

Law & Order

Sentencing

A 30-year-old Lincoln woman was sentenced to eight to 12 years in prison Thursday for the death of her 2-year-old son.

Susie Gugat, originally charged with felony child abuse, pleaded no contest to manslaughter charges after police found her son, Sean, dead April 12, 1996.

Police found the boy dead from head injuries after Gugat called 911 from her home in the 1700 block of N. 17th Street. He had bruises on his head and hands. Police were unable to determine who delivered the blows to the boy.

Police originally investigated the death as a homicide, but later arrested Gugat on felony child abuse charges. The charges were later amended to manslaughter, which is killing someone without premeditation or malice.

Lancaster County Court District Court Judge Karen Flowers could have sentenced Gugat to up to 20 years in prison for manslaughter. Gugat will be eligible for parole in 2½ years.

Burglary

Burglars in South Lincoln made off with more than \$60,000 worth of belongings in two break-ins Wednesday.

Lincoln police were called to 2925 Woodsdale Blvd. Wednesday morning when residents there found someone had broken into a rear door.

Burglars stole a silver set worth \$50,000, which included bowls, plates, cups and candleholders. Burglars also stole cash, a video camera and jewelry.

Police estimated losses at \$56,800. A neighbor said he saw a late '70s or early '80s van that was gray and blue driving slowly through the neighborhood. The neighbor said he saw the van, which had Nebraska plates, at 30th Street and Woodsdale Boulevard.

Another house, at 2772 Rathbone Road, also was burglarized Wednesday.

Burglars entered an unlocked back door and stole a video camera, silverware, jewelry and cash. Police estimated the loss at \$3,630.

Sgt. Ann Heermann said police were unsure if the burglaries were connected.

Folk dancers tap outreach

FOLK from page 1

LuAnne Anderson, former president of the group, said they were looking for students to get involved.

Judy Boohar, a Hawaiian native and hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Lincoln, said the group was a good thing for all people, especially students, to get involved with.

"If anyone would try it, they would love it," she said.

The group has members from across the globe, spanning from Trinidad to Russia. Members of the group have traveled to Greece, Canada and, more recently, the Czech Republic.

Opportunities within the group include the outreach program, trips to other countries such as Canada for workshops and the chance to learn about different cultures, Anderson said.

Often, she said, the dancers have people who originate from a country from where they are learning a dance talk to the group.

The dances the group learns on Friday nights in Mabel Lee Hall reflect this diversity. Dances performed Thursday night came from Serbia, Hawaii, Ireland, Russia, Greece and Israel.

Marissa Carstens, a freshman biochemistry major, joined the group once on a Friday night and plans to stay involved as much as she can.

"People were very nice and laid back," she said.

Carstens said the group was slow paced and willing to help teach her the dances. Her favorite, she said, was a Czech court dance.

Nikki DeFrain, president of the Lincoln International Folk Dancers, wore a Russian outfit she designed from a Soviet Life magazine cover. She said the group was trying to attract more young people.

DeFrain said folk dancing was dying out, and that the art often skips from generation to generation. She said she has seen large groups of casual folk dancers in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Madison, Wisconsin.

Enid Newman, a dancer from Trinidad, said the dances are easy to learn.

Students should not be afraid of joining because of lack of dancing experience, Anderson said.

"If you can walk, you can dance," Anderson said.

Those interested in becoming involved with the group can come on Friday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Mabel Lee Hall 304, Anderson said.

Upcoming events for the group include a Contra Dance, in conjunction with the Wagon Train project, Oct. 10 at the 7th Street Loft.

Events such as this one, DeFrain said, made it all worthwhile.

And the residents of Holmes Lake Manor enjoyed it as well. One resident, with a smile on her face, said at the end of the performance to a dancer, "It was lovely. I enjoyed it so much."

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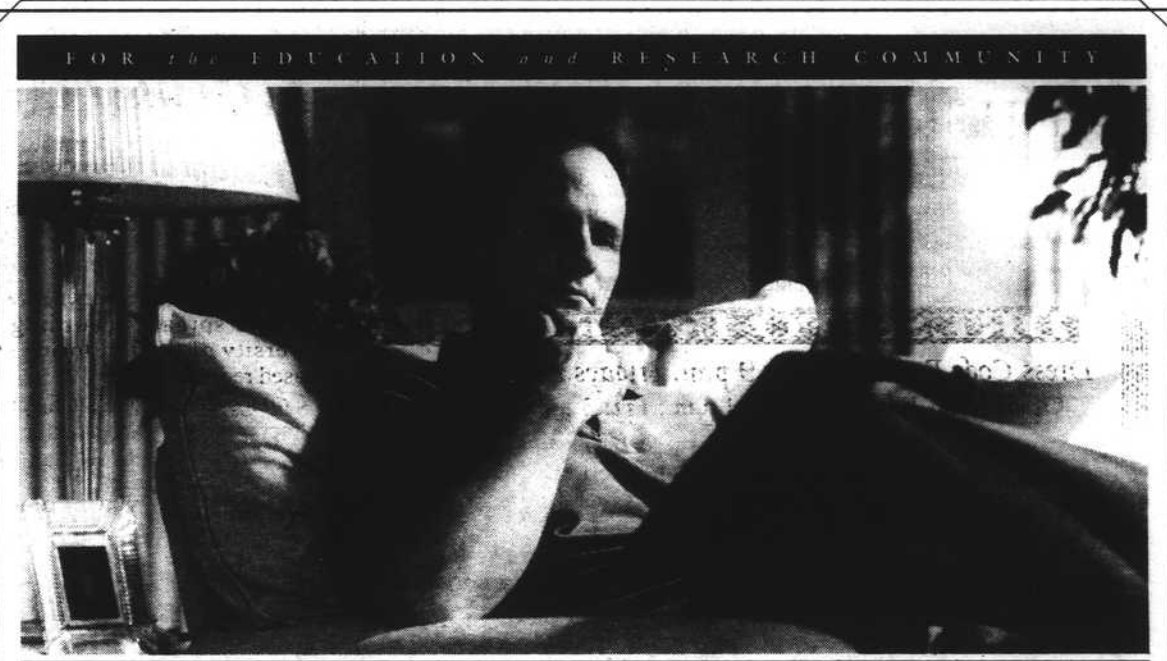
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