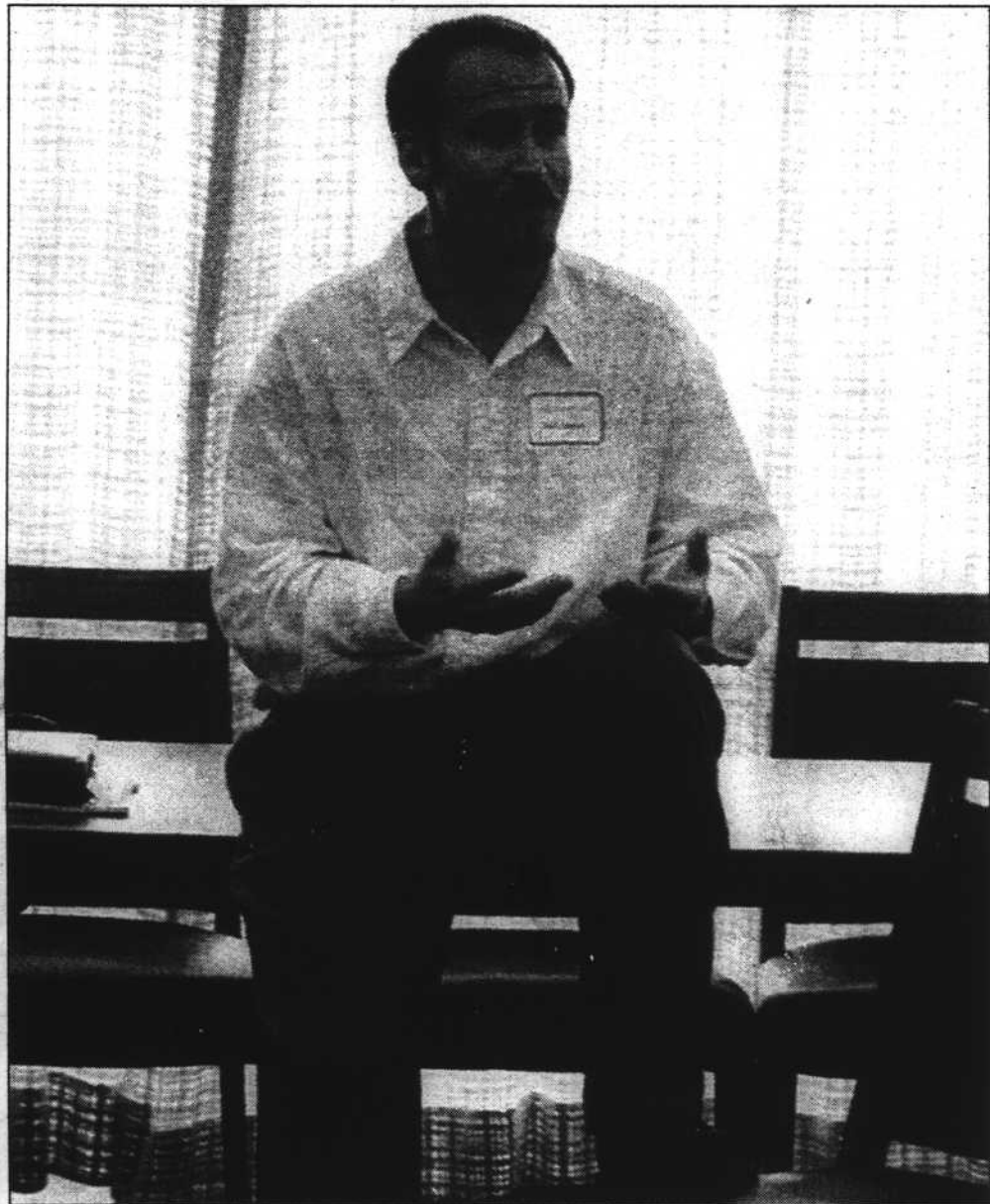


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# Former student warns of AIDS at UNL



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Paul Moore talks about his experiences as a gay student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**By Tanna Kinnaman**  
Staff Reporter

A former University of Nebraska-Lincoln student said the university is in denial about the existence of AIDS on campus.

Paul Moore, who coordinates a program for homeless children in Portland, Ore., spoke at a student affairs staff development meeting in the Union Friday.

"In a meeting I attended as a student, a vice chancellor denied that AIDS was a problem on campus and didn't need to be addressed by the university," Moore said. "I am here to tell the university that AIDS is a problem here."

