

Casady could again face criminal charges

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

A special prosecutor could be appointed to reinvestigate Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady's conduct in the controversial death of Francisco Renteria.

Although one grand jury misconduct indictment against Casady was thrown out in February, a special prosecutor still could be appointed to investigate if sufficient evidence exists to file criminal charges.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey filed a motion Monday asking the district court to appoint a special prosecutor. Though Lacey said he believed Casady acted properly, the Nebraska Bar Association recommended that he request an investigation.

It was a case of mistaken identity last fall when Renteria was stopped by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln police officer. Renteria, who spoke little or no

English, died Oct. 1, 1994, one day after a struggle with Lincoln police.

Two Lincoln Police Department officers and a city fire captain were acquitted of charges this summer. When Casady's indictment was thrown out in February, many members of the Hispanic community protested.

Attorney Bob Bartle of Lincoln was appointed to prosecute the criminal case against the officers last year. Lacey requested a special prosecutor because of his close working relationship with Casady and the police department.

Lancaster County District Judge Donald Endacott dropped the indictment against Casady on Feb. 17. Weeks later, Bartle said Lacey could possibly become a witness for the prosecution and defense.

An advisory committee, appointed on behalf of the Nebraska Bar Association, stated earlier this month that Lacey should not be involved in deciding whether criminal charges could again be filed against Casady.



Jon Waller/DN

Gang graffiti sprays the back wall Tuesday of the Disabled American Veterans thrift store building at 821 N. 27th St. Police say a piru gang has become more visible in the area.

Gang graffiti leaves scars in Lincoln

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Many residents in the central Lincoln neighborhood near 27th and Vine streets cannot wait for the snow.

They don't mind the warm weather, but winter breezes could be the only thing to take gangs off their streets.

"The winter months are about the only time I walk to work, and I live three blocks away," said Shelly Powell, who lives in the neighborhood and is concerned with gang graffiti becoming common.

Powell, who manages the Disabled American Veterans thrift store at 821 N. 27th St., stood behind the building and pointed to the red swirls of letters that she discovered on it Tuesday morning. The spray-painted message is a clear reminder that her neighborhood is changing, she said.

"I think it's pretty damn stupid," Powell said. "It's obvious that you have your bloods and your crips. We figure that this is the bloods."

The words "Blood Gang" and "East Side 24 Jackson Avenue Piru" were among the messages painted on the west wall of the thrift store. The graffiti was spread over more than half the building's side. The letters mentioned Missouri and Kansas City, but it was unclear if the vandals actually came from outside Lincoln.

Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady said there were people in Lincoln who claimed to be members of gangs, including the bloods and crips. A piru gang, a smaller group or "set" of the blood nation, has made its presence

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SHELLY POWELL

Manager, Disabled American Veterans thrift store

known in the area, Casady said.

"We have people in Lincoln who claim to be members of piru blood sets," he said. "This is not one that I've ever heard of, however."

The damage to the thrift store wall was estimated at \$500. A storage bin behind the store and a white delivery truck each received \$100 damage, police estimated. A backdoor at the neighboring Mum's Liquor also received \$100 damage.

At the thrift store, the 1988 Chevrolet truck was not used Tuesday, Powell said, because it also was painted with a Jackson Avenue piru message.

"Right now, I just don't want to use it," she said. "You never know, these guys are out there driving around, rival gangs could take a course of action against the employees."

The light-brown wall was repainted two months ago, Powell said. Traces of blue graffiti — the color of crips gangs — were barely visible on the wall. However, two larger blue messages remained quite visible on the

storage bin.

Powell said she believed the freshly-painted red messages were done in retaliation to the older crip symbols.

"It's kind of scary that they are this close," said Powell, who has worked at the store for 10 years and lived in the area for three years. "I'm not happy about it, but I can't afford to move, and I work right here."

Casady said the only way to catch graffiti artists was while they were in the act. Otherwise, he said, it's nearly impossible to identify if the vandals are legitimate gang members or wannabes.

"It doesn't really matter who it's done by. If you've got junior high kids doing this, that is troubling," Casady said. "Or if you've got 24-year-old convicted felons, that is troubling."

As Powell stood and surveyed the damage to her store, her curiosity momentarily displaced her anger.

"It's interesting to know what it means," she said. "They're pretty darn good, don't you think?"

