

Former NU leader dies at 82

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with UNL and the medical center, Griesen said.

"Woody worked very hard to make sure all of the campuses had equal standing," he said. "He made certain that each campus felt fulfilled with their role in the state's higher education."

After serving seven years as the NU president, Varner stepped down to accept the position of chief executive of the NU Foundation, which concentrated on raising money for the three campuses.

Griesen said Varner changed the foundation's mentality to a more aggressive approach.

"His fund-raising contributions to the universities are immeasurable," he said. "He developed close ties to donors, and people gave money to him

"He made certain that each campus felt fulfilled with their role in the state's higher education."

JAMES GRIESEN
vice chancellor of student affairs

that they wouldn't give to other people."

Varner was instrumental in getting the Lied Center for Performing Arts built at UNL, Griesen said.

"That was totally a Woody Varner thing," he said. "He initiated contacts and came up with the idea. The Lied Center is a lasting tribute to the state."

Griesen said Varner had a unique ability of making friends with everyone he met.

"He was everybody's friend, and everyone wanted to be his friend," Griesen said. "Everyone he met got a warm and hospitable greeting. So many people felt close to him."

Swanson said it is impossible for anyone who didn't know Varner to fully understand his impact and beauty.

"You really had to experience Woody to appreciate him," Swanson said. "He was a great ambassador. He just loved the state."

Court: Former student can sue

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The court ruled that the university still had a duty to protect Knoll if the student's abduction was "reasonably foreseeable" by the university, the opinion said.

The university knew of several hazing-related incidents, the court said, including five at Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity house. In 1989, a member of that fraternity was cited for resisting arrest and another was convicted of sexually assaulting a female high school student, the court opinion said.

In 1993, police found a Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity member passed-out drunk in the house's bath-

room; UNL police had to intervene in a fight between members of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity and the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity; and two Phi Gamma Delta members were caught trying to break into the Alpha Phi Sorority house, the opinion said.

"The stipulated facts show that the university was aware of prior hazing instances where students had grabbed and physically removed other students from buildings, had coerced other students into drinking alcohol and had engaged in other harassing activities," the opinion said.

The negligence suit will return to Lancaster County District Court for trial. In order to prove that NU was neg-

ligent, Knoll has to prove that the university had a duty to protect him and failed in that duty.

"In order to make a case on negligence, you have to show that there is a duty," said John Wiltse, a lawyer representing the university in the case.

Knoll also sued the fraternity house's national organization. The suit was settled outside of court.

The university punished the Phi Gamma Delta house with 15 sanctions, including not letting the fraternity sign new members for a year or hold social events with alcohol for four years.

The Legislature also passed a bill in 1994 making hazing a class II misdemeanor.

Boys plead innocent at hearing

CLEVELAND (AP) — Four white ninth-graders accused of making plans for a racially motivated rampage at their predominantly black high school pleaded innocent on Sunday and were sent back to a juvenile lock-up.

The boys, one 14 and the rest 15, were accompanied by their parents and arraigned separately before Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Magistrate Dick Walsh in closed hearings.

They allegedly planned to set off bombs and open fire on classmates at noon last Friday, officials say.

Larry Zukerman, an attorney representing one boy, emerged from the arraignments upset that the names and photos of the boys have appeared in print and on television. Juvenile court proceedings, by law, are confidential in Ohio.

Dan Bailey said after the arraignment for his stepson, who was allegedly involved, is well-behaved, respectful and would never get involved in violence.

"He's dealing with it the way any 14-year-old boy would," he said. "He's fairly high-spirited, and his feelings are hurt not being at home. This is his family. He's got a lot of brothers and sisters that love him."

Bailey's stepson was charged because his name was on a school map, with shooting locations marked, that was seized from another suspect, Bailey said.

Authorities said a school map marked with shooting locations and comments reported by classmates convinced them the threat was real. Two weapons were found at one boy's home during a series of police searches on Friday.

The plan was never carried out at South High School, which was closed Friday as a precaution. Classes will resume today under tightened security at the 1,500-pupil school.

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