

Law & Order

A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Cole enters not guilty pleas

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

Jermaine Cole pleaded not guilty Wednesday in Lancaster County District Court to four charges, including assault and trespassing, in connection with a Sept. 3 incident.

Cole, 22, is the same Lincoln man who told police he was shot by Riley Washington in August. Washington, an NU wingback, faces trial on attempted second-degree murder in connection with the late-night shooting at a central Lincoln convenience store.

Cole was arrested after allegedly breaking into a former girlfriend's home and assaulting her. His bond was set at \$30,000.

In a brief hearing Wednesday morning, Judge Bernard McGinn declined to lower Cole's bond. He ruled the amount was reasonable because of Cole's previous record, which includes seven charges of failure to ap-

pear.

Cole pleaded not guilty to making terroristic threats, first-degree criminal trespassing, third-degree assault and criminal mischief. A tentative Dec. 4 trial date was set, but attorneys have 45 days to take depositions from witnesses.

In the other case, Cole identified Washington as the trigger man in a gang-related shooting at 27th and W streets. A trial date has not been set for Washington's attempted second-degree murder trial.

Cole has been convicted of more than 50 misdemeanors in Lancaster County. He remains in the Lancaster County jail.

DROPPED CHARGES

Two misdemeanor charges against fifth-string Nebraska 1-back James Sims were dropped after he signed onto a pretrial diversions program.

Sims was charged with disturbing the peace and vandalism in a July 3 incident with a former girlfriend. The 24-year-old Sims said he was innocent.

Sims and Sarah Price, a 25-year-old Lincoln woman, had an argument over Sims' property that she had tossed into the street. During the incident, the woman's car window was broken and her leg was cut by broken glass.

The diversions program allows first-time offenders to be educated in anti-violence techniques and complete 40-45 hours of volunteer work within a year.

Sims must participate in the program every month for one year. If he does not complete the program, charges will be refiled.

"It's like being on a year's probation," said Lee Flynn, director of Diversion Services.

Credit card simplifies purchases

By Jennifer Walker
Staff Reporter

Many University of Nebraska-Lincoln departments can now purchase supplies and services with just the swipe of a card.

Purchasing cards have been distributed to about 40 people in several departments, including all research and extension centers, said Bill Bode, material services administrator.

The cards can be used for purchases less than \$500.

Until recently, departments paid for items such as hardware supplies, professional subscriptions and books with a check-with-order or purchase order form, Bode said.

About 20 colleges and universities across the country use purchasing cards, and most are starting to use them. The UNL program, still in its infancy, has been in use just a few weeks, Bode said.

The cards are issued by First Chicago/MasterCard as part of a six-month pilot program. The program will expand to 1,000 employees within a year — halfway to the goal of 2,000 employee cardholders by fall 1997.

Besides being quicker and easier to use, the purchasing card program combines all transactions into a weekly computerized invoice, reducing excess paper use.

"All of our processes are paper intensive," Bode said. "It really cuts down on the paper strangulation on campus."

Once a week, the issuing bank consolidates all charges and sends a computerized invoice to UNL. An online or electronically accessible transaction report is sent to each department, where the charges are reviewed and reconciled to department records.

When all departments have approved the invoices, the accounting office processes a single payment to

First Chicago/MasterCard. The procedure is done by computer, moving UNL a step closer to a "paperless environment," Bode said.

Reaction to the program has been positive. Debra Fritch of the Civil Engineering department has used her card several times and said she appreciated its efficiency.

"I've liked the ease of it. It's going really well," Fritch said. "There's been a whole gamut of things we have already purchased."

The program fits well with NU President Dennis Smith's recent initiative to streamline administrative processes for greater efficiency, Bode said.

"I'm really excited about the corporate purchasing card," he said. "I think this demonstrates to the entire business community and other folks that we're already on the way to re-engineering administrative processes."

Christmas Open House
15% Off All Merchandise
Thursday, Friday
9th & 10th - Cookies
Cider & Coffee

Sheldon Gift Shop
Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery & Sculpture Garden
12th & R Street
(402) 472-3637
"Your Campus Gift Shop"

Don't Lose That Summer Tan

SUN TANNERY

15 sessions
only \$29.95

Will honor any competitors tanning package specials expires 12-31-95

1101 Arapahoe
(just behind McDonald's on S. 9th St.)
423-6022

JIM CARREY

NEW ANIMALS.
NEW ADVENTURES.
SAME HAIR.

ACE VENTURA
WHEN NATURE CALLS

ACE HAS A PLACE ON THE WEB! <http://aceventura.com>

SUBWAY ACE HAS A PLACE ON THE WEB! <http://aceventura.com> NETCRUISER

"Where do you want to go?"

"I don't know, where do you want to go?"

MasterCard. Accepted wherever you end up. 

© 1995 MasterCard International Incorporated