

Swimming coaches threaten Daily Nebraskan with lawsuit

BY BRADLEY DAVIS

A lawyer representing Husker swimming coaches under an internal Athletic Department investigation served the Daily Nebraskan with papers Thursday threatening a lawsuit.

Thom Cope, a Lincoln attorney, said Swimming Coach Cal Bentz and Assistant Coaches Keith Moore, Kelly Nordell and Rick Paine, may sue the Daily Nebraskan for alleged defamation in an Oct. 2 article

about the investigation.

The letter comes a day after swimmer Sara Jowsey leveled libel charges against the newspaper at a Publications Board meeting.

Jowsey was accompanied to the meeting of the board that sets policy for the newspaper by Bentz, Moore, Nordell and Paine, along with Bentz's wife, Cara Anderson, and two other women whom Anderson refused to identify when contacted Wednesday.

At the meeting, Jowsey said some of her quotes were taken out of context, while others were fabricated.

The newspaper ran a clarification Oct. 3, stating some of Jowsey's quotes were taken out of context, but Jowsey said she was not satisfied with its length or page-two placement.

Jowsey threatened her own lawsuit if the newspaper didn't take satisfactory action on her complaint.

The swimming coaches under inves-

tigation also are dissatisfied with the clarification, Cope said in his letter.

"I am also aware that a very small 'correction' was published. This is totally unacceptable," Cope wrote.

Cope said his clients demand a full-page retraction that "states categorically that neither the Daily Nebraskan, nor any staff member, has any evidence of illegal activity on the part of any of the suspended swim coaches."

Daily Nebraskan Editor Sarah Baker

defended the newspaper's actions at the Wednesday Publications Board meeting, saying it followed standard policy in clarifying Jowsey's statements.

The board recommended Jowsey be allowed to write a letter to the editor and suggested the newspaper run another swim coach story including Jowsey's opinions, though its recommendations are not binding.

The Daily Nebraskan was in contact with its own lawyers late Thursday.

UNMC gets \$17.5 million

BY JILL ZEMAN

The University of Nebraska Medical Center received a \$17.5 million boost Monday from the Peter Kiewit Foundation - the foundation's largest gift ever to the university.

The donation will help pay for the construction of the Research Center of Excellence, a \$77 million project.

Construction for the 284,000-square-foot building will begin next spring and conclude in 2003, said Harold Maurer, UNMC chancellor.

The research center will be built on the west end of the UNMC campus in Omaha at 45th Street between Dewey Avenue and Emile Street.

"I'm absolutely thrilled with the (foundation's) endorsement," he said.

Maurer said the center will have areas focusing on cancer and transplantation, neurosciences, heart failures and advanced biomedical studies.

The research center will include 116 research laboratories, a 225-seat auditorium, two small-

er auditoriums and about 14 classrooms or seminar rooms.

"(The center) will allow us to attract the best and the brightest faculty and students," he said.

Maurer said the medical center's goal was to double the amount of external funding it receives in the next five years and triple it in the next 10 years.

"I'm very gratified by this show of support," he said. "It adds a great deal of prestige to UNMC."

The Kiewit Foundation has donated nearly \$44 million to the University of Nebraska since 1980, said Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein, executive director of the foundation, in a press release.

The foundation has donated money for the Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science, Technology and Engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, as well as for the renovation of University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Journalism and Mass Communications, she said.

"Our trustees are pleased to be able to offer this kind of support to the visionary research that UNMC is conducting," she said.

Professor tests grandma's remedy for colds

BY JILL ZEMAN

A bowl full of chicken soup may be the best prescription for the common cold, according to research conducted at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Using a recipe from his wife's grandmother, Dr. Stephen Rennard, the Larson professor of medicine at the pulmonary and critical care section of UNMC, tested chicken soup's ability to ease the symptoms of upper-respiratory infections, such as coughing and a runny nose.

Rennard's findings were published Tuesday in the October issue of CHEST, the journal of the American College of Chest Physicians.

The research was conducted in 1992, and Rennard presented

his findings in 1993, he said

The chicken soup was not tested on people, rather the research was conducted in vitro at the medical center.

A combination of water, chicken, onions, potatoes, parsnips, turnips, carrots, celery stems, parsley, salt and pepper were tested along with other commercial brands, he said.

Rennard said he didn't identify a single ingredient that helped combat colds. Rather, the combination of the different foods seemed to work the best.

Although the special recipe fared well - it was among the upper third of those tested - Rennard said "grandma's soup" wasn't the cure-all for the common cold.

The conglomeration of ingredients in almost any variation of chicken soup may con-

"It can make a cold feel a lot better."

Dr. Garland Bare

Lincoln Family Medical Group physician

tain an anti-inflammatory mechanism to help battle the common cold, he said.

Research on chicken soup has been a pleasant change of pace for him, Rennard said.

"It's been a tremendous amount of fun," he said.

Despite the lighter subject matter, the research was all business, he said.

"What we did in the lab was absolutely rigorous," he said.

Dr. Garland Bare, family physician at the Lincoln Family Medical Group, said he recom-

mended chicken soup for patients fighting the common cold.

But the soup seems to have more nutritional benefits than medicinal perks, he said.

Chicken soup provides several nutrients, including potassium and sodium, that help a person strengthen his or her immune system, he said.

