

# Nelson remembers minutes with Mother Teresa

From Staff Reports

Gov. Ben Nelson said Monday that he felt a personal loss with the death of Mother Teresa on Friday.

In a media conference call, Nelson remembered meeting, by chance, the Roman Catholic nun while waiting for a flight to Hong Kong in 1994.

He said that airport officials in Shanghai provided the two with a private room where they talked for about 30 minutes.

"She was not simply a very compassionate and caring person but also an intriguing person because we talked about Nebraska economics," he said.

Nelson said that her interest in Nebraska being the breadbasket to

the world and the state's low unemployment rate was a side of Mother Teresa that caught him off guard.

"I just felt while she had a heavenly mission, she had a knowledge of the world," he said.

"There was a quality about her that you recognized immediately," he said. "You could see it in her eyes and you could hear it in her words. She personified love."

# Couples always leave sweet talk at home

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met Siemek when she arrived at KOLN in 1987.

She said that their sometimes weird hours and nature of the business helped spark their relationship—and some others.

"I think you would be surprised how many other couples are out there in this business. You don't have a lot of time to meet people outside your circle."

She said there were at least three other couples in the KOLN Channel 10 offices.

## Love at first sound bite

Randby, KETV's chief meteorologist, said Cornell, 31, never even had a chance to meet other people when she started her general assignment position at a Jacksonville, Fla., TV station in 1990. He beat them to the punch.

"I gave her a good day or two to meet people," he said, "then I moved in and tried to latch onto her."

Said Cornell: "He gave me three weeks before we had our first date."

They dated for eight months before getting married in 1992. Five months later Randby was offered the head weather job in Omaha and the two moved to the Midwest.

Randby and Cornell were not a package deal for KETV, Omaha's ABC affiliate. Cornell went two months without work before she was given a reporter position at KETV.

"She had to be head and shoulders above the rest," Randby said. "She had won AP (Associated Press) awards before and was nominated for an Emmy, but she had to prove herself above and beyond. It was almost a negative that we were married."

He said that people were skeptical at first, saying that she had been hired only because the two were married, but the naysayers have been quieted by Cornell's quality work. She has won at least two AP awards every year she has been with KETV. She became the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. co-anchorwoman last year.

Both couples agreed their common schedule was a major benefit to their situations.

"For the most part it works out really great," Siemek said. "We get up at the same time, we work the same time and we usually go home at the same time."

"It's a situation that works out well for us," said Collins, who is expecting the couple's first child in November.

## 'Honey, what's the forecast?'

And although the men do weather and the women do news, their interests are the same and both couples are fully aware of what their spouses' jobs entail, they said. It's something that wasn't the case for Cornell early in her career.

She recalled a time when she was dating a dentist while reporting for a station in Milwaukee, Wis.

"We had plans to go out one night but I was called to cover a plane

crash," she said. "He told me to call the station and tell them you can't."

"Bill understands the job. It's really helpful to have someone to share things with."

Collins agreed.

"It works well for us probably because we both have a real understanding of what the other person does," she said. "It's a real common ground for us."

But all four made it clear that the lovey-dovey stuff stops when they arrive at work.

"Once we get to work it's a job," Collins said. "We don't spend a lot of time working together once we get to the station. I go to the newsroom and he goes to the weather station and the next time I see him is 6:15 unless he passes through the newsroom."

Cornell and Randby, who recently moved to a new home closer to KETV's downtown Omaha station, said they sometimes eat lunch together, but for the most part, they too see little of each other during the day.

"I don't go over and visit with him a lot during the day, but it's good to know he's there," Cornell said.

And while there is a slim chance it could happen one day, don't tune in tonight planning to hear "Now back to you, Pumpkin" or "Honey, what's the forecast?" Neither couple has had an on-air slip of the tongue just yet.

"I call him 'Punky,' at home," Cornell said. "But you'll never hear me call him that on the air."

The closest any of them come to bringing their private lives into the newsroom, they said, is with occasional friendly banter.

"It usually doesn't come up in the newscasts," Randby, 34, said. "But sometimes there's a 'Bill, it looks like a good weekend to clean out the garage,' or something like that."

"We're certainly not trying to hide the fact that we're married," he said. "But I think if she called me Honey on the air, we'd hear about it. People don't want to hear that at home."

Siemek said that there have been times when he was worried something a lot worse than "sweetheart" would come from his wife's mouth.

"I think she's come a lot closer to saying 'Back to you, butthead,' where it's been a little harder for her to smile in my direction," he said with a laugh. "There have been some times when the smile that's passed across the desk was a forced smile."

Most people who watch 10/11, Collins said, don't really care whether or not she's married to the "weather guy."

"If people know, they know. I don't think it makes a difference at all," she said. "I think people consider us a news family."

And so far, both couples agreed that working together and just happening to be married to each other has been as easy as a clear-and-sunny slow news day.

"The best part is working with Bill," Cornell said. "It's pretty unique to work with your best friend."

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**Anger Management Group**  
I. Tuesdays, Sept. 16-Oct. 21  
7:15-8:15 p.m.  
II. Tuesdays, Oct. 28-Dec. 9  
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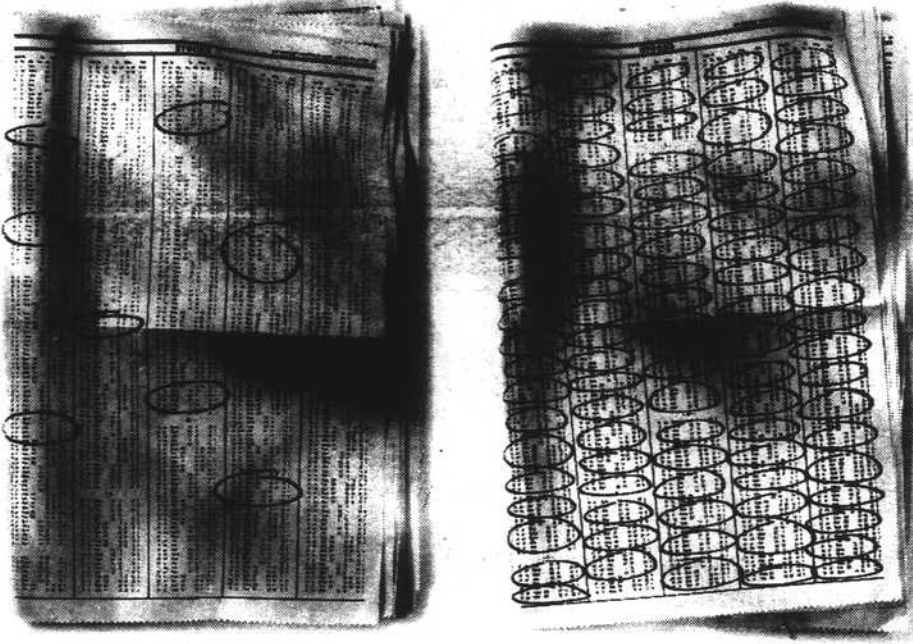
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