

Inmates won't get advertisement money

■ Money from European ads will be sent to a victims' fund, not to inmates.

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

Attorney General Don Stenberg said Monday that inmates appearing in the controversial Benetton anti-death penalty campaign will not receive any financial compensation.

Instead, any money received by John Lotter or Jeremy Sheets, two Nebraska death-row inmates featured in the clothing company advertisements, will be sent to the Crime Victim's Reparations Committee, Stenberg said in a statement.

Funds from the committee go toward repaying families of crime vic-

tims. The international advertising campaign used death-row inmates' photographs on billboards, magazines and on a Web site. It also included in-depth interviews with the inmates.

According to state law, any money earned by a prisoner in contract with a company for anything about a re-enactment of a crime, such as books, movies, radio programs, television presentations or expressions of thoughts, feelings or emotions, should be sent to the committee.

Steve King, director of planning for the Department of Correctional Services, said Sheets, who was sentenced to death for the 1992 racially-motivated rape and murder of Omaha teen-ager Kenyatta Bush, was sent a \$1,000 check from Benetton.

Lotter, who is on death row for the

1993 murders of Lisa Lambert, Philip DeVine and Teena Brandon near Humboldt, did not accept any money offered to him by the company, King said.

Stenberg said because the advertisements include Sheets' thoughts and feelings about the crime, the money should be sent to the committee.

Sheets' attorney, J. William Gallup, could not be reached for comment.

If only photographs were used, an argument for compensation to the prisoner might have been possible, Stenberg said.

But the advertisement campaign is subjected to the Nebraska statute because the advertisements included Sheets' opinion of the crime.

Sheets told Benetton he was innocent but was not shocked by the guilty verdict. He said he thought before con-

viction he would be found guilty because of the publicity surrounding the case, Stenberg said.

Those statements "clearly express Sheets' thoughts, feelings, opinion or emotions regarding the crime," Stenberg said in a statement.

The company, whose advertisements were released in January, contacted Nebraska Correctional Services about the campaign late last year.

King said he received a letter Oct. 18, 1999, from a lawyer saying photographer Oliviero Toscani was doing a photo essay on death-row inmates that would appear mainly in Europe and Africa.

Within a month of the letter, the company came to photograph and interview the inmates.

Benetton was told not to grant compensation to inmates for the photos and

interview, King said. Benetton agreed it would not compensate Sheets or Lotter, he said.

But on Jan. 20, Sheets received a check for \$1,000 from the company, King said.

The check, made out from Benetton France Trading, was immediately frozen by the Department of Correctional Services. Sheets was never allowed to cash it, King said.

King said Benetton went against the Department of Correctional Services policy and Nebraska law.

The Attorney General's office was contacted about the payment by Harold Clarke, director of the Department of Correctional Services.

Stenberg said the money will be deposited in the Victim's Compensation Fund.

—ASUN ELECTIONS—

ASUN amendments up for vote

■ Students can amend ASUN constitution during Wednesday's vote.

From staff reports

When students are casting their votes for ASUN tomorrow, they will be able to consider more than the candidates.

Three amendments to the constitution of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska will be on the ballot.

The proposed amendments were passed by the senate in order to appear

on the ballot. The amendments require two-thirds of the total votes to pass.

The first amendment would essentially remove the senate seat for the Division of Continuing Studies, which has been vacant for several years.

The amendment would require that all senators be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours. Currently, a Division of Continuing Studies senator had to be enrolled in only three credit hours.

The next amendment would recast the ASUN constitution's language to be gender-neutral.

Voting yes for this amendment would replace "he" with "he/she" in

the constitution in an effort to achieve gender neutrality.

The third amendment is an effort to reduce the chances of a run-off election.

In order for the president and vice president to be elected, they must receive 10 percent more votes than the nearest competitor.

Voting yes for the amendment would discount votes cast for ineligible candidates, such as Mickey Mouse.

Last year, all of the proposed constitutional amendments failed. They all received a majority vote but not two-thirds of the total votes.

