

Daily Nebraskan

September 3, 1992

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 92 No. 10

CORRECTION

A story that appeared Aug. 28 should have reported that UNL Parking Services, not UNL Police, issues parking violations. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

Alcohol, drugs, and other sins



THURSDAY

84/60
Mostly sunny today. Tonight, clear. Tomorrow more of the same.



DN File Photo

"I want a roommate, plain and simple. Everyone else gets one," says Kristy Coleman, a junior human development and the family major.

Disabled student sues UNL

Housing Office denies request for a roommate

By Angela Opperman
Staff Reporter

Kristy Coleman wants a roommate. Coleman, a junior majoring in human development and the family, said she believed that she shouldn't have to live alone just because she had cerebral palsy and used a wheelchair. But UNL has denied her request for a roommate since the fall of 1991. Coleman filed a lawsuit Monday against the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, alleging that its housing policies discriminate against her.

"I want a roommate, plain and simple," she said. "Everyone else gets one."

She asked to share a double room with another student, but was assigned a single room in Selleck Hall, an accessible residence hall.

In her U.S. District Court suit, Coleman claims UNL violated her rights under the Americans With Disabilities Act and the Constitution when it denied her request for a roommate.

UNL officials would not comment on the case Wednesday.

However, James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, issued a press release saying that UNL did not differentiate students with disabilities from other students in its housing policy, unless a student's need for attendant care or special equipment, or both, interfered with another student's privacy and space.

Coleman requires a personal attendant for dressing and using the restroom.

The only equipment she needs, she said, is an electric wheelchair, a fold-up wheelchair for car travel and a small bath chair that she uses in the shower. But all of these things are easily stored in the corner, she said.

Coleman had several non-disabled roommates when she attended Peru State College, she said, and they lived together without any problems.

Coleman said some people might think that living alone should fail to bother her, but she believed she was missing out on social interaction.

Also, Coleman must pay an additional \$550 a year for a single room.

See **LAWSUIT** on 3

Baldwin's treatment extended by judge

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Lancaster County District Judge Paul Merritt Jr. ruled Wednesday that UNL student Andrew Scott Baldwin should continue his mental treatment program at Omaha's St. Joseph's Center for Mental Health.

Merritt ordered Baldwin, 23, to be committed to St. Joseph's after Baldwin and his attorney, Hal Anderson, conceded that he continued to present a "clear and convincing danger ... by mental illness or defect" to himself and others, and would in the future without treatment.

Baldwin was to be committed to St. Joseph's security unit Wednesday, where Dr. Donald Swanson — who formulated the treatment program — and other psychiatrists would interview and test him. Those doctors then would determine if Baldwin should be released and treated as an outpatient.

Merritt gave psychiatrists treating Baldwin the authority to determine his freedom of movement outside the security unit with the stipulation that their decision be made "with the public's safety in mind."

Merritt also ordered Baldwin not to leave Nebraska until his treatment was completed, and set a progress review hearing for Aug. 23, 1993.

The ruling allows Baldwin to live in Lincoln and attend classes at the university. He will no longer be required to live with UNL football coaches.

The ruling came after Merritt postponed an Aug. 24 hearing in which new evidence was submitted. The evidence included police reports and psychological evaluations.

Baldwin was charged with first-degree assault and assault on a police officer stemming from a Jan. 18 attack on Gina Simanek Mountain. This summer, he was found not responsible by reason of insanity after a psychological evaluation.

Merritt said St. Joseph's personnel had agreed to accept the ruling. Neither Lancaster County nor the court will have to pay for the treatment.

Merritt said he received a letter in which the Nebraska athletic department promised to pay Baldwin's treatment costs until he graduates. Baldwin is expected to graduate in May.

Anderson predicted Baldwin would be released from the security unit Wednesday night.

He also called the ruling "really unusual."

"The judge, in my opinion, doesn't believe he has the authority to commit (Baldwin) to an outpatient program directly," Anderson said, "so he is going to let the doctors at St. Joseph's determine it."

If Baldwin does not comply with Merritt's order, his treatment could be altered, Anderson said. He could be treated at an in-patient program at St. Joseph's or another state institution.

"But that's very unlikely," Anderson said. "I told Scott that I thought this was what was going to happen, and he was prepared for it."

Under Swanson's treatment program, Baldwin would continue to meet with a St. Joseph's psychiatrist at least twice a week, and would continue to receive two daily doses of lithium carbonate, a depressant.

Anderson said he was pleased with Merritt's decision.

"What occurred here was the best for everyone," he said.

Chemical fire victim still in fair condition

From Staff Reports

A UNL graduate student injured in a chemical explosion at Hamilton Hall remained in fair condition Wednesday at St. Elizabeth Community Health Center, authorities said.

Hann-Wan Guan, a 30-year-old chemistry student from Taiwan, was taken to Lincoln General Hospital and later transferred to the St. Elizabeth Community Health Center burn unit after an explosion Tuesday on the sixth floor of Hamilton Hall.

Guan was burned by the chemical explosion and cut by glass. He sustained injuries to his face, throat and

chest. Authorities said he was working alone in the lab when the explosion occurred about 4:15 p.m.

Dan Olsen, chemical safety specialist for UNL's Environmental Health and Safety, said Guan was performing a routine chemical procedure involving distillation of tetrahydroform in the lab.

Tetrahydroform, a highly flammable organic solvent, commonly is used in organic chemistry, Olsen said.

All floors of Hamilton Hall are open, he said, but the lab where the explosion occurred is closed. Olsen said he did not know when it would be opened.

Committee to provide input on recycling plan

By Kathryn Borman
Staff Reporter

Recycling at UNL is on the verge of some positive changes, the vice chancellor for business and finance wrote Wednesday in a memo to members of the Recycling Advisory Committee. In the memo, Jack Goebel asked for input from committee members about the campuswide recycling plan and the hiring of a coordinator for waste reduction. The committee first suggested both proposals in November 1990. The suggestions were compiled in a report sent by Goebel to University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham Spanier in July.

Spanier proposed a campuswide recycling plan and the hiring of a recycling coordinator in his State of the University address Aug. 20.

Spanier had asked Goebel to organize a campus plan for recycling, and Goebel said the committee's suggestions would be the foundation of the plan.

The Recycling Advisory Committee, formed in the spring of 1990 and headed by Bud Dasenbrock, director of UNL Landscape Services, issued a report in November 1990 calling for a coordinator for recycling and an advisory committee to support the coordinator.

"It just makes sense to go back and get that collective wisdom to apply to a new and more progressive approach," Goebel said.

"I've asked them at their first meeting ... to

consider those issues and get some feedback to this office as promptly as we can, so that we can get going."

Goebel said he would form a new committee to work with his office to create a plan and select a coordinator. The new committee will include some members of the Recycling Advisory Committee, he said, because they have worked hard and have a vested interest in, and knowledge about, recycling on campus.

"It might take us a little bit longer, but I think we'll have a sounder approach," Goebel said of forming a new committee.

He said it might be four to six weeks before the committee was formed and a plan was created for hiring the coordinator.

At the time the committee first proposed

hiring a recycling coordinator, he said, budget cuts thwarted the plan.

Goebel said a coordinator should provide the stability needed for a successful, ongoing recycling program.

"I personally feel that (the committee's) assessment with regard to the value of a coordinator is right on the mark," he said.

Goebel predicted the coordinator's job would be a "hands-on" position.

Paul Carlson, interim business manager at UNL, said the position might be filled by someone working jointly with the university, city and state, but he said UNL had no specific plans to select the coordinator in conjunction

See **RECYCLE** on 3