

A plea for more openness on rape

Now you don't have to read between the lines and wonder: My daughter was raped.

Since she was attacked June 21 by a stranger who kicked in her locked apartment door, World-Herald news stories and two of my columns have said that she was abducted, robbed, shot and left for dead.

That's in keeping with this newspaper's long-standing policy not to name rape victims. It's

a good policy, grounded in the notion that much of society still attaches a stigma to rape victims and that printing names might discourage victims from going to the police.



Michael Kelly

The policy remains, and victims need not fear that their names will be printed in the paper. They should report a crime that is believed to be the most underreported of crimes.

My daughter's attack in Texas made news in Omaha because of its horrible nature — she was shot in the back with 9 mm bullets — and because she grew up in Omaha. Editors say an additional factor, and one causing Bridget's name to be published initially, was that she is the daughter of a longtime columnist.

A grand jury in Bell County, Texas, indicted a man Wednesday on five counts, including attempted murder and aggravated sexual assault. Because Bridget's name had already been reported in connection with the shooting, the sexual-assault charge created a policy dilemma for editors, who decided — with the concurrence of my daughter, my wife and me — to make a rare exception and report it.

In the hospital more than a month ago at Fort Hood, Texas, unable to speak at first, Bridget wrote that in news coverage of her case, "It's OK if they say rape."

She says she wasn't speaking for others or suggesting how they should feel. But she adds: "Why is it more shameful to be a rape victim than a gunshot victim?"

Surely, it is not. But there is shame in rape, and it rests squarely with the attacker, not the victim.

Inside
Historically, though, society unfairly has made many rape victims feel either that they contributed to the attacks or that they are somehow diminished — stigmatized — merely by being victims.

The stigma from this awful crime should be on the predator, not on the prey.

In conversation, our family has spoken openly about our daughter's ordeal. We honor her courage in not only surviving her attack but also in not being ashamed.

To be sure, she has wept. So have my wife and I. So have our daughter's grandmas and brothers and sister and aunts and uncles and cousins and friends and colleagues and, in some cases, kind people we haven't met. The circle of anguish spreads widely.

Our 25-year-old daughter has endured extreme physical pain from her brutal attack as well as mental pain — post-traumatic stress and anxiety, which will continue. She has benefited from physical and psychological care