

Anti-drug program sues Rolling Stone

■ D.A.R.E. files a libel suit against the magazine for a March 1998 article.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — D.A.R.E., an anti-drug program used in schools across the country, has sued Rolling Stone magazine for \$50 million, alleging it was libeled in an article written by a journalist who admitted making up part of the story.

The March 1998 article by freelance writer Stephen Glass said the program tried to "silence critics, suppress scientific research and punish nonbelievers."

D.A.R.E. has a separate \$10 million libel complaint against Glass.

The federal lawsuit filed Tuesday

alleges that Rolling Stone managing editor Robert Love requested a derogatory article about D.A.R.E. to further editor-publisher Jann Wenner's "ongoing efforts to discredit anti-drug organizations." Love and Wenner also are named as defendants.

"We are taking action against Rolling Stone to defend our reputation and recoup the damages incurred by these libels," D.A.R.E. president Glenn Levant said.

Love countered that his magazine acted responsibly. "We are confident that the magazine will be vindicated," he said.

"We view this libel action as little more than an attempt to intimidate and discourage legitimate debate on the viability of the D.A.R.E. program,"

Love said.

Glass was a writer for the New Republic when he confessed to making up stories for that magazine and others where he freelanced, including Rolling Stone. He was fired from the New Republic and is now a law student at Georgetown University.

D.A.R.E., or Drug Abuse Resistance Education, was founded by the Los Angeles Police Department in the 1980s during the tenure of former police chief Daryl F. Gates.

Under the program, police officers visit elementary school classrooms to explain the dangers of drugs. In recent years, D.A.R.E. has expanded to include lessons on such topics as violence, cigarette smoking and date rape.

Instructor recalls relief work in authorial debut

By **BRET SCHULTE**
Senior editor

Indochina, late 1970s. Suffering Vietnamese refugees and UN relief workers are caught in a fight against disease, exhaustion and a jumbled bureaucracy.

Believe it or not, this story is not about politics.

Paul Eggers, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln assistant professor of English, spent much of the '70s and early '80s working in Indochina, first as a UN relief worker and then as a volunteer with the Peace Corps.

His first book, "Saviors," is a recreation of the tense situation for rescue workers in the mass exodus from Vietnam — and the moral conflicts that became second nature.

"The main theme has to do with self-identity issues of the characters," Eggers said. "It's not politics but what politics does to real people."

Saturday, Eggers will hold a book signing and reading for the release of "Saviors," published by Harcourt Brace and Company of New York, at Lee Booksellers on 56th St. and Hwy. 2.

The reading will allow Eggers the opportunity to explain the lives of the book's three central characters — fictional creations of a medley of people and experiences in Indochina.

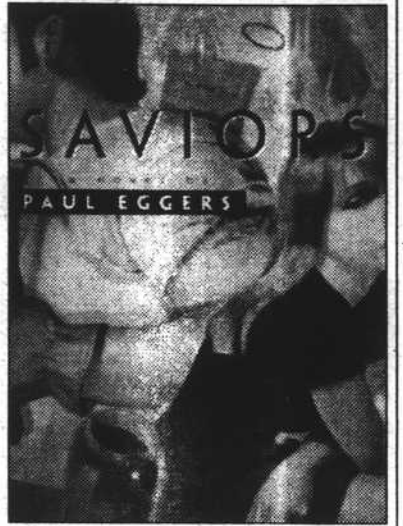
"Saviors" centers on the efforts of relief workers struggling to keep a refugee camp open amid political turmoil in Indochina.

"All three are working on the island and they are exposed in various ways to issues of self-identity and the question of what is a good act and what is a bad act," Eggers explained.

"They are put in these moral dilemmas and they are forced to make these choices."

In what is Eggers' major literary debut, the author intentionally left the UN and global politics to the wayside in order to make room for the inner struggles of the workers trying to avoid a human catastrophe.

Eggers said situations in the book are those faced every day by relief workers, but, he admits, carried out to a more dramatic conclusion.



"The main theme has to do with self-identity issues of character."

PAUL EGGERS
assistant English professor

"I got the idea by asking myself what if a certain situation had carried on without somebody coming in and stopping it before it got worse?" Eggers said.

Dramatic conclusions have become a bigger part of Eggers' life since the release of his book, which was hailed by critics at Newsday and author Jane Smiley ("A Thousand Acres"), who published her praise in the San Francisco Chronicle.

This Saturday marks Eggers' first ever book signing, which will be followed by yet another at the University Bookstore on Thursday, and upcoming appearances at both Omaha and Lincoln Barnes & Noble Booksellers. Currently, "Saviors" rests on Barnes & Noble's Discovery Selection shelves, dedicated to promising new authors.

However, Eggers, a UNL graduate, is keeping his hopes for the book humble.

"It's a kind of literary serious novel and I'm sure it's not a best seller," he said. "Perhaps it'll make some small, modest splash in the literary world."

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