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CBA women faculty members disturbed by offensive letter

By **Matthew Waite**
Senior Reporter

The question on the minds of many women professors in the College of Business Administration is what to do now.



GENDER EQUITY

On Monday, women faculty members of CBA received letters that included sexually explicit material. The letter ended, "The joke is on you. Stop causing a problem at UNL or we're going to give you the boot."

Mary McGarvey, professor of economics in CBA, said getting the letter was upsetting.

"I thought it was pretty disgusting ... maybe a little scary," she said.

McGarvey said she read the letter and took it to CBA Dean Gary Schwendiman. She later discussed the letter with other women faculty.

"Our first reaction was if it was against the law since it came through the mail," McGarvey said.

If the letters are determined to threaten bodily injury, they could end up at the FBI, a representative from the post office said.

NU General Counsel Richard Wood, whom University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials gave the letters to for investigation, declined to comment if the FBI would be involved.

"We're looking into the matter, and that's all I want to comment on it right now," he said.

Ann Mari May, an economics professor in CBA, said she thought the letter was threatening. She also said there might have been another motive involved.

"It's disturbing that it came a few days before the confidential surveys (about the environment in CBA) were due," May said. "It certainly doesn't help the climate for women in CBA."

McGarvey said there was something behind the letter.

"I certainly don't think it would have happened ... if there hadn't been so much questioning about the specifics of the Committee W report," she said. "Perhaps this person wouldn't have felt so free to (write the letter)."

The Committee W report was written by the American Association of University Professors. It described the environment in CBA as hostile toward women.

May said this was not the first letter she had received of this nature.

"It's not the first time I've received material (I felt) was offensive," she said.

"We always wonder, since the person is not rational, is this it or will there be more?"

— McGarvey
CBA economics professor

However, May said, she had never received a threat while she had been at CBA.

McGarvey said she was glad administrators and faculty were taking this matter seriously.

"If nothing is done it's kind of an invitation to do this kind of thing," she said. "I hope (the author of the letter) will be caught so at least this will be stopped."

There were other concerns with the author of the letter, McGarvey said.

"We always wonder, since the person is not rational, is this it or will there be more?" she said.

Schwendiman said Thursday no other letters had been received. He said no other actions had been taken, other than turning the letters over to investigators.

"I hope we are able to nail this person," Schwendiman said. "This is just abominable."

NEBRASKA Gymnastics

Catch the UNL Men and Women Gymnasts in action next weekend as they host the Big Eight Championships.

Men's Gymnastics FRIDAY March 25 7:30 p.m.

Women's Gymnastics SATURDAY March 26 7:30 p.m.

Bob Devaney Sports Center

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BIG 8 CONFERENCE

Speaker: Domestic violence preventable

By **Julie Sobczyk**
Staff Reporter

Domestic violence is a preventable problem, the director of the Nebraska Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Coalition said Thursday.

Sarah O'Shea's speech in the Nebraska Union was titled "There is No Excuse in the '90s — Where We Are, What Needs to Happen." It took place in conjunction with Women's Week 1994.

"We need to end violence against women, and we need to find a way to get rid of domestic violence," O'Shea said.

Building more women's shelters is not helping to decrease domestic violence, O'Shea said, because the shel-

ters fill up, but the problem still exists. She said an alternative to increasing shelter space was to increase awareness of violence.

"We need better public awareness, and we're lacking good public relations. We need to fix our system to be more responsive to this problem," O'Shea said.

O'Shea said one solution to end domestic violence would be to involve men in the process.

"Men don't know how to get involved. Men need to understand that women's safety is a priority," she said.

Another solution to the problem of violence toward women is ending gender-based stereotypes.

"We have to look at how we raise

boys and girls in society, and what types of role models we give them," O'Shea said.

O'Shea said children learned to stereotype while in school. She said boys learned to think that power and anger were male qualities, while weakness and passivity were female qualities.

"This is something we have to change. Men aren't allowed to be emotional, except for being angry and lashing out," O'Shea said. "Men need to see they don't benefit from a sexist society. They need to understand they will not benefit from power."

"Things are getting better," O'Shea said. "We all want to reconstruct how we live together in the world and gain more of a power balance."

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FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Doug Fiedler, 436-6287.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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NEBRASKA Baseball

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Tuesday March 22 7 p.m.

Buck Beltzer Field

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