

# Reporter says government deceives public

By Gah Y. Huey  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

The American public often is kept in the dark about government issues which it has the right to know about.

The job of investigative reporters is to uncover information the government keeps "behind closed doors or beneath the surface," said Peter Lance, investigative reporter for ABC "World News Tonight."

About 90 percent of the news

the public hears today comes from announcements that are released, Lance told about 35 students at the UNO Milo Bail Student Center Wednesday. While nothing is wrong with that kind of news, he said, the public should also hear the news that rarely gets out.

The former producer of ABC's "20/20" said the Reagan administration has been the toughest in history in closing information to the media. Where it has been impossible for the government to

limit the press, the government has tried to hamper it, he said.

Every administration has lied to the public, Lance said, but the Reagan administration has become much more sophisticated in controlling the media.

Lance said that in recent years, the name "investigative reporter" has become slightly tarnished.

People are angry with the media because of the weight of bad news it reports, he said.

In recent years, there has been

an explosion of litigation against the media, he said. The pendulum has swung 180 degrees from the time Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein were praised for uncovering Watergate.

Already sued for libel three times, Lance said, the difficult part is not being sued. Losing the libel suit is the difficult part, he said.

Lance said restrictions against the press are not needed to protect the public from the press.

The law of libel keeps the press honest, he said. The media is afraid of the consequences of libel — that it creates a "chilling effect," he said.

It will be tragic if a "reporter decides not to do a story because he's afraid it'll never be printed... or make the air," he said.

Lance said he advocates the release of information.

"I want the American people to have as much information as possible," he said.

# Accurate blood test could eliminate paternity lawsuit

By Shelley Stall  
Student Legal Services Lawyer

**Question:** I met a woman at a party a few months ago. I only slept with her twice. She called me last week and told me she is

pregnant and that I'm the father. I thought she was using birth control. She wants to keep the baby and she wants me to help out financially. I don't even know her very well.

**Answer:** Dear R.A.: You should

contact an attorney to represent you. Your attorney should handle the communication with the woman and her attorney if she hires one.

Any verbal or written admissions of fatherhood you make,

from any further financial liability for the child's support.

If you are the father, you should consider whether or not you want to have a relationship with the child. Unmarried fathers have a legal right to visitation and possibly custody. The Nebraska Supreme Court has decided that the fact that the child is born out of wedlock is to be disregarded in custody disputes where paternity has been admitted and the father has contributed support. Custody and visitation are determined by considering the best interests of the child.

Under our current legal system, women have the sole choice of terminating a pregnancy or having the child. The only choice men have when it comes to fatherhood is preventing conception. Assuming that the woman you have sex with is taking care of birth control is a very risky assumption. Ask her. Or, take precautions yourself.

**Question:** My dog, Muffy, and I moved into our new apartment two weeks ago. Before I rented the apartment, I talked to the manager on the phone and told her I had a small dog. I said I only wanted to look at apartments where dogs were allowed and I offered to provide references.

When I looked at the apartment, I loved it. I told the manager I wanted to rent it and she said she would check the references and call me back. She called two days later and told me the references were good and I could have the apartment.

When I signed the one-year lease, I marked out the part that said "no pets" and we both wrote our initials by it. The lease also had a clause requiring a \$10 pet deposit, which I gave her in addition to the security deposit and first month's rent. I have a copy of the

such as letters or comments to her or other people, could be used as evidence against you if she decides to file a paternity action in court. Your attorney can collect more information and advise you on what steps to take next.

If you are the father of the child, you could be legally obligated to support the child until he or she reaches the age of majority and for medical costs of the birth. Support payments are based on the child's need and the father's ability to pay, much as child support payments are structured when married parents are divorced. If you are the father, it is possible that your legal liability may amount to thousands of dollars.

Fortunately, very few paternity lawsuits reach trial these days because of the development in recent years of extremely accurate blood tests that eliminate a potential paternity defendant as the father. The test cannot be performed until six months after the child is born and it can cost \$220 or more. If blood tests fail to eliminate you as the father, your attorney may try to negotiate a lump sum settlement. This means you would pay one large sum of money in return for being released

lease.

