

Omaha philanthropist gives Med Center its largest-ever gift

BY VERONICA DAEHN

The NU Board of Regents accepted the largest single donation ever received by the University of Nebraska Medical Center on Saturday.

The amount of the gift made by Omaha philanthropist Charles Durham will remain confidential at Durham's request.

Terry Fairfield, University of Nebraska Foundation president, said it was one of the largest gifts ever received by the Foundation.

The largest gift was \$130 million from the Donald and Mildred Topp Othmer estate.

The largest donation ever previously received by UNMC was \$15 million from the Lied Foundation that went to build

the Lied Transplant Center. This donation will be used to help pay for the construction of the Research Center of Excellence on the west end of the UNMC campus.

The center will include 116 laboratories, a 225-seat auditorium and 15 classrooms and conference rooms.

A walkway will link the center with the rest of the UNMC campus.

A multi-level parking garage will also be built on the south side of the campus.

The 284,000-square foot research center is expected to cost \$77 million. The 1,300-stall parking garage should cost an additional \$10 million.

Construction on the center is scheduled to begin in April with

completion in 2003.

This is the second donation made by Durham to UNMC. Two years ago, he made another of the largest gifts ever to the UNMC College of Medicine.

The donation created an endowment to bolster education and research programs in the areas of arthritis, prostate cancer and minimally-invasive surgery.

The amount of that donation was also kept confidential.

UNMC Chancellor Harold Maurer said the research center would transform the campus.

"UNMC's vision is to become a world-class academic sciences, health sciences system," Maurer said. "This is a world-class gift from the Durhams. This gift will have a tremendous impact on Nebraska for years to come."

Tran was arrested for the robbery warrant, trespassing at Kabredlos, providing false information, fleeing to avoid arrest and assaulting an officer.

One of the other men, 22-year-old Thanh Dinh, 2951 Starr St., was arrested for providing false information and trespassing.

Compiled by Josh Funk

eCornhusker.com
The Marketplace

Law & Order

Suspect slips out of cuffs before being reapprehended

After a brief Houdini impression early Friday morning, Lincoln Police re-arrested a man who had tried to give them the slip.

At 1:45 a.m. police recognized one of three men for his outstanding warrants in the parking lot of the 23rd and R streets Kabredlos convenience store, said Lincoln Police Ofc. Katherine Finnell.

Viet Q. Tran, 21, and one of the two other men gave false police information. Once Tran was identified he was cuffed and put in the back of a police car for his role in a July robbery.

While police were talking to the other two men, Tran was able to slip one of his hands out of the handcuffs and open the car door by reaching out the partially open window.

Tran started running, but did not make it far before an officer tackled him, Finnell said. Tran swung his still-cuffed hand at the officer, splitting his nose open with the loose cuff.

The officer needed three stitches.

Colombian gunmen massacre 17

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOGOTA, Colombia - Gunmen killed at least 17 people in two separate massacres Sunday, one of which officials attributed to right-wing paramilitary militias.

The killings came three days before President Clinton is to visit Colombia to discuss U.S. anti-narcotics aid to the troubled nation.

In one attack, gunmen seized, interrogated and then executed 10 people in the Caribbean coastal town of Cienega, Magdalena State police told The Associated

Press. Police were investigating whether the attack was carried out by paramilitary militias or rival left-wing guerrillas. Both groups are active in the region.

Meanwhile, suspected right-wing gunmen raided two barrios along a nine-mile stretch of highway outside the Pacific port of Buenaventura, killing seven people and leaving their bodies along the road. The killers painted nearby buildings with the initials AUC, the Spanish initials for the paramilitary umbrella group calling itself the United Self-defense Forces of Colombia.

During his one-day stop in Colombia on Wednesday, Clinton will meet President Andres Pastrana to discuss a \$1.3 billion U.S. anti-narcotics aid package for Colombia and its Andean neighbors recently approved in Washington.

The aid is being provided despite objections by international human rights organizations. The groups have urged Clinton to withhold U.S. assistance until Pastrana takes decisive action to curb the paramilitary forces, which have ties to the country's military.

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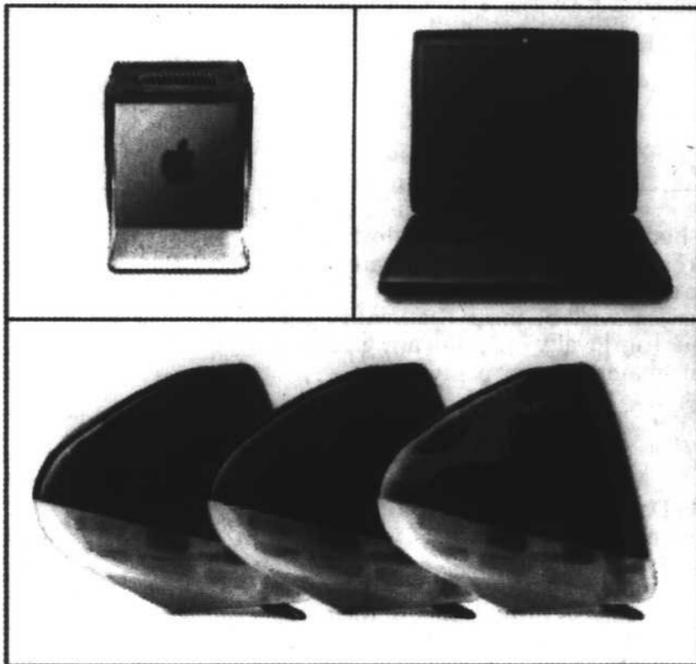


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