

Evidence in author case questioned

BY JOSH FUNK

A well-known Lincoln author and youth volunteer charged with child molestation challenged the admissibility of evidence and tried to change lawyers Tuesday.

Thomas Frye's attorney, Calvin Hansen, argued that police did not have enough evidence to obtain search warrants served at Frye's house in February.

Hansen argued the evidentiary issues after asking the judge to allow Hansen to remove himself from the case because Frye wanted a different lawyer.

Lancaster District Court Judge Bernard McGinn elected to go ahead with Tuesday's hearing to avoid further delay in the case, which is based on allegations made by an 8-year-old boy in February. Frye's motion to suppress evidence was filed July 11.

Frye told McGinn that an attorney from a different firm, Michael Hansen, had agreed to take his case. Michael Hansen is not related to Calvin Hansen.

Lincoln Police served three search warrants at Frye's 6139 Kearney St. home on Feb. 24 and seized three computers, rope, correspondence and photos.

On March 30 police got a warrant to look at the computer files.

Calvin Hansen highlighted discrepancies in the warrants while cross-examining Lincoln Police Investigator Doug Saitta.

The warrant was never filed with the court after the search was done, and the search took longer than the 10 days allowed.

And on Saitta's request for the second search warrant, he accidentally wrote that the first search had taken place a day before the judge authorized it.

McGinn asked both Frye's attorney and the prosecutor to submit written arguments on the evidence issues within two weeks.

Frye has been jailed since Aug. 11 when he violated his bond by having contact with the boy, who accused him of sexual assault.

The author is being held in lieu of \$300,000 bond.

Costs lead to call for saving energy

BY JILL ZEMAN

With energy prices on the rise, leaving the lights on when you're not home could cost a lot more than the price of a four-pack of light bulbs.

Because of the increased energy prices projected for the winter, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is encouraging its students, faculty and staff to remember to hit that light switch and keep the heat down to reduce costs around campus this winter.

Gary Thalken, UNL director of utility services, said the university is looking at its overall energy consumption and trying to cut back on any excess usage.

Thalken recommended shutting off items when they are not in use, including lights, coffee pots and computer monitors.

To conserve natural gas, the university also will watch the temperature in its buildings, he said. Thalken said he hadn't noticed a

difference in energy usage on campus.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said representatives from University Housing, the University Health Center, the Nebraska Unions and the Campus Recreation Center have met and discussed the energy issue.

Cook Pavilion is heated by natural gas, and the heating bill could get expensive, he said.

The university estimated the increased gas prices could cost UNL more than \$1 million, which isn't figured into the budget, Griesen said.

The higher gas prices are because of high oil prices worldwide, said Mari Matulka, spokeswoman for Metropolitan Utilities District in Omaha.

The company estimated the average residential cost for natural gas will be 69 percent more than it was last winter, Matulka said.

Gas for commercial, industrial

and large-volume consumers is also on the rise, she said. This year's natural-gas prices may seem high, but it's not just because of expensive oil, she said.

Rather, in the past few years, some customers have grown accustomed to the warmer winters, which have been accompanied by cheaper gas bills, she said.

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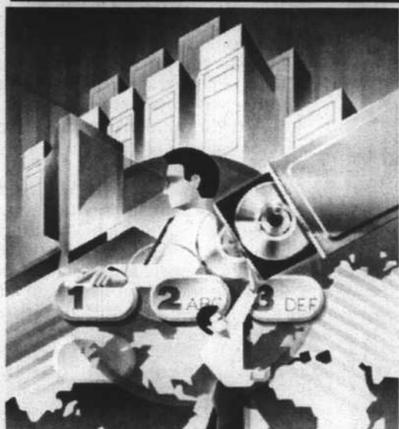
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