*"In a meeting I attended as a student, a vice chancellor denied that AIDS was a problem on campus and didn't need to be addressed by the university. I am here to tell the university that AIDS is a problem here."*

**PAUL MOORE**

Former UNL student

Moore said he probably became infected with the AIDS virus while he was a student at UNL. At the time, he didn't think AIDS was a problem on campus. This belief was reinforced by the university, the Lincoln community, his friends and society, he said.

"Fear on campus of gays and lesbians is so great that AIDS is rapidly spreading to others," Moore said.

While he was in a fraternity, some men were having sex with both men and women, he said.

"But the men didn't use condoms when they had sex with women because they feared the women might think they were gay," Moore said.

The two most rapidly increasing groups becoming infected with the AIDS virus are women and people under the age of 21, Moore said.

"Statistics show that one in four women will be raped. These women won't be in a situation to negotiate safe sex," he said. "And neither are abused women who don't have the skills to negotiate safe sex or set healthy boundaries."

Moore said the self-worth of gays and lesbians are publicly debated all the time.

"The message I continue to receive at UNL is that gays and lesbians aren't worthy of what other students are worthy of," Moore said. "When (Mary Dean) Harvey says that gays and lesbians shouldn't be allowed to adopt children, what does that say about my self-worth?"

Harvey is director of the Nebraska Department of Social Services.

Because of the messages he received on campus and in society, he didn't think he was worth caring about. On the outside he appeared to be a student leader, but inside he would have done anything not to be gay.

"I thought it would be better to die than to be gay," he said.

Moore said his low self-esteem led him to practice self-destructive behaviors.

It wasn't until he hit rock bottom—contracting AIDS—that Moore sought help.

Once he got help and began working through his problems, he started to feel good about himself, Moore said.

"I feel better about myself now than any other time in my life. Unfortunately it took getting AIDS for that to happen."

"The scary thing is that odds are I'll probably get sick and die. It's scary that people will go to work the next day and I won't be here," he said.

"This is the 15th year of the AIDS epidemic. Very soon more people will have died of AIDS than all the people who have died in all of this country's wars put together," Moore said. "How many have to die before people join in the war and acknowledge AIDS?"

Moore said Jack, a friend of his who was a former Jesuit priest, told him there had to be a purpose for AIDS. We were supposed to learn something from it.

"Maybe we're supposed to learn to respect each other and learn to care for each other," Moore said. "Millions of people will die from AIDS. We have to learn something or all of these deaths will be for nothing."

"What is it we're supposed to learn?"

# Court experience, education gained before law school

**By Catherine Blalock**  
Staff Reporter

As an undergraduate, Monique Ellert, a 27-year-old University of Nebraska-Lincoln student, is gaining experience toward her law degree.

When Ellert is not attending classes towards her Political Science degree, she can be found at the Healey and Wieland law offices where she is a legal secretary for Prosecutor Robert Bartle.

Bartle is currently prosecuting Stephen Schellpeper, who has been charged with third degree assault involving the arrest of Francisco Renteria. Renteria died the following

*"I've just been at the right place at the right time."*

**MONIQUE ELLERT**

Undergraduate Poli. Sci. major  
day at Lincoln General Hospital.

Bartle also was the prosecuting attorney in Officer Luke Wilke's case, who was found not guilty, and will prosecute Danny Wright when the case goes to trial August 7.

Ellert has been present in the courtroom since the Wilke trial began. She

is gaining valuable experience toward her law degree which she plans to pursue at UNL after she receives her bachelor's.

"As for me, this was an opportunity to experience firsthand the profession I am interested in pursuing," she said.

Ellert has been working 12-hour days since the trial began, but the work does not always include work in the courtroom.

Last week she spent her time in the office handling Bartle's private practice and plans to return to the courtroom next week.

While Ellert is in the courtroom, she takes notes and if an issue arises where a piece of evidence is needed

she gets it out.

She is also present because she can recall testimony from the Grand Jury hearings.

"Bob's been incredible in respecting my intelligence and involvement in the case," she said.

Through Ellert's work with Bartle she has been able to get to know the man behind the prosecution of officials involved in the Renteria trials.

"Mr. Bartle has shown me that integrity exists in the legal profession. He has been heroic in his ability to stick to his job despite public disapproval and disappointment. We forget that it is his job to be divorced from the emotions we all feel, in an attempt

to insure justice is carried out," Ellert said.

Ellert knows she is gaining valuable experience in a way that most people don't. Many people start out in a law office as an office runner or law clerk.

"I've just been at the right place at the right time," she said.

Before coming to UNL, Ellert was a legal secretary for three years in Scottsbluff. Prior to that move she attended a college in San Francisco. Her mother lives in Scottsbluff and her father lives in San Francisco.

This fall she'll return to UNL as a full-time student and will continue to work for Bartle.