Phillips

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"Short of suspension, Osborne would be able to handle this by himself. The coach has agreed to keep Phillips off the team until this is wrapped up," Griesen said. "Quite naturally, we're trying to wrap this up as quickly as possible."

Osborne said he had become discouraged upon hearing rumors that Phillips would be reinstated as soon as Nebraska reached the difficult part of its schedule. Of the Huskers' remaining five games, four are against teams ranked in the top 15.

"If that was the case," Osborne said, "we probably would have brought him back for Washington State. Going into that game, I thought we needed him. The whole deal is not about what we need to win football games."

Phillips — who spent part of the second half of Saturday's 57-0 win over Missouri on the NU sidelines — will meet with Griesen and Director of Student Judicial Affairs Linda Schwartzkopf again this week. If he accepts the sanctions given by those university officials, his conduct violation case would be finalized.

However, if Phillips chooses to not accept the sanctions, his case will be reviewed by a board made up of five students and four faculty members.

Last week, Phillips was cleared by the NCAA of any violations connected with accepting a car and money from the owners of a group home in which he lived as a teen-ager.

The Student Code of Conduct automatically applies to all incidents that occur on university property. However, off-campus incidents such as the Phillips case also can be brought under the code if the misconduct adversely affects the educational interests of students.

Griesen said 300 cases filtered through the student judicial process each year, including about 30 inci-

dents of physical abuse.

"Campus judicial matters are genuinely very, very private," Griesen said. "Every now and then a case gets so much notoriety it has to be discussed."

Student judicial records are confidential under federal law, but Griesen said Phillips agreed to make the case public because of the intense national interest in this case.

Osborne said all measures had been taken to ensure that Phillips and McEwen were being treated as fairly as possible. The athletic department, Osborne said, has paid for 24-hour protection of McEwen since she was assaulted.

"She has had all the counseling that she needs," Osborne said, "and anything within reason that she or her family had wanted has been done."

"We thought the best thing for Kate was to have Lawrence have the possibility of returning to football if he did certain things. Believe me, if we thought his playing football would be harmful to Kate or to anybody else on this campus, he wouldn't do it."

Phillips was treated last month at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kan. Osborne said the report from the world-renowned psychiatric hospital indicated no psychosis or abnormal personality.

"Every person that has examined him said that he doesn't appear to be any threat to any person right now," Osborne said.

If Phillips accepts the sanctions imposed by the judicial board, he could be allowed to practice almost immediately. But he still would not be ready to play in a game, Osborne said.

"He probably needs at least two weeks of practice before he can play effectively in a game," Osborne said.

"This is a fellow that has been out now for six weeks," he said. "You can't just not practice for that length and have any kind of timing, any kind of physical conditioning. He has done a little weight lifting, but I would assume he is not ready to play football."

Parking

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complex.

McDowell said that system would reduce lines when students apply for parking permits. Freshmen would be able to pre-order permits more easily because their permits would not depend on the residence hall they were

living in, he said.

The new system is on the agenda for further discussion and a possible vote next week.

The committee brainstormed on how to reduce counterfeit parking permits, about 20 of which are found each year. One found a few weeks ago was made with a laser scanner and a

color printer. The current punishment is a \$100 fine and loss of parking privileges for one year. The car also will be towed.

Committee members suggested that the Student Code of Conduct be studied to determine if counterfeit permits violated it.

Research gave him a future

American Heart Association

Royalty Court

Homecoming 1995

8:00 am to 8:00 pm - Voting Sites
Nebraska Union-City
Nebraska Union-East
Campus Recreation Center

Homecoming Steering Committee
Coordinated By:
ASUN-UNL Student Government
Interfraternity Council
Panhellenic Council
Residence Hall Association
Student Alumni Association
University Program Council
Agri. Sciences & Nat. Res. Student Adv. Bd.
Student Foundation

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Fairbury
Pepsi
Old Home Bread
Runza

Left to Right the Homecoming Royalty are:
(1) Ryan Frank, (2) Shelley Moses, (3) David Milligan, (4) Shawntell Hurtgen, (5) Paul Cain, (6) Stacy Brandt, (7) Daniel Brox, (8) Tricia Koch, (9) Jason Katt, (10) Stephanie Brauner, (11) Dean Acheson, (12) Karen Starr, (13) Jason Neuhaus, (14) Annie Jones, (15) Michael Johnson, (16) Stephanie Pitts, (17) Scott Keettle, (18) Lauri Wyrick, (19) Mark Byars, (20) Juli Jones.