Parties strive for more involvement

PROGRAMS from page 1

first day of classes, Schafer said.

They would be put into groups of 10 to 15 students and go through activities with an older student leader.

"The lack of student involvement is the result of people not feeling like they're part of a community," Schafer said. "When you feel as though you're just a number, it makes a difference in your drive to be involved."

The orientation program would let students know that someone has a personal stake in them, Schafer said.

Pat McBride, director of New Student Enrollment, said he supported building community, but there were some flaws in Schafer's plan.

If the program were to take the place of NSE, a new time for students to register for classes would need to be found, McBride said, and a couple days before classes would be too late.

"Anything we can do to promote community at the beginning of the year is good," he said. "But volunteers are the key."

McBride said a lot of details would need to be worked out.

There might not be enough staff members to work at the orientation program, and adding an extra program might be difficult to pull off because student leaders are already busy with NSE and Big Red Welcome.

Other schools who have orientation programs like Schafer suggested do not have the other summer activities, McBride said.

Adam Bruggeman, co-coordinator of Creighton's orientation program, said the school's program was successful.

Creighton's freshman seminar

"The lack of student involvement is the result of people not feeling like they're part of a community."

Joel Schafer

A-Team presidential candidate

begins four days before classes start.

All freshmen are required to attend, and they participate in welcoming activities, Bruggeman said.

The freshmen remain in the seminar for the rest of the first semester, meeting with their groups once a week.

Schafer said he did not know how UNL would pay for the orientation. But he said he thinks there is money set aside now for freshman orientation programs that could be used.

Bruggeman said Creighton receives \$5,000 a semester from its student government group.

If the program needs extra money, Bruggeman said, he can ask the administration or other campus groups like Residence Life and the greek system for their support.

To increase freshman commitment to ASUN, Mello said he wants to create a Freshman Council, which would replace the current Student Impact Team. Incoming freshmen would be recruited starting their senior years of high school.

Mello also said he wants to start a university pride week to increase all students' connection to ASUN.

This would be similar to Homecoming Week, Mello said.

International students are often left out of Homecoming Week, Mello said, and involving them more would pro-

vide different experiences for everyone.

Mello said Empower would provide opportunities for students.

"Student involvement lies within the student itself," Mello said. "Our idea is to provide enriching experiences through student government."

Mello said he also wants to redesign the student commuter services lounge to make room for more commuter students.

He said he would create a Commuter Students Advisory Board to get those students directly involved in the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen was unavailable to comment Monday on the feasibility of Mello's plans.

Kidd said he wants to deal with issues students care about. Students will get more involved if they see ASUN working on issues that interest them, he said.

Duff said the ASUN senators would post their names and office hours in their colleges, so students would know who to talk to about concerns.

"If students see that ASUN is really working for them and not for themselves, they'll try to get more involved," he said.

**EVERY TUESDAY
IN FEBRUARY**

Food will be donated to
the Lincoln Food Bank

No appointment necessary
open 7 days

MAX TAN

Westgate Center 40th & Old Cheney
477-7444 420-6454

Some restrictions apply - expires 2/29/2000

SHIRT OFF OUR BACK!!

Bring in this coupon and with any purchase... We'll give you the

FREE T-SHIRT!

Limit one coupon per person per day.
Limit is \$3.99 Value.
Expires: 4-15-00
4690 Leighton Ave. • 467-1991

"Racism is Not the Problem."

Dinesh D'Souza

**Tuesday, February 29th 8:00 p.m.
City Campus Union Auditorium**

- New York Times Best-selling Author
- Senior Policy Analyst Reagan Administration 1987-88
- Author of: *The End of Racism, Liberal Education and Ronald Reagan: How an Ordinary Man Became an Extraordinary Leader*

FREE ADMISSION

Sponsored By:

- Young America's Foundation
- National Association Of Scholars-Nebraska Chapter
- UNL College Republicans
- The Federalist Society
- A grant from the Pepsi Student Events Fund

*Keep campus beautiful.
Recycle your DN.*