

Federal remains inquiry still uncertain

■ The U.S. attorney's office has not confirmed whether the investigation will be launched.

By LINDSAY YOUNG
Senior staff writer

The U.S. attorney's office could not confirm Tuesday if the office would launch a federal investigation into the university's handling of American Indian remains.

Mike Wellman, first assistant U.S. attorney, cited policy and said he couldn't verify that his office was investigating allegations that the university violated federal law.

Wellman also would not confirm that a report detailing a state investigation was forwarded from Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey's office in October.

Wellman did say, however, that Lacey wouldn't lie about forwarding the state's report. Lacey's office said in a late October press release that it had forwarded the report to U.S. Attorney Tom Monaghan in Omaha.

The state investigation, which began last summer, sprang from dozens of allegations made by American Indians and anthropology department faculty members regarding the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln's handling of remains.

They alleged the remains were studied and stored in ways that violated both state and federal laws.

In October, Lacey said he forwarded a report detailing the state patrol's investigation to Monaghan, so he could determine whether the university violated the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.

The act makes it illegal to study remains without tribal permission.

In October, a Nebraska State Patrol investigation found no evidence of any violation of state criminal code, which includes the state Unmarked Human Burial Sites and Skeleton Remains Protection Act of 1989.

That act makes the failure to report the discovery of human burial sites within 48 hours of their discovery a crime.

Some members of a group of American Indian tribal representatives, coined the Working Group on the University of Nebraska Repatriation, have contacted the U.S. attorney's office in Washington, D.C., requesting a federal investigation, said Pemina Yellow Bird, a NAGPRA representative for the Three Affiliated Tribes in Kansas.

Tribal representatives have expressed doubt on the validity of the state investigation.

Group to discuss repatriation

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Tuesday.

It involves more paperwork and more discussion than would a request for the repatriation of affiliated remains. Naranjo said she wouldn't hypothesize as to the decision the committee would make on UNL's case.

"Every case is interesting with its various twists and turns," Naranjo said.

The review committee hasn't created a distinct policy about what to do with requests to repatriate culturally unidentifiable remains, said Laura Mahoney, National Park Service NAGPRA Consultant in Washington, D.C.

The University of Nebraska seems to have "pushed the case" more than others have, Mahoney said, which will make the results of this week's meeting more interesting.

Yellow Bird said the only major obstacle she foresees in convincing the committee to repatriate the unaffiliated remains is some of its

But the working group, itself, has not officially requested a federal investigation.

According to the NU general counsel's office, the university is

members' connections to the scientific or museum industries.

The review committee is comprised of seven members, six of whom are nominated by tribes, museums or scientific institutions. The seventh is nominated by the other six members.

Three on the committee were nominated by museums or scientific institutions. Three others were nominated by American Indian tribes.

Depending on Grew's presentation in Santa Fe, the committee probably will make a decision at the end of the meeting, Naranjo said.

From what she has heard, Naranjo said she was happy with the willingness both the intertribal group and the university have had to work together.

Naranjo said she is looking forward to hearing what UNL has to say.

"I think that this one has long been discussed between the tribal groups and the University of Nebraska, so I have some familiarity with it."

still awaiting the results of an investigation by a Lincoln attorney who was hired to look into whether UNL violated university policy or state law.

Global group acquires Cliffs Notes

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ple, including 35 in the Lincoln office, and brings in an annual revenue of \$12 million.

After starting in Hillegass' basement, the company had played hopscotch around several downtown Lincoln buildings over the years before coming to rest in south Lincoln about 10 years ago, Covolik said.

Hillegass expanded the business by making contacts through his job buying back college textbooks for the Nebraska Book Company. Hillegass eventually asked college bookstores across the country to stock Cliffs Notes, Covolik said.

Now Cliffs Notes sit in almost every college bookstore and in grocery stores, drug stores and discount chains.

Letting go of a company you spent most of your life working at is tough, Covolik said, but Cliffs Notes is not defunct, just transposed.

"I think the thing that we both feel is that (Cliffs Notes) will be ongoing," he said. "That is the joy of knowing that something you have done will continue to exist and has the potential to grow even more."

"The real reward is to have it continue."

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Drugs found in van
Lincoln police arresting a man for driving with a suspended license found drugs in his van Monday night.

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9:30 p.m., police found that the 43-year-old man had a bench warrant for his arrest and no valid driver's license, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

When officers searched his van, they found three small plastic bags of marijuana, totaling 18 grams; one 2.3-gram bag of methamphetamine; and a marijuana pipe.

The man was cited for possessing a controlled substance, marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

The warrant was for no proof of financial responsibility, meaning no proof of insurance.

Mother cited for neglect

Police cited a woman for child neglect after she made her 4-year-old daughter help her shoplift.

Monday afternoon the 37-year-old woman was shopping with her daughter at Kohl's department store, 401 N. 84th St., Heermann said.

The woman went into a dressing room with her daughter carrying a new pair of jeans.

When they came out of the dressing room, they tried to leave the store with the daughter wearing the jeans.

The woman was cited for child neglect and shoplifting.

Compiled by senior staff writer
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