

DeCamp: Free press must follow guidelines

By Jonathan Taylor

Although he has filed a libel suit against the Sun Newspapers of Lincoln Inc. and Sun president Scott Stewart over an editorial, state Sen. John DeCamp said he fully supports freedom of the press, but only when members of the press follow the constitutional guidelines set down for them.

"The press can be malicious as blazes as long as it's true, but they can't be malicious and lie at the same time," DeCamp said in response to the editorial, which he claims injured his reputation.

In the lawsuit filed in Lancaster County District Court, DeCamp claims the editorial contained four falsehoods.

The editorial, published Oct. 20, 1982, said that in DeCamp's campaign against Jim Wolf in the 1982 40th District legislative race, he pictured Neil Krause, Nebraska's first female legislator, in his campaign material without her permission. DeCamp claims she did give permission to use the picture and did not authorize a letter sent to 40 District newspapers denouncing him.

The editorial also said DeCamp received \$6,000 in campaign contributions and a \$150,000 loan from the Omaha National Corp. for which he offered the Big Red Steakhouse in Oakdale as collateral. The property then was "visited" by a fire, the editorial said.

According to the lawsuit, the property was never involved in a fire and the loan was not only a proper one, but still exists. DeCamp's suit claims that "The article clearly implies insurance fraud, abuse of Sen. DeCamp's position as chairman of the Banking Committee to obtain an improper loan from a Nebraska banking institution, and arson as method of paying off the loan." Some property that did burn had no loan or financing from Omaha National Bank, the suit said.

The editorial said, "once a small-town banker offered Johnny a couple hundred bucks for law-making services... but the amount involved pales in comparison to Johnny's ill-gotten collection of Krugerrands and exotic fish." The lawsuit said a detailed investigation showed that DeCamp properly reported the bribery, which involved thousands of dollars offered by a banker to gain influence. DeCamp claims that the statement implies he engaged in criminal offenses to obtain Krugerrands and exotic fish.

The editorial also mentions an incident in which DeCamp parked a van on the State Capitol's lawn. No such event occurred, DeCamp said.

Stewart said the Sun's attorney received a notice of the libel suit last Friday. Stewart said the attorney hasn't had a chance to review the information associated with the suit and it will be a week to 10 days before the Sun newspapers can prepare a statement.

Police Report

The following incidents were reported to the UNL Police Department between 1 a.m. and 11 p.m. Monday:

1:56 a.m. — Disturbance reported at Harper Hall. The case was turned over to the Office of University Housing.

2:35 a.m. — Four trespassers reported at Memorial Stadium. They were gone when officers arrived.

5:13 a.m. — Two horses reported running loose at 33rd and Huntington streets. Officers returned them to the rodeo grounds on East Campus.

9:37 a.m. — Medical emergency reported at the College of Business Administration. Person was taken to the College of Business Administration. Person was taken to a local hospital; nature of emergency was not released.

10:29 a.m. — Fire alarm reported sounding at the Plant Science Hall on East Campus, possibly due to a malfunction.

12:05 p.m. — Parking permit reported stolen from a vehicle in Parking Area 5 at 1125 N. 16th St.

2:03 p.m. — Parking permit reported stolen from a car parked near the South Stadium.

2:37 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident reported near Parking Area 10 north of Abel Hall. Owner reported finding the trunk area of his car damaged. Estimated damage is \$200.

3:16 p.m. — Car-motorcycle accident reported at U Street between 15th and 16th streets. Minor injuries reported.

7:57 p.m. — Wallet reported stolen from Abel Hall. About \$27 was lost.

8:11 p.m. — Trespasser reported at Abel Hall. Officers contacted and escorted the person from the building.

10:15 p.m. — Loud stereo reported at 1548 S St. Police contacted fraternity house officers and the stereo was turned down.

10:42 p.m. — Narcotics investigation reported at Abel Hall. Police served a search warrant and arrested two people for possession of a controlled substance. They will be arraigned Nov. 15.

10:48 p.m. — Disturbance reported at Abel Hall. Person was reportedly throwing a knife at a door. The case was turned over to the Office of University Housing.

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