

Woman gives up church rather than 'sin'

By Trish Spencer
Staff Reporter

"Four years ago today, I was officially put on church discipline," for being a lesbian, Beth Mullaney told a group of about 70 people gathered at the Culture Center on Friday to celebrate Women's Week 1991.

Mullaney, formerly Beth Hall, said she began attending Indian Hills Community Church in 1979 because she was "looking for a church that taught the Bible."

Eight years later, on Feb. 8, 1987, Mullaney decided to leave the church that had become a home, rather than "turn from the sin" she was committing.

Mullaney's sin was lesbianism, or immoral conduct, as the church saw it, she said.

Mullaney said she dated men in high school, but the relationships

— " " **I sued the church and lived; that was what I lived for.**

Mullaney
woman who sued church

"never lasted for more than two weeks." Eventually she became engaged to a man, but that didn't last either and Mullaney found herself involved with a woman.

"It was the weirdest thing for me," she said. "I didn't know how to deal with it."

Mullaney, who still was attending the church, began church counseling to cope with the problems she faced being the child of an alcoholic parent.

Ultimately, she revealed to the woman counselor, who she said had become like a mother, that she was in love with another woman.

In accordance with the church's beliefs and the actions of church discipline, Mullaney said, the counselor told her that if she did not turn away from her behavior, the head pastor of counseling would have to be told.

The pastor was informed of her conduct, and on March 1, 1987, a

pastor of the church told a group of evening worshippers that Mullaney was engaging in immoral conduct.

Mullaney said the pastor asked the church members to pray for her for two weeks and to talk with her to try to encourage her to turn from her sin.

At the end of the two weeks, on March 15, Mullaney was officially placed on church discipline. By this time she had quit the church.

She described church discipline as taking place in six steps. She said she was taken through the fourth.

The six steps, Mullaney said, are to personally confront a sinner, and if he or she does not turn away from sin, to take another church member along to talk to him or her again.

If the sins continue, the sinner is brought in front of the Board of Elders, and if he or she still does not turn away, the "immoral conduct" is announced to the body of the church.

The fifth step states that physical sickness will overcome the sinner, and the final step is death, Mullaney said.

"The physical sickness and death thing really scared me," she said.

It also helped motivate her to take legal action against the church in June 1987.

"I sued the church and lived; that was what I lived for," Mullaney said.

She said she did not sue the church to make it say lesbianism was acceptable, but for breach of confidentiality and counseling.

On the fourth day of the trial, Mullaney decided to settle out of court. She said she felt she had accomplished what she had set out to do.

Although Mullaney viewed the outcome of the trial as a success, she said it took medication, counseling and time to finally bring her to accept herself.

Lincoln houses system

Satellite teaching expands course availability

By Kim Spurlock
Staff Reporter

Lincoln is host to two nationwide satellite teaching programs used recently in a congressional lobbying effort.

The two programs are a Japanese language course taught to high school students nationwide and the AG*SAT system that offers two classes to college students.

Members of Congress saw the Japanese language course beamed from Lincoln to students across the country and programs on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln-based satellite agricultural network. The programs were shown in an effort to increase funding for educational public television.

The programs were designed to expand the range of courses available at some schools.

Tim Cook, a Lincoln instructor who teaches one of five Japanese language classes, said the program is an efficient means of linking students.

Cook said that with the increasing popularity of the Japanese language in the last few years, there are not enough Japanese instructors to fill the demand for courses. With satellites, he said, one teacher can be linked to hundreds of students across the country.

The Japanese program, which first started in January 1989 as a pilot program and was permanently added in September 1989, reaches more than 1,145 students in over 300 schools, Cook said. Twenty-two of those schools are in Nebraska.

Cook said half of the students taking part in the program are from rural communities, and

the satellite program may be the only way some students can learn Japanese.

The only real disadvantage of the satellite program is that instructors cannot see if students understand and are not able to answer the students' questions immediately, Cook said.

Randall Bretz, program and operations administrator for AG*SAT Corp., said that because agricultural colleges can't always find teachers for all courses, the agricultural satellite program helps to fill empty faculty slots.

UNL headquarters two credit courses offered through satellite television in 15 states.

Those courses, which began in January 1991, are sustainable agriculture — taught at Iowa State University to 200 students — and food science — taught at Penn State University to 100 students, Bretz said.

He said the program offers several advan-

tages. Students can hear and learn from some of the leading faculty members around the nation and from other students as well, he said.

Bretz added that in agriculture, students may learn only about their state, but with a satellite program they can get a broader exposure to problems and solutions nationwide.

