

Daily Nebraskan

November 10, 1989

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 89 No. 43 54

WEATHER:

Friday, partly sunny and warmer, high in the mid-to upper-60s, southwest winds from 10 to 20 miles per hour by afternoon. Friday night, fair, low from 35 to 40. Saturday, partly sunny and mild, high of 70.

INDEX

News Digest 2
Editorial 4
Sports 5
Arts & Entertainment 6
Classifieds 6

Job performance scrutiny continues

Testimony ends; jury to begin deliberation

By Eric Pfanner
Senior Editor

In the last day of testimony at a U.S. District Court trial, fired general studies adviser Mary Jane Visser's job performance continued to come under close scrutiny.

The question of whether "her interest and intention was on something other than her job," or "the defendants got together . . . and decided to get rid of her" was left to the jury. Deliberations begin Monday.

David Buntain, representing University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials named in Visser's lawsuit, continued to assert that Visser was fired for poor job performance.

Thom Cope, representing Visser, said her termination was a result of a "conspiracy" on the part of Vice

Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen, general studies Director Donald Gregory and other university officials. Cope said they fired her because of her investigation into irregularities of student athletes' records.

Visser is suing to get her job back, damages for emotional distress and back pay.

During his closing argument Thursday, Cope asked the jury for \$350,000 in future pay, \$24,500 in back pay and \$1 million for emotional distress.

Cope said he asked for this much in damages to "send a message to the defendants and people like them."

Buntain said returning a verdict in Visser's favor would "encourage public employees to feel it's OK not to put in a 40-hour week."

Unlike her co-workers, Buntain said, Visser was not able to take criticism. Several other general studies employees took the witness stand Thursday.

Cope asked Susan (Carpenter) Wade, general studies adviser, whether she had discussed the case with Michael Shada, another adviser, and receptionist Kathi Vohland while the three sat together in the courtroom Thursday. Vohland said she had.

Shada said, "that's a lie," when asked the same question earlier Thursday.

Cope said that was evidence of a conspiracy.

Visser was treated differently than Shada by UNL officials, Cope said, because, "she (Visser) was not the good old girl who stayed at home. She

was the woman in the office who stood up."

Buntain said Visser's claims of sex discrimination were excuses to cover up poor job performance. Other members of the general studies office performed their jobs appropriately, he said, so they were not fired.

Instead of digging into student athletes' records to try to uncover irregularities, Buntain said, Visser should have concentrated on her job performance.

"The athletic department is not on trial in this case," Buntain said. "Ms. Visser was trying to put them on trial."

About the irregularities, he said, "there's a lot of smoke and no fire."

One of the irregularities mentioned during the trial was that several Cornhuskers played in the 1988

Fiesta Bowl after being dismissed from the university. But under NCAA rules, that is allowed, Buntain said.

Another irregularity Visser reported, he said, was that several senior athletes were enrolled in general studies, and had not declared a major. But Buntain said 280 senior non-athletes were in general studies at the same time, so they also had not declared a major.

"Where's the beef? Where are the irregularities?" Buntain asked.

Cope said it was irregular that 5th-year-senior athletes were in general studies, and not showing "satisfactory progress" toward a degree.

"There was no need to complain about students, just the athletes," he

See VISSER on 3

KSC case to be heard in January

By Jerry Guenther
Senior Reporter

Assistant Attorney General Harold Mosher said Thursday he thinks it will be early January before the state Supreme Court hears a case challenging the constitutionality of transferring Kearney State College into the University of Nebraska system.

'You just simply cannot take Kearney State from the Board of Trustees. If you do that, there is no stability in our government.'

-- Mosher

Mosher, who has filed a lawsuit on behalf of Attorney General Robert Spire, said he filed his closing brief on the case Tuesday.

LB247, which calls for a task-force study of higher education in the state, would transfer KSC into the NU system by July 1, 1991.

Because of a specialized statute, Mosher said, the attorney general can sue the secretary of state in state Supreme Court to determine the

See KEARNEY on 3



'Survey says. . .

Nees Sandoval, a junior management major, won \$25 Thursday evening by correctly answering trivia questions about UNL life at the Campus Camera Game Show held in the Centennial Room of the Nebraska Union.

