

# Sorority scare finds roots in legend

**MASSACRE** from page 1

an urban legend — a story that appears mysteriously and spreads in varying forms, contains elements of humor or horror, makes good storytelling and does not have to be false, although most are, according to <http://www.urbanlegends.com/>.

The site says the movie-like plot running through UNL last weekend made a "huge comeback in 1998" and has spread across several Midwest college campuses, including the University of Kansas in Lawrence, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and University of Wisconsin in Madison.

When the legend hit UNL, police and administrators prepared their strategy and spread information to Greek Affairs and housing before sheer panic set in.

Regardless, the macabre lunch table gossip spread from Harper-Schramm-Smith to Delta Gamma Sorority in a matter of days.

And, as macabre gossip always does, the story changed with each telling.

Some people thought the killing would happen at a sorority. Others said it would happen at an H-shaped residence hall — for some, it was a residence hall starting with the letter H.

And others had heard the massacre was targeting a Big 10 school, not a Big 12 school.

# Einstein 'interviewed' via computer

**EINSTEIN** from page 1

Hitler's Third Reich would develop its own atomic bomb.

Einstein asserted his pacifism. "He who cherishes the value of culture cannot fail to be a pacifist," he said. "I am not only a pacifist, but a militant pacifist."

"Is it not better for a man to die for a cause in which he believes — such as peace — than to die for a cause which he does not support, such as war?"

The opinionated Einstein did not appear to be constrained by political correctness. Asked about the role of women in science, he said women should have a chance to pursue careers in science, but that certain "obstacles" prevented them from being judged by the same standards as men.

Einstein was equally cynical about the institution of marriage.

"I have survived two wars, two wives and Hitler," he said.

And, he said, "Marriage is but slavery made to appear civilized."

Einstein also asserted his appreciation for the composers Bach and Schubert, as well as his views on Beethoven ("too dramatic") and Mendelssohn ("talented, but lacks depth").

The voice recognition system, although mostly effective, isn't fool-proof, Stevens said. At best, he said, the device recognizes 90 percent of what is said.

For instance, Einstein was asked, "Have you ever owned a telescope?"

The brainy physicist confidently replied, "I advocate world government."

Stevens said that in a synthetic interview, participants must employ the same "suspension of disbelief" they use when watching a movie. The goal, he said, is to make the interview as realistic as possible.

Stevens said synthetic interviews could have several different uses, from entertainment to museum displays.

For instance, the technique can be used to produce "oral histories" of famous people such as presidents. Some day, he said, museum visitors could ask a question of the subject, and a voice recognition system would trigger a quotation from the subject providing the answer.

Just in case, Greek Affairs Director Linda Schwartzkopf encouraged sorority chapters to exercise good safety and security measures.

Alpha Xi Delta Sorority member Jennie Moran, a sophomore dietetics major, said members were told not let in strangers or "weird people."

Many at Alpha Xi Delta decided to flee Halloween night, Moran said.

Other houses, such as Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, Pi-Beta Phi Sorority, Phi Mu Sorority and Alpha Chi Omega Sorority said the same.

"We were just uneasy," Moran said. "We didn't know if we should believe it or not."

Kim Realph, Alpha Delta Pi president, said the chapter officers did not officially prepare for the massacre, but "people were freaked out."

Erica Ballew, Pi Beta Phi vice president for morale, said after hearing about the "prediction," her sorority's president called UNL police, who told them not to worry. That calmed

down sorority members, she said.

By Saturday, many sorority members had chilled a bit, but were still a bit jumpy, Phi Mu President Molly Egley said.

Egley said she slept in her house on Halloween night and acknowledged she was a little scared.

"I know that I locked my door, and I never lock my door," Egley, a junior communications studies major, said.

UNL police received some calls from concerned students and parents but not anywhere near as much as the University of Kansas, where Cauble said police fielded more than 100 calls a day last week.

Rumors often circulate that "get people excited," Cauble said. University police have a network throughout the country that checks out the seemingly contagious far-fetched stories.

"We're pretty used to hearing the rumors coming around."



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