A disadvantage of the satellite is that there isn't enough interaction between the instructor and the student or the student among other students, he said.

But officials are working to increase student interaction, he said, by providing three methods of communication — calling directly to the studio or to the faculty member's office, faxing questions to the instructor who will address them and sharing information with most institutions of higher learning by a nationwide computer network.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Thursday, March 14

9:56 a.m. — Harassing phone calls, McCollum Hall.
3:57 p.m. — Bike parts stolen, Veterinary Basic Science Building, \$30.

Beginning midnight Friday, March 15

9:53 a.m. — Car scratched, 17th and R streets.
12:12 p.m. — Hit-and-run auto accident, Schulte Field House, \$300.
12:19 p.m. — Windshield broken, 19th and S streets, \$200.
2:17 p.m. — Glasses stolen, Oldfather Hall,

\$150.

Beginning midnight Saturday, March 16

12:51 a.m. — Vehicle drove across lawn, Harper-Schramm-Smith complex, loss unknown.
1:20 a.m. — Vehicle ran into curb and handrail, 15th and U streets, \$350 damage to vehicle, \$100 damage to handrail.
3:58 a.m. — Man arrested for driving while intoxicated, 26th and Holdrege streets.
3:34 p.m. — Juveniles throwing rocks at railroad cars, 1815 Y St.
5:55 p.m. — Two-car non-injury accident, Sandoz Residence Hall parking lot, \$350.

Fluency

Continued from Page 1

erty said. This soon fades away, however, as the student adjusts to the accent, he said.

Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk said some T.A.s from foreign countries treat women differently from men in class.

"Boys get answers from T.A.s — not girls... It's a matter of the T.A.s' culture, but it's not acceptable at UNL," Robinson said.

Liberty said students who have continuous problems with instructors can talk to department heads and request transfers to other sections or drop the course.

The fluency problem is being corrected by a program developed three years ago requiring T.A.s to take a fluency test, he said. Only about 62 percent of T.A.s pass the test, he said.

The other 38 percent are not appointed to teaching positions. And, of the 62 percent who pass the test, only one-third end up teaching, he said.

Liberty said not every instructor had taken the test and that it would take about two years to test all teaching assistants.

Professors are not required to be tested, Liberty said.

"But the university is highly selective in the interviewing process of professors," he said.

Salary

Continued from Page 1

president of administration and director of personnel, said that if the regents would not have approved the requests, the unions would have had to present the requests to an arbitrator or "special master."

The special master would determine the final amount of salary raises by comparing salaries of peer institutions.

Russell said the special master would have seen eye to eye with the unions' proposed increases because UNK and UNO based the amount of the request on the criteria the special master uses.

The unions at UNO and UNK determined the amount of the increases Jan. 15 to comply with state regulations. Gov. Ben Nelson proposed a budget on Feb. 15. The increases were determined with the hope that Nelson's budget would allow for them, Russell said.

"Before, the management never agreed (on salary amounts), so we let the budget process govern the negotiation process, but now we

must let the negotiation process be out in front so the governor can consider this in the budget.

"However, this time the budget is not responding to our requests," he said.

Nelson only proposed a 3.75 percent faculty salary raise for next year, and a preliminary proposal from the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee suggested a 4 percent raise.

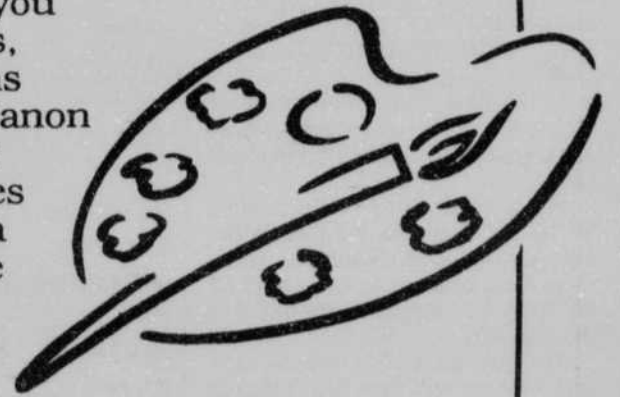
NU Regent Don Blank of McCook said the board had to approve collective bargaining salary agreements despite the governor's proposed budget.

"The board recognizes that the salaries in the agreements exceed the amounts currently proposed in either the governor's budget recommendation or the Appropriations Committee's preliminary recommendation," Blank said. "Under Nebraska law, however, those are not factors the board may consider when negotiating in good faith with the bargaining units."

Because the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is not unionized, faculty salary increases will not be decided until the Legislature approves a budget.

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