

Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday

WEATHER:

Tuesday, partly cloudy, high 55 to 60, winds from the west at 10 to 20 miles per hour. Tuesday night, partly cloudy and breezy, low of 30. Wednesday, partly cloudy, breezy and colder, high near 45.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Visser's suit unsuccessful

Jury returns verdict in UNL officials' favor

By Jerry Guenther
Senior Reporter
and Laura Smith
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials said they were pleased and relieved Monday after a U.S. District Court jury returned a verdict in their favor in the case of a fired academic adviser.

The jury, which began deliberations Monday morning, decided at about 4:20 p.m. that Mary Jane Visser was not fired for uncovering alleged irregularities in student athletes' records as she had contended in her lawsuit.

Visser, who was employed at UNL for 19 years, had brought suit against James Griesen, vice chancellor

for student affairs, and general studies Director Donald Gregory.

Griesen said he was pleased, but not surprised by the jury's decision.

Griesen said he thought even before the trial began that there was no relationship between Visser's termination and her claims that she was fired for reporting alleged irregularities in student athletes' records.

The decision to terminate Visser was based solely on her work performance, he said.

In the lawsuit, Visser was seeking her former job back, damages for emotional distress and back pay.

Visser also contended in her original lawsuit that the NU Board of Regents failed to protect her First Amendment right to free speech. But U.S. District Court Judge Warren

Urbom dismissed that part of the case Nov. 7 because of insufficient evidence.

Griesen said he regrets that many incidents brought out during the trial were taken out of context.

Some of those incidents may have caused the public to have some misunderstandings about Gregory, Griesen said.

"He (Gregory) is a very fine administrator and a very fine faculty member," Griesen said. "He didn't deserve this."

Gregory said he was relieved after hearing the court's decision. Gregory said he feels he has been vindicated.

"During the entire process, we went through every proper procedure," he said.

Gregory said the process he used

leading up to Visser's termination also was vindicated.

"The whole situation was unfortunate," he said. "I'd have liked to see it settled earlier."

Gregory said a lot of important people spent a lot of time at the trial. That time could have been used for other things, he said.

"Now we can get back to work," he said.

Lincoln attorney David Buntain, who represented the university during the trial, said he also is glad the trial is over.

"We hope this puts an end to it," Buntain said. "The jury had a lot of pieces of evidence to consider and they came to the right result."

Thom Cope, Visser's attorney, said he and Visser are considering

their options, including appealing the case.

Cope said he plans to contact the jurors to find out on what basis they decided the case.

"I believe Mary Jane Visser was right from day one, and I still believe that to this day," he said.

Cope said one ramification of the jury's decision is that UNL employees may be afraid to speak up on matters of public concern for fear of losing their jobs.

Although the jury ruled in Gregory and Griesen's favor, U.S. District Court Judge Warren Urbom still has to rule on Title VII of the Civil Rights Act in which Visser could be awarded compensation for sex dis-

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David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Mary Cadwallader (right), University of Nebraska Press advertising manager, discusses paperwork with Camille North, science editor, in Cadwallader's office.

NU Press running out of office space

By Robin Trimarchi
Staff Reporter

The advertising manager for the second largest state university press in the United States has her office in a repainted, one-windowed former closet, and the technology manager's office doubles as storage space.

The University of Nebraska Press, located in Nebraska Hall, currently occupies 5,500 square feet of office space, yet needs 8,000 square feet to accommodate the current staff, according to Bill Regier, director and editor in chief of the press.

Employees are working in offices that are so overcrowded that one person's phone call disrupts another's work, he said.

"We're working on top of each other," Regier said, "and we're working against each other. When your reputation depends on proofreading," he said, "it is certainly a handicap."

As a department of the University of Nebraska, the press is unique in that it is both academic and a business, Regier said. But the press cannot operate independently like a successful business can, he said.

For example, the press cannot acquire additional space or make its own capital

improvements, he said.

Money for expanded facilities must be allocated by the Nebraska Legislature through funding for capital construction, Regier said.

A recently completed five-year plan indicates that the press will need about 14,000 square feet for offices, darkrooms and "all the things we need to publish," Regier said. The offices are now inaccessible and difficult for people to find, he said. Growth in personnel is a major need as well, he said.

See PRESS on 3

Speaker outlines positive goals for greek system

By Roger Price
Staff Reporter

Even though most leaders in American history were members of greek houses, Walt Keim, a national speaker on greek systems, said that is not what he sees in fraternity and sororities on college campuses today.

Keim, a Christian campus minister and an alumnus of Delta Upsilon Fraternity, said that instead of joining fraternities and sororities for the values and skills possessed by former members most people say today they joined greek houses because "they have great parties."

He said that 85 percent of Supreme Court justices, two-thirds of all Cabinet members, and all but two presidents were members of fraternities or sororities.

Keim told the audience, which represented almost every fraternity and sorority at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, that five things need to be done to prevent the greek system at UNL from following the fate of greek systems on 22 other campuses in the United States -- dissolution.

In order for a greek system to survive, Keim said, its members should drink responsibly, lay off drugs, be sexually responsible, stop hazing and conduct themselves in a way they will be proud of later.

"If you are going to try and live by 'Animal House,' you're going to kill yourself," he said.

Fraternity members should "treat women like you hope to God someone's treating your sister somewhere," Keim said, instead of the way women are treated in the movie.

Keim said that when drinking, "If you have fun, enjoy it, but if you have problems when you drink, you're a problem drinker."

People should recognize that if drinking causes them problems they shouldn't drink, he said.

When Keim asked the audience how many people had friends in high school who were killed in alcohol-related accidents, he said he counted more than 100 raised hands in the two talks he gave Monday night.

"As a campus minister, I have to bury you when you don't listen to me," he said. "I would much rather watch you get married."

In his travels to college and university campuses across the United States, Keim said, he sees too many mirrors, razor blades, baggies and other drug paraphernalia in greek houses.

"Either you're doing drugs, or you've opened a meat market for Lilliputians," he said.

Keim told audience members that legal consequences of doing drugs should be enough to make them quit.

He said it is "impossible" in 1989 to get a job after being convicted of a drug misdemeanor or felony.

Sexual responsibility also should be a con-

See FRATERNITY on 3

Students rally for federal financial aid

By Michelle Cheney
Staff Reporter

The national system of student financial aid will be replaced with a federally funded one in 1991 if a national group of student government representatives has its way.

This weekend about 40 college student government representatives from 10 states met in Kansas City, Mo. They discussed possible lobbying topics for congressional hearings next year dealing with the reauthorization of the Federal Higher Education Authorization Act, said Deb Fiddelke, the Nebraska represen-

tative.

The act, which deals with many higher education topics including financial aid, was passed in the 1960s but must be reauthorized every five years, she said. College students may lobby the issues at the hearings. She said the act will come to the floor of Congress in 1991 or 1992 to be reauthorized.

At the conference this weekend, representatives discussed mainly financial aid topics, said Fiddelke, chairman of the Government Liaison Committee at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. These topics included an idea for a completely federally funded financial aid plan.

The plan, named the Westport Plan, would allow for federally subsidized higher education by offering every potential student the equivalent of four years of tuition costs at a public institution, she said.

The name of the plan is derived from the area of Kansas City where the students stayed. Fiddelke said this plan would consolidate all national financial aid programs, instead of the several programs now in use.

The Westport Plan would "completely overhaul the (national) financial aid system," she said.

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