

'Dead spots' in communication give the State Patrol problems

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

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"Reference 1074, have visual. Suspect near exit 20 at Kimball, heading north. Request assistance."

Dead air.
This example is similar to what a trooper would experience if "dead spots" in communication occur.

Much like gaps in cellular phone coverage, the state patrol's communications system experiences dead spots that have posed problems for law enforcement officers, said Terri Teuber, press secretary for the State Patrol.

The problem was once again recognized during the past week's manhunt of Charles Lannis Moses Jr., 31, of Nocona, Texas, that ended Tuesday night in a ranch house in eastern Wyoming.

Moses is suspected of shooting two Nebraska State Patrol officers Saturday and killing Robert Sedlacek, 48, of Paxton, Monday.

Though there is no way of knowing if better communication could have saved a man's life or prevented injury to two state troopers, Teuber said "it certainly could have aided in the search" for Moses.

Problems in Whiteclay this past

summer also could have been lessened with better communication, Teuber said.

The dead spots in communication, usually caused by terrain, such as valleys, sometimes continue to make it impossible for troopers to radio law enforcement bases, Teuber said.

Dead spots are more prevalent in the western part of the state because of the terrain, but they are not isolated to the area. They are also found in eastern Nebraska, Teuber said.

Bruce Armstrong, state patrol dispatcher, said troopers have only a few options if their communications don't go through.

First they may decide to change frequencies, switch to a different control tower or contact different agencies in the area.

Teuber said sometimes troopers had to radio other troopers and have them contact base. This process was more time-consuming and difficult — possibly dangerous — during foot pursuits.

Dead spots are not the only problem with the communication system; interference from other radio frequencies also concerns law enforcement officials.

Frequency interruption can make it difficult to hear needed information, Teuber said.

The State Patrol's communication system was installed in 1956.

"In a field like law enforcement, communication can be a matter of life or death."

Terri Teuber

State Patrol press secretary

Upgrades have been made throughout the years, but the system is far from perfect, Teuber said.

In July, Gov. Mike Johanns released a statement introducing a study to examine the State Patrol's communications problems and look for ways to improve the situation.

The ongoing study is using the northeast part of the state because of the difficult terrain and problems it causes in communications.

Chris Peterson, spokesman for Johanns, said because the study is not complete, a judgment cannot be made as to how the system could be improved or the amount of money it would take to improve the system. Teuber said improvements in the system are vital.

"In a field like law enforcement, communication can be a matter of life or death," Teuber said.

Kerrey accepts new position

■ The retiring senator will start the job next January when his term ends.

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

After a year of searching, New School University has found their man.

Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey was chosen for the position of president of the school, said John L. Tishman, chairman of the board of trustees of New School University, in a statement.

"The Board of Trustees is delighted that our university has attracted a person of such high caliber as Senator Kerrey, whose values, dedication to education, energy level and passion for gathering the best minds to solve problems will now benefit our institution," Tishman said.

Kerrey will succeed Johnathan Fanton, who, in September, became the president of the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago.

Kerrey will begin his new job at the end of his Senate term in January of next year.

"I am excited to begin my association with New School University," Kerrey said in a statement.

"I love education. I recognize that education is the basis of our prosperity and our ability to govern ourselves, and I recognize that educators, more than anyone else, are the true shapers of our future."

Kerrey announced Jan. 20 that he

would not run for re-election for U.S. Senate.

"At the end of this term I will leave elected political life with gratitude for the chance to serve the people of Nebraska in the never-ending cause of making this a more perfect union," Kerrey said in the speech announcing his decision.

Attorney General Don Stenberg, Secretary of State Scott Moore, Lincoln dermatologist Elliott Rustad and Omaha businessman George Grogan have tossed their hats into the race for Kerrey's seat.

Kerrey's new place of employment is located in Greenwich Village in New York City.

It was established as the New School for Social Research in 1919 and was later made the New School University in 1997.

About 7,500 students are enrolled in degree programs and about 25,000 students in other educational programs.

"What appeals to me about the New School is its dedication to freedom: freedom in the consideration of ideas, freedom in developing and imparting new knowledge and protection for those whose freedom is threatened," Kerrey said.

Kerrey served as Nebraska's governor from 1983 to 1987 and is in his second term as a U.S. senator.

"Among the many constants in Bob's life story, one in particular stands out for me: his ability to inspire those with whom he works," said New School University Chancellor Philip Scaturro.

Photographer shares experiences

■ UNL graduate charms audience with anecdotes and pictures at seminar.

By Glenn Connot

Staff writer

Joel Sartore has been working as a photographer for the National Geographic Society for 10 years, and he has more than a few lessons learned and stories to tell as a result.

On Wednesday afternoon, Sartore, a free-lance photographer, presented a seminar on his experiences as a National Geographic photographer, conservationist and Nebraska resident to a packed crowd.

The presentation included slides with commentary by Sartore and a short National Geographic Journal video featuring Sartore's experience as

a wildlife photographer in Bolivia.

More than 200 people came to Sartore's presentation at the Great Plains Art Collection Gallery in Love Library, said Linda Ratcliffe of the Public Relations Center for Great Plains Studies.

Sartore entertained the crowd with commentary and dozens of photographs for more than an hour. He finished by answering questions and signing books.

Sartore, a Lincoln resident, also showed slides of Nebraska photographs from his National Geographic article on Nebraska and his book, "Nebraska, Under A Big Red Sky."

Sartore has covered 14 stories for National Geographic magazine and has written or contributed to eight books.

He has received several awards

and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Photography in 1986.

Sartore grew up in Ralston and graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism and Mass Communication in 1985.

He became interested in photography his senior year in high school. Sartore said he went into photography because "it didn't require math or chemistry, but really because it didn't feel like work."

Sartore has been doing presentations ever since he became a National Geographic photographer.

He has recently done presentations on conservationism in Crete, Morrill, Valentine, Albion and all the Lincoln Public High Schools.

Sartore's work will be on display in the Capitol from Feb. 28 to March 10 and at BryanLGH East on March 18.

Debate centers on involvement

DEBATE from page 1

tainment acts to campus.

Jason Kidd, Duff presidential candidate, said if the university makes students feel they belong and are respected, students will get involved.

Duff's platform ideas of improving student seating at athletic events and eliminating UNL's dry-campus policy are student concerns that have not been addressed in previous years'

ASUN campaigns, Kidd said.

Kidd said the campus community would be improved if students were provided opportunities for social events on campus.

Butterfield mentioned creating two Web sites: One would be focused on advising, and the other would help students sell textbooks to one another online.

Mello said he views Empower as a group of individuals with passion to

make a difference.

Many of the students attending the debate sported election group T-shirts and buttons.

A-Team's Schafer commended the students present who had not yet decided which group they would support.

Mello complimented all groups. "Hopefully, whether we win or lose, the campus will be a better place after the elections," he said.

Are You Interested In Being A Member Of The Nebraska Union Board?

The Nebraska Union Board is composed of twelve University of Nebraska - Lincoln students and two faculty/staff members. The purpose of the Nebraska Union Board is to advise the Director of Nebraska Unions and give recommendations in all decision making of the Unions.

After an application and interview process, new members will be selected. Board members terms begin with the annual retreat held each spring.

Applications are available at the ASUN office, City and East Campus Unions, and the Culture Center. They are due February 24th.