Pro-choice coalition rally set for Sunday

By Jana Pedersen
Senior Reporter

The battle over abortion rights will shift from the national front to the state level Sunday as pro-choice activists across the country stage rallies at state capitols.

Locally, activists are preparing for a Sunday rally on the north steps of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln.

Elaine Waggoner, president of Voters for Choice, called the rally the "kick-off" of a series of activities planned by the Pro-Choice Coalition of Nebraska.

The coalition is made up of 18 Nebraska pro-choice organizations, including Voters for Choice.

"The main message we want to send to legislators and the governor's office is that we are here and that a majority of mainstream Nebraskans believe in pro-choice," Waggoner said.

The rally will include a program of six pro-choice speakers and two singing groups, she said. Coalition members also will set up tables for distributing information and selling T-shirts, buttons and balloons, she said.

Elna Peirce, president of the Pro-Choice Coalition of Nebraska, said the program will start at 2 p.m. and will last about 45 minutes.

After the program ends, she said, the rally will move to the YWCA for an information session on future activities and opportunities for networking.

The coalition has spent about \$2,000 to promote the event, she said.

Rachel Murray, acting coordinator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln organization Students for Choice, said the student group has been involved in preparations for the rally.

See PROTEST on 3

Sorority to prohibit little sister participation

By Lisa Bolin
Staff Reporter

Being a little sister will become a thing of the past for Kappa Delta sorority members at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The sorority has adopted a resolution prohibiting members from participating in women's auxiliary groups, such as fraternity little sister programs, beginning in the fall semester of 1992, said Mary O'Brien, Kappa Delta president.

O'Brien, a senior biology major, said the Kappa Delta's Pi chapter in Lincoln is not the only chapter of the sorority that has adopted the resolution.

The policy was voted on and passed at the sorority's national convention in June, she said.

According to the resolution, members who violate the policy will

be subject to disciplinary action that could result in losing sorority membership.

Melanie McMillan, spokesperson for the sorority's national chapter in Denver, said the resolution is based on a resolution adopted by the National Panhellenic Conference in November 1988.

NPC's resolution, she said, discourages the formation of all auxiliary groups concerning both men and women, but does not specifically prohibit them.

Kappa Delta's resolution also prohibits men's groups within the sorority, McMillan said.

Little sister programs defeat the purpose of a sorority's formation as a separate and equal women's fraternity, she said.

"The little sister program distracts from the concept of single-sex membership," McMillan said.

NPC discourages auxiliary groups, she said, because they take away time and effort from both fraternities and sororities. Little sister members may tend to spend more time benefitting the fraternity than their sorority, McMillan said.

Another reason Kappa Delta adopted the resolution is that many little sister programs can contribute to the formation of cliques within the sorority, she said.

O'Brien said she doesn't think the policy will have a negative effect on sorority members. Little sister programs help younger members assimilate into the Greek system, she said, but are not vital to sororities.

Jayne Wade Anderson, director of Greek affairs at UNL, said dissolving little sister programs is becoming a trend for many fraternities and sororities.

The National Interfraternity Con-

ference adopted a resolution in 1987 encouraging fraternities to eliminate little sister programs, she said.

'The little sister program distracts from the concept of single-sex membership.'

--McMillan

UNL Interfraternity Council President Kevin Yost said seven little sister programs remain at UNL fraternities. Acacia, FarmHouse, Alpha Gamma Rho, Sigma Alpha Mu, Beta Sigma Psi, and Triangle fraternities still have little sister programs, and

Alpha Gamma Sigma is in the process of phasing its out, according to house officers.

Officers of the other UNL sororities said they do not have a policy prohibiting participating in auxiliary groups, but many said their national chapters discourage it.

Gamma Sorority Maureen Syring said the sorority does not prohibit members from joining little sister groups because this would be a violation of their First Amendment rights of freedom of association.

However, she said, the sorority highly discourages it and has seen a large decline recently in the number of members becoming little sisters.

O'Brien said Kappa Delta will not enforce the resolution any sooner than 1992. Currently, 10 to 15 Kappa Deltas are active in little sister programs, she said.