

# Comedian charged for kidnapping in Iowa

■ **The man is currently on trial in Lincoln on a sexual assault charge.**

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — A former traveling comedian currently on trial for a rape in Nebraska has been charged with a second Iowa attack.

Assistant Johnson County Attorney Arne Lahey said Tuesday

that her office has charged Vinson Champ with first-degree kidnapping charges for a September 1996 rape of a University of Iowa student in Iowa City.

The kidnapping charge, which would carry a mandatory life sentence, was filed because the victim was held against her will, Lahey said.

The Iowa City attack occurred early in the morning on Sept. 6, 1996. Champ had performed in northeastern Missouri on Sept. 6 and was in Decorah in northeast Iowa the evening of Sept. 7.

Champ also is charged with first-degree kidnapping in Scott County for a Feb. 16, 1997, attack on a woman at St. Ambrose

University in Davenport, Iowa.

Opening statements were given Monday in Lincoln, where Champ, 38, is charged with raping a woman in 1997 at Union College, 3800 S. 48th St.

Champ has pleaded no contest to raping a faculty member at the University of Nebraska at Omaha about a month after the Lincoln

attack. Prosecutors in that case agreed to delay Champ's sentencing until his case is resolved in Lincoln.

Champ also has been charged with raping a woman at Pasadena (Calif.) City College.

Similar attacks have been reported at colleges in Wisconsin and Illinois, but no charges have been filed.

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