The soup also provides fluids, a necessity for an ailing patient, he said.

"It can make a cold feel a lot better," Bare said.

Dog days of policing Lincoln over for retired K-9

BY JOSH FUNK

Lancaster County Sheriff's Deputy Silko is looking forward to retirement so he can finally just lie around the house.

Of course, Silko also looks forward to long walks around the neighborhood and chasing balls.

The 9-year-old German Shephard is ready for some quieter days after six years on the force sniffing out the bad guys and backing his partner.

"Like the rest of us (Silko's) just getting old and tired," Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner said.

In recognition of Silko's service, Wagner presented a plaque to Deputy Tom Trotter, the dog's partner.

In his retirement, Silko will become the Trotters' second family dog.

"Silko is going to milk me for everything," Trotter said when asked if his former partner would be getting a pension.

Trotter has moved into the department's criminal investigations unit.

This week, the sheriff's department launched a fund-raising campaign to pay for the \$12,000 to \$15,000 expense of recruiting and training Xavier, another German Shepherd, to take Silko's place.

T.O. Haas Tire Company responded with \$5,500 donation Wednesday.

"We're pleased to continue our involve-

ment with the department," Randy Haas said.

In the past, the company had paid for K-9 trading cards featuring the department's dogs.

Deputy Brent Moore will be partnered with the new dog, Xavier, who hails from Belgium.

Moore will soon join Xavier at Rudy Drexler's School for Dogs in Elkhart, Ind., for training.

Wagner said the department likes to have two dogs working, but the sheriff's department does cooperate with

Lincoln Police's K-9 unit to provide dogs where needed.

Dogs do things that humans can't, such as tracking, identifying a scent and protecting their handlers, Wagner said.

And K-9 support is important in the county where officers may have to track someone across open fields.

The dogs also provide good protection for their partners, who may be 15 minutes away from another officer, Wagner said.

Injured juror may lead to mistrial in murder trial

BY JOSH FUNK

Deliberations in a Lincoln murder trial were suspended Thursday while a juror was hospitalized with a broken leg.

If the injured juror cannot return to deliberations, a mistrial could be declared in Linh Bao's case.

The court waited for a doctor's clearance all day Thursday. A hearing will be held at 9 a.m. today to determine the best course of action.

Bao, 30, is charged with first-degree murder and the use of a weapon to commit a felony for the Feb. 5 shooting of 37-year-old Vu Hoang La.

Lancaster County District

Court Judge Steven Burns issued a statement that the juror was injured in a fall Wednesday when the jury was being taken to a hotel to be sequestered. Burns would not release the injured juror's name.

The jury had deliberated from noon to 8:45 p.m. before adjourning for the day. The trial had concluded with closing arguments that morning.

The defense argued at trial that Bao shot La in self defense, and the prosecution described the shooting as a deliberate killing.

The jury could convict Bao of first- or second-degree murder or manslaughter and using a weapon to commit a felony. If

convicted of first-degree murder, Bao could face the death penalty.

The attorneys disagreed on many of the events of that night, but during their arguments they agreed on the following things:

Bao went to a Vietnamese New Year's party with a friend that night, but he did not know many other people there.

At the party Bao got into a fight with La and two other men, though it is unclear what started the disagreement. Then the men were asked to leave the party.

Bao got a ride home to the trailer park, and near his home, Bao spotted La's car following and jumped out.

Bao ran inside his house and

got his .380-caliber handgun, but it was unloaded.

Then Bao got into another fight with La and the two men down the street from Bao's trailer, and the men struggled over the gun.

After that struggle, Bao grabbed the gun from his wife, who had come outside and went back into his trailer to load the gun.

When Bao returned outside with the gun, La and the other men had returned to La's car, but it is unclear if they were leaving.

Witnesses described Bao walking toward the car and firing at least five times.

Police found five shell casings around the car.

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Missourians remember late Gov. Mel Carnahan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - Missourians in Sunday best and faded denim paused and prayed Thursday before the flag-draped casket of Gov. Mel Carnahan, who died in a plane crash.

"I am just devastated," said Donna Lowe of Vandalia, who as a high school junior volunteered in Carnahan's winning 1980 campaign for state treasurer. "We have lost our great leader."

A public memorial service for Carnahan, who died Monday night along with his oldest son, Roger Carnahan, and longtime campaign aide Chris Sifford, was scheduled for Friday morning on the Missouri Statehouse grounds.

Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board are trying to determine what caused the crash.

Officials said that among other factors, they were looking into whether problems with a

primary attitude indicator, used to help maintain level flight, were to blame.

NTSB member Carol Carmody said the investigation could take up to a year. President Clinton is to speak at Carnahan's memorial service.

Vice President Al Gore was expected to attend, along with Republican Sen. John Ashcroft, who was being challenged for re-election by the two-term Democratic governor.

An estimated 4,000 mourners filed slowly past the casket in the Great Hall of the Governor's Mansion during the first five hours of the visitation, which was to stretch into the evening.

Many State of Missouri lapel pins with strips of black ribbon through them.

They included Jim and Mary Magers, retired state workers from Jefferson City. After pausing quietly at the casket, the Magers signed a guest book and wiped away tears.

"He was the best governor, just the best," Jim Magers said.

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