Yesterday she called me and told me a terrible mistake had been made. She said the owner just informed her that dogs were not allowed and Muffy and I would have to move out. Do I have to move?

**Signed,**  
**Homeless Girl and Her Dog**

**Answer:** Dear Homeless: It sounds like you did everything right. Crossing out the no pet clause and having the manager initial the change is exactly what I would have advised. You were honest from the beginning about the dog and provided references. The manager was acting as the owner's agent and made an informed decision to sign a lease with you. The owner is bound by the lease.

You should politely inform the manager that you do not intend to move. Make sure you don't lose your copy of the lease. To evict you, the landlord would have to serve you with a petition and take you to court. He would probably lose. If you receive notice of a lawsuit, contact Student Legal Services or a private attorney right away.

Although you are protected by your lease, the landlord might still be able to make you move if Muffy disturbed the neighbors by barking or damaged the apartment. Every tenant has the right to the peaceful enjoyment of his or her rented property. Keep Muffy in line and make friends with your neighbors. By the time your lease expires next year, the landlord may decide you are model tenants and renew your lease.

If you have a question or a problem for this column, send a letter c/o Shelley Stall, Nebraska Union 335, UNL.

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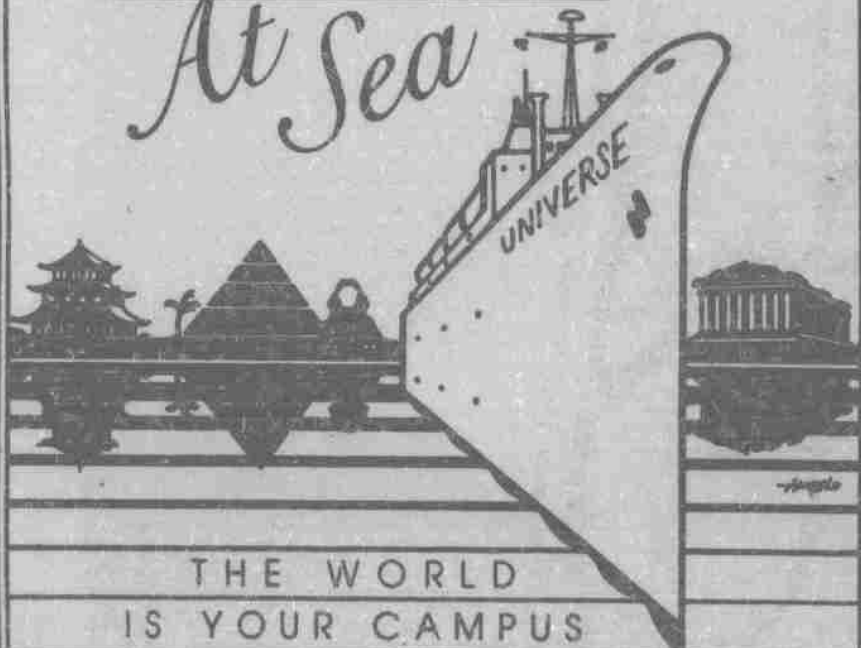
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STOOGES SPECIALS

## Shorts

Football fans taking the Lincoln Transportation System to the Nebraska-Oklahoma game Saturday will find the Big Red Express buses leaving Southeast Community College and Holmes Park at later times.

Because of the 2:50 p.m. kick-off, bus service will begin at 12:45 with departures every 15 minutes until 2 p.m.

To accommodate fans using regular Saturday bus service for transportation to and from the game, a special 7 p.m. 11th and O streets departure has been added.

Third Culture, a therapy group for the Gay subculture, meets every Monday evening and deals with issues about "coming out," social behavior, gay lifestyle, suicide and drug and alcohol abuse. The group is a non-residential program and uses transactional analysis and psychodrama. Call Pat Wall, 474-2213, or write P.O. Box 81313, Lincoln, NE 68501 for more information.