

# Student's dad sues UNK over housing rule

HASTINGS (AP)—A south central Nebraska man has filed a lawsuit against the University of Nebraska at Kearney, alleging that a housing rule violates his 18-year-old son's religious freedom.

The rule requires that all full-time freshmen live in on-campus housing. Students who are married, 19 years old or living with a parent or guardian are exempt from the rule.

Michael Rader, who filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Lincoln on behalf of his son, Douglas, said the rule is unconstitutional and denies him the right to direct his son's education.

Douglas Rader began classes at UNK this week and is living in an off-campus building operated by the Christian Student Fellowship, a group supported by his church.

The Raders seek a court decision

stating that UNK's policy violates their constitutional rights and preventing UNK from enforcing the policy against them. They also request payment for attorney fees, court costs and any other damages.

Lincoln attorney Jeff Downing told The Hastings Tribune that the Raders are not seeking monetary damages.

"They just want a policy set aside for their son by the university," he said. "I believe many universities would grant waivers for this type of situation."

Barb Snyder, UNK vice chancellor for student affairs, said no action had been taken against Douglas Rader for living off campus. She said the university wanted to review its policy before making any decisions.

"We believe it is a sound policy

academically, educationally and socially," she said.

In March, Douglas Rader filed a petition for exception to the freshman housing policy. According to the petition, Douglas said he was concerned about the immoral atmosphere of college residence halls.

"I have heard from many of my classmates and friends of the wild lifestyles allowed in dormitories at UNK," he said in the petition. "The obnoxious alcohol parties in the dormitories, the immoral atmosphere and the intolerance toward those who profess to be Christians would severely hinder my free exercise of religion and be a definite hardship on me."

Douglas R. Wermedal, assistant director of resident life at UNK, denied the petition request in April. He

said there were many campus ministry programs offered by residence halls.

"I am firmly persuaded that there is nothing in the residence hall environment that would prohibit the free exercise of your or any other person's faith," Wermedal said.

In a letter sent with his son's petition, Michael Rader said he had spoken to other parents of college students who "told us sad stories of their children."

"Several young people, pressured by their new friends, stop their involvement with the church and put their faith on the shelf," Michael Rader said. "Doug is too precious to us to let that happen."

Downing said he was waiting for a response from the university before a hearing date was set.

# Omaha teen gets prison sentence

OMAHA (AP)—A 15-year-old Omaha youth was sentenced to at least 10 years in prison Tuesday for killing another teenager in December.

Charles Harris was sentenced to 10 years for second-degree murder and from 10 to 15 years for use of a firearm.

Harris had pleaded guilty to both charges. Police said he shot 15-year-old Derick Cleghorn in the face during a fight between two groups of youths in north Omaha.

Douglas County District Judge James Buckley said a life sentence would have been appropriate if Harris had been older.

# Offutt officer considers himself lucky after crash

OMAHA (AP) — An officer at Offutt Air Force Base is nursing wounds that include a sprained shoulder, cuts and a few bruises.

But he considers himself lucky.

Maj. Chuck LeMay was one of 25 people who survived the crash of a commuter plane Monday in Georgia that killed five people, including the pilot.

LeMay boarded the Atlantic Southeast Airlines turboprop from Atlanta to Gulfport, Miss., en route to Biloxi, Miss., where he was to attend a weather conference at Keesler Air Force Base.

The officer, who is not related to the late Gen. Curtis LeMay, former commander in chief of the Strategic Air Command, works at Air Force Global Weather Central at Offutt.

LeMay, 42, spoke Monday evening to the Omaha World-Herald from his room at Bowdon Area Hospital in Carrollton, about seven miles from the crash site. The plane went down around midday about five miles from Carrollton, breaking into three large pieces as it plowed across the green field.

The pilot had radioed that he was having engine problems and may have been trying to land at West Georgia Regional Airport, six to eight miles from the crash site, said Christy Williams, a Federal Aviation Administra-

tion spokeswoman.

LeMay, a 22-year veteran of the Air Force, said he heard a loud bang, looked out a left window and saw that the metal surrounding one of the engines was gone. Fuel began to pour out of the damaged engine.

A flight attendant told passengers that the plane could operate safely with one engine and would turn around to head back to Atlanta. Then she told passengers what to do if the plane crashed. She reassured them they would not need to use the procedures.

A few minutes later, she told the passengers to get into position for a crash. LeMay said he and other passengers still believed they were heading for an airport.

LeMay said he watched as the plane clipped some trees, but never felt any impact from them. He said the plane hit the ground hard and slid.

The fuselage tore apart in the crash, sending debris into the air.

Flames erupted as LeMay left the plane. He said he was the second person out. The flames grew as he helped others out of the wreckage.

"A guy sitting next to me took his pants and shirt off and was beating down the flames on people as they got out," LeMay said. "I'm just thankful I'm alive."

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