

Mother arrested for child abuse

From Staff Reports

Lincoln police arrested a mother Sunday for supplying her children with drugs.

Lincoln police Capt. Lee Wagner said police went to 4501 Tranquility Court with a search warrant after an officer received confidential information. When they searched the apartment, they found two Baggies that pre- tested for methamphetamine, a Baggie

of marijuana, pipes, a scale and other paraphernalia.

Cheri Ball, 33, was jailed and charged with felony child abuse and possession of a controlled substance.

Informants told police that the woman was supplying drugs to her three daughters, ages 13, 15 and 17. They said Ball was also using drugs.

The children were turned over to Child Protective Services.

ASUN seeks common focus

Improved freshman dropout rate one of main goals, Ruwe says

By BRAD DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Decreasing UNL's 25 percent freshman dropout rate will be a key goal for ASUN president Curt Ruwe this year as he turns more of the focus of the student government toward retaining students.

"My focus is doing more to build community - ASUN reaching out more, and organizations reaching out to us," Ruwe said.

The most important part of creating a sense of community, Ruwe said, is breaking down barriers felt by students - including idealistic barriers such as conservative vs. liberal; physical barriers such as people living in the residence halls vs. greeks vs. off-campus students; and racial tension issues.

"We want to be able to have a situation where students can communicate about these things and really feel they're a part of the University of Nebraska," Ruwe said.

One way that Ruwe and other leaders of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska hope to increase the students' sense of community is through the newly formed Student Impact Team.

Previously called the Freshman Action Committee, the SIT will be open to all students and will give them a chance to participate in campus government.

"The group will do a lot of reaching out to student organizations, and will involve students in their government," Ruwe said.

Another change in the organization of ASUN is the elimination of open membership to the Government Liaison Committee.

The GLC was restructured over the summer to include a chairman and four lobbyists - each of whom were appointed by Ruwe and will be

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focused on a specific topic, such as working with the City Council.

"By having fewer, but more focused people," Ruwe said, "we will be able to expand the area (the GLC) covers."

Though progress was made throughout the summer, the leadership of ASUN still has many goals they've set to meet.

"We need to do better at our job of really being there for the students - showing people they have someone to come to for problems," Ruwe said.

An effort last year, lead by Speaker of the Senate Viet Hoang, encouraged a diverse group of students to apply for positions within ASUN committees and was deemed very successful by both him and Ruwe.

"Viet did a tremendous job of getting a vast amount of people involved though the committee appointment structure," Ruwe said, "but we have to keep moving - we are not stopping our efforts in insuring diversity in ASUN."

Hoang is continuing in his effort to increase diversity on campus, along with the Innocents Society, the University Program Council, and Mortar Board, with the announcement of Marlon Smith as a speaker during homecoming week.

Smith, who spoke last year at the Minority Leadership Conference, received "rave reviews" by those in attendance, Hoang said.

"He encourages students to focus on common goals and similarities while appreciating their differences," Hoang said.

Other ASUN goals include those listed in Ruwe's "Advance" platform he and his running mates promoted during last spring's campaign.

Included in the platform is the support for technological advances - an item about which Ruwe is particularly excited.

About 55 computers were replaced in some residence halls and the animal science department and other places around campus by new computers purchased by the recently imposed technology fee.

The old computers are now in the ASUN office, and can be used for any student organization that has an office in on campus - provided they are accessible to students.

The computers can be moved to the office of the on-campus organization, after which the organization will be responsible for any necessary maintenance, he said.

Last year, ASUN recommended that Kent Hendrickson, associate vice chancellor of information services, put the old computers to use by giving them to ASUN to distribute to various campus organizations that may otherwise not have access to their own computers.

Ruwe fulfilled another campaign promise by voting against a tuition increase of 4.5 percent at a summer meeting of the NU Board of Regents.

"I voted against the increase based on the fact that 1.5 percent of the increase was for deferred maintenance. The governor hasn't committed his share yet, and I was afraid of students having to foot the entire bill for the maintenance," Ruwe said.

While interested in fulfilling the promises of his campaign, Ruwe also is interested in students' general reactions as they return to school.

"Right now I want to get the input of students - see what they're really concerned about," Ruwe said.

ASUN will hold its first meeting of the 1997-98 academic year Wednesday evening at 6:30 in the Nebraska Union. The room will be posted.

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City Council
Hearing set for liquor ordinance

From Staff Reports

The Lincoln City Council has scheduled a public hearing on a new liquor ordinance for Sept. 2.

The council, during its Monday meeting, set a public hearing and a first reading for the ordinance. Ordinances must go through a public hearing and three readings before they reach the mayor.

Mayor Mike Johanns asked the council to introduce an ordinance allowing both on- and off-sale alcohol sales on Sunday. A judge declared Lincoln's law banning off-sale Sunday alcohol sales unconstitutional Thursday.

Council members chose to schedule the public hearing and first readings for the same day because of a time limit.

On Friday, Lancaster County District Court Judge Earl Witthoff stayed his decision until Sept. 24. If the City Council does not act before the stay expires, Lincoln would be dry on Sundays.

The Liquor Control Act, a Nebraska state law, does not allow alcohol to be sold on Sundays. However, a provision of the law allows individual communities to permit sales within their boundaries.

Lincoln banned all Sunday alcohol sales in 1957, but in 1984, the City Council passed an ordinance that permitted restaurants and bars to sell alcohol by the glass.

Injured cheerleader makes new strides

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friends she has missed during her convalescence. For the last several months she has spent the majority of her time not with friends, but with her family.

"When you've spent three years off on your own, and then get thrown back to your family, it's kind of strange," she said.

Early this year, Jensen checked into a rehabilitation center in Englewood, Colo., that specializes in treating spinal cord injuries. She remained until late May, when she returned to Lyons. Her parents, Steve and Lori Jensen, played "tag team" in order to spend time with their daughter, Lori Jensen said.

"We don't get on each other's nerves much," Lori Jensen said. "I've been with her almost every day for the last eight months, and now it seems like we're joined at the hip."

Another adjustment for the Jensen family came with the large amount of media coverage of their story. Often times, Lori Jensen said, the family was not prepared for the attention.

"Sometimes we prefer to just be anonymous," she said.

Tracy Jensen has made considerable progress since the accident. During her recovery, the strengthening of her arms has lagged behind that of her legs. Nevertheless, she will soon be getting a car and will start driving.

Jensen's progress has not come without a great deal of hard work

and, at times, frustration. "It's a long road back," she said. "I bottomed out a couple of times. But you just have to pick yourself up."

She has not, however, had to look far for motivation.

"The motivation is always there because I want my life back," she said.

Jensen said her rehabilitation has helped her become more positive. Another quality she has gained, she said, is open-mindedness.

"I'm a lot more open-minded to the world of the disabled," she said. She said she has gained an increased understanding of the problems disabled people face every day.

She said that some buildings on the UNL campus still pose problems for handicapped people. Some building's doors are too heavy for her to pull open, she said.

Jensen said that in the future she would like to get involved with organizations aiding handicapped people.

She said she is thankful for the outpouring of support from UNL students. She misses her friends, but said she still has occasional contact with her friends on the UNL cheerleading squad. She recently obtained a reminder of the life she misses: a University Barbie.

Encouraged by her progress and new perspectives, Tracy Jensen hopes the long road has gotten a little shorter.