

# Author accounts life on Navy submarine

WALLER from page 1

"Its sole purpose is to start World War III," Waller said.

This is one of the reasons the crew on the submarine is like a small community where everyone knows everybody else's business.

"You've got 162 men with 160 warheads - you don't want a screwball," he said.

In addition to the crewmen feeling pride with the state of Nebraska, a few Nebraskans take pride in the power of the submarine.

The Big Red Sub Club, an organization started in 1991 to support the USS Nebraska, brings crewmen from the submarine to visit Nebraska, said Lloyd Johnson, a member of the organization.

Johnson said they brought in the crewmen twice each year: once for Nebraskaland Days in North Platte and once during football season.

"They are 10 times bigger

fans than anyone here," he said.

Johnson said the crewmen often boasted about the submarine when they talked to area schools during their visits.

"They aren't obnoxious. They're just confident," he said. "It's their ship."

Johnson, as well as Thomas Brady, is also a fleet admiral in the Nebraska Admirals Association, an association whose members are recognized by the governor for their outstanding community achievement.

Both men made Waller an honorary admiral for the writing of his book.

This meant Waller had to promise never to speak negatively about the state and "walk the plank," or walk backwards in a circle.

Waller said when he gave Gov. Johanns a copy of the book, he was forewarned.

"He said I was going to have to do something pretty embarrassing," Waller said.

## Prisoner shot after trying to escape penitentiary

A prisoner trying to escape the State Penitentiary was shot Wednesday evening.

Todd Cook, 24, was shot around 6:05 p.m., said Win Barber, a public information officer for the penitentiary.

Barber said Cook was trying to escape by climbing the fence on the east side of the compound.

Cook was then taken to Bryan LGH Medical Center.

Terry Teuber, spokeswoman for the Nebraska State Patrol, said Cook was listed in critical condition at the hospital.

Because a Grand Jury investigation is done when someone dies while in custody, the Nebraska State Patrol is not releasing any information yet.

Cook was serving a life sentence plus 20 years for the murder of a Norfolk woman in 1995.

## Police find \$35 million of cocaine during traffic stop

During a routine traffic stop, State Patrol officers found 765 pounds of cocaine Wednesday.

Two troopers were headed to their Grand Island headquarters after participating in a drug search west of Kearney, Teuber said.

The two troopers, armed with a K-9 unit, stopped William Felts, 52, because he was driving on the shoulder about 12 miles east of Kearney, said Dennis Leonard, investigative sergeant for the State Patrol.

Teuber said the K-9 unit alerted the troopers to the vehicle. Once alerted, the troopers

asked Felts if they could search the vehicle, and they found 765 pounds of cocaine in three U-Haul boxes.

"We estimated the street value to be \$35 million," she said.

Felts was arrested for possession with intent to deliver and taken to the Buffalo County Jail, she said.

"This is the largest in our agency's history and the largest in cocaine history of Nebraska," Teuber said.

## High-speed chase results in arrest for drug possession

A high-speed chase Friday afternoon ended after the driver rolled and crashed his car and fled on foot to avoid arrest.

Lincoln Police Captain David Beggs said Curtis Rolie, 22, was

first noticed at 24th and Y streets.

Beggs said the officers knew Rolie had a suspended license.

The chase, which lasted approximately two minutes, ended on 37th and Apple streets when Rolie lost control of his car, rolled it and hit a tree, Beggs said.

Rolie then fled on foot, but was apprehended by officers a short distance later, Beggs said.

Beggs said officers found 5.5 grams of crack in the vehicle and arrested Rolie for possession of crack cocaine with intent to deliver, fleeing to avoid arrest and driving under suspension, Beggs said.

Rolie was taken to Bryan LGH Medical Center West and then to the Lancaster County Jail. His passenger, whose name is not available, was taken to Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center.

Compiled by Jill Conner

## Professor: Insects a forgotten study

RATCLIFFE from page 1

urgency about his work. His field studies in Central and South America have shown him the fragility of tropical forests - the habitat for many scarab beetles.

"Have returned to sites only to find them completely destroyed," he said.

"There are times where I have been working in the middle of the Amazon basin, and I have heard the sound of chain saws going 24 hours a day."

Ratcliffe said this loss of habitat presented a real challenge to entomologists.

"We spend billions of dollars in space exploration to find out what is out there," he said. "I support space exploration, but I think it is equally as important to find out what is here on planet Earth," he said.

Ratcliffe said while there were about 4,000 species of mammals on the planet, the number of

insects was much higher and most of those had yet to be catalogued.

"There are about 35,000 species of scarab beetles. There are about 360,000 species of beetles," he said. "We have named about one million insects, but there may be as many as 10-30 million species, so you can see how many we have left to name and study."

While moving through the aisles that hold the Nebraska State Museum's research collection, Ratcliffe occasionally pulls out a glass-topped drawer and shows a sample of the holdings. Only 2 percent of the museum's collection are on display in Morrill Hall. The rest, nearly 14 million specimens, are housed in Nebraska Hall.

As Ratcliffe spoke of the need for education and conservation, a sign taped to the door of the collection room underlined his motivation.

"So many specimens, so little time."

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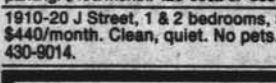
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