.

However, Lt. Joe Wehner of the UNL police department said some students were reluctant to evacuate when fire and police officials searched the building.

"We have a difficult time getting people to leave," he said. However, he added that it was "not a majority, but a minority" that were uncooperative.

Two students in the room when the fire broke out, Jamshid Mohebalian, 2222 Vine St., and Ren J. Ko, 923 S. 12th St., were sent to the student health center for observation, but Baumgarten said they were uninjured.

## KRNU may expand transmission power

Because of a Federal Communications Commission consideration to make maximum use of all frequency, UNL's student radio station has made a proposal to expand its signal.

KRNU, which currently operates out of Avery Hall with 10 watts, may expand to a 3,000 watt service, similar to KVNO at UNO.

Larry Walklin, chairman of broadcasting for the UNL School of Journalism, said the change will not affect any part of the existing station, but it will involve replacing parts in the transmitter.

"As long as I have been involved in radio," Walklin said, "there has always been talk of expanding or improving transmission. But this situation has never been discussed for KRNU before."

The 3,000 watt change will allow the station to be heard throughout Lincoln. As it is now, the station can be picked up only on the City Campus.

"The height of the tower and the line of sight will be a factor in exactly how far it will go," Walklin said. "But what we are trying for is a strong signal in the city."


In a comparison of watt frequency, Walklin said the 3,000 watt signal is not to be considered a change to high power when other stations have 100,000 watt frequency.

No one is certain when the change will occur, Walklin said.

"The FCC is very understaffed, and this would have to meet their approval," Walklin said. "Once we had a transmission replacement through them that should have taken a short time to start, but we waited a year for them to get back to us. It would take a series of decisions by several people to come out with a final ruling."

**JACQUES SCOTT**

FRENCH SELECTION \* Italian Selection \* German Selection



*Piesporter Goldtröpfchen*  
RIESLING

QUALITÄTSGUT WEIN MUSEL SAAR RHEIN

---

**Wine Lesson-of-the-Week**

**Q** What is the difference between Piesporters?

**A** J.S. Piesporter Goldtröpfchen is the top of the line of Piesporters and is considered the very best of the great wines of Piesport, Germany.

**Q** How is Piesporter Goldtröpfchen served and what food does it complement?

**A** Always serve chilled and enjoy with fish, white meat or by itself.

Product of Germany

## Carry-Out Entertainment!

**G.E. 12" Diagonal Black & White TV**  
Lasting 100% solid state. Stand, color cabinet & easy carry handle.

**\$84.88**

**SAVE!**

**SOUNDESIGN 5" Diagonal Black & White TV - AM/FM Radio**  
Uses AC adapter, car boat adapter (both incl.) optional battery pack & 9 D batteries.

**\$184**

**CHARGE IT**


- Goodyear Car Card
- Installment Pay Plan
- Visa • American Express
- Carte Blanche
- MasterCard • Diners Club

**SALE ENDS SATURDAY**

**GOODYEAR SERVICE STORES**

ED BENSON MGR. 1918 "O" 476-6521  
OPEN WEEKDAYS 7:30-6:00 SAT. 7:30-5:00  
DOUG CONDON MGR. 6800 "O" 476-2555

## Dairyland Motorcycle Insurance



Call for a free quote. It's protection you need.

**RESS INSURANCE**  
600 SOUTH 12th STREET  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508  
Phone: 477-3936

Also: All-risk auto, mobile home; home owners & renters.

## Good Rates for Good Riders

## nebraskan

**Now Accepting Applications for the Position of 1981-1982 Advertising Director.**

It's not easy, but you'll gain rewarding experience in organizing and leading a department of over 15 persons. This is an eleven month position commensurate with University holidays and with one month off during the summer. Advertising and Marketing majors are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicants should be familiar with the Guidelines for the Student Press adopted by the Board of Regents, and copies will be made available at the Daily Nebraskan. Applications should be returned to the Daily Nebraskan, Room 34, Nebraska Union. Application deadline is Monday, March 9, at noon.

## CAESAR'S PIZZA

Now has 3 locations to serve you!

17th & South 474-3355  
48th & Van Dorn 483-7686  
27th & Cornhusker 467-5416

*Free, fast, hot delivery*

## OPEN HARVEST

NEW EARLY HOURS !!



Open Harvest is a not-for-profit whole foods cooperative open to all. Hours: M-F 10-8:00, Sat 9:00-5:30, Sun 10-5.