

Walk raises money, hope

WALK from page 1

knew that I'd be all right." Other people weren't as fortunate as Decker to have such a short fight with leukemia.

Ashley Orcutt, 4, was diagnosed with leukemia when she was 21 months old.

Ashley went into remission in November 1998 and is almost at her one-year mark.

Ashley's mother, Patty Orcutt, said her family was scared when it was informed of Ashley's illness.

"We were scared and very confused. We couldn't understand why. We had a lot to learn; we were young, and she was our first child. We didn't know what to expect, certainly not cancer," she said.

Not long ago, children with leukemia had a survival rate of only 4 percent. That percentage has risen

to 80 percent.

Funding research has made that increase possible, said Gov. Mike Johanns, who was at the event.

"I believe that in my lifetime, I will see the cure for cancer come about," he said.

"It will only happen if there are more funding opportunities like this one."

Rachel Stanton, coordinator of the night, said the event has grown substantially in the last year.

Last year 40 people participated in the Lincoln event, and 100 showed up this year. Nationwide, eight walks were held last year, and 57 cities held walks this year.

The proceeds from Light the Night will fund research to find cures for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Court dismisses appeal

BY JAKE BLEED
Senior staff writer

The Nebraska Supreme Court dismissed an appeal Friday to change a life sentence against a man convicted of killing his wife to a death sentence.

The court dismissed the attorney general's office appeal saying state law doesn't allow the court to change the sentence.

"In general, in the absence of specific statutory authorization, the state has no right to appeal an adverse ruling in a criminal case," Justice William Connolly wrote in the opinion.

The appeal was based on a state statute that grants a county attorney the right to appeal a sentence if the

attorney feels the sentence is "excessively lenient."

Francis Seberger was convicted of murder after burning his wife, Debra Seberger, to death July 1, 1997.

The appeal asked the court to recognize "aggravating and mitigating circumstances."

"I am told that there isn't anything more painful to suffer than death by burning," said Assistant Attorney General Kirk Brown.

Brown said that because the court said it did not have the authority to rule on the issue, it would no longer hear appeals like this one.

In trial, Seberger was charged with first-degree murder and first-degree arson but convicted only on the murder charge. A three-judge panel then sentenced Seberger to life in prison.

A 1995 state Supreme Court ruling that dismissed a similar appeal was based on the double jeopardy clause, which prevents an individual from being charged for the same crime twice.

In State vs. Rust, the court ruled a life sentence "acted to acquit the defendant of the harsher death sentence," Connolly's opinion said.

A 1995 U.S. Supreme Court ruling declared changing a life sentence to a death sentence in a murder case unconstitutional.

Brown said the appeal against Seberger was made in the face of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling because the prosecutors felt strongly about the issue.

"I think they appealed again just because they felt very strongly the sentence was wrong," Brown said.

Committee recommends garage

PARKING from page 1

by saying that cameras would be installed throughout the building, and police would have a strong presence.

If built, the garage would be finished in the fall of 2001. When it opened, there would be a gain of more than 600 parking spaces, Carpenter said.

He said that until the garage was finished, students, staff and faculty members could park outside of campus or park in less-used areas already existing.

"They may not be as close as they like, but they'll be there," Carpenter said.

Bob Williams, an assistant professor of industrial and management

systems engineering, disagreed.

"I don't want to have to walk that far in the winter here in Nebraska," he said.

"We'd be paying three to four times more for poorer service."

In other business, the committee discussed if parking revenue should be the sole source of funding for the garage.

With a vote of 8-1, members passed a motion stating parking fees should not be the sole source of funding for the garage.

Many people — especially those from East Campus — opposed parking revenue as the sole funding for the garage because it will be on City Campus.

Tom Myers, representing Academic Senate, said the cost for

building the garage would be \$10,700 per space.

Burns said the university could ask the Legislature for help with the costs, but it was not certain if that would be possible.

Also, Burns said, many ASUN members have said they would rather use state funds for academic purposes.

Sandy Lineberry, representing the University of Nebraska Office Personnel Association, agreed that parking fees should not be the sole source of funding.

"Faculty and students should not be responsible for construction," she said.

"I feel we should pay some part, but I don't feel we should pay an exorbitant amount."

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Police say one man behind calls

CALL from page 1

a New York man, who reportedly has had a girlfriend at UNL. Police installed a tracing device, called a trap, on the student's phone, allowing her to trace a call if needed.

Another student in Schramm received a call Wednesday afternoon from a man who first asked for the student's roommate then called the student by name.

"He sounded really nice," the student said. "He sounded like a completely normal person."

She said the man, who said his name was Mike, then told the student that the next time she left her residence hall, she'd never see it again. The student hung up and called police.

The student said she came from a large city outside Nebraska and that she wasn't overly bothered by the phone call.

Then an unknown man appeared outside her door later Wednesday, knocking repeatedly but refusing to tell the student what he wanted.

"I was never scared to live here before," the student said. "At night, I won't go anywhere by myself."

The student said she would allow police to install whatever tracing devices were needed to help catch the suspect.

"They can do whatever they want as long as they get the guy," she said.

The man responsible gets the phone numbers and addresses to UNL students from the Internet or campus phone lists and then calls variations of one number to randomly harass female students, Manning said.

"There are just so many services out there that make phone numbers available," Manning said.

Because on-campus phone numbers run consecutively between rooms, callers can find a student's phone number if they have the number to a nearby room.

Police can install traps on campus phones, Manning said. After receiving an obscene or threatening call, a student can hang up and get the number of whoever called.

Police can then obtain a warrant to search phone company records for any information on the call.

Manning said police have other devices that can be used instead of traps.

"There are measures that can be taken to determine where the phone calls are coming from," Manning said.

Anyone arrested for making obscene calls faces an intimidation by phone charge, a misdemeanor offense, Manning said.

Manning said university students suffer a wave of obscene phone calls once every year to 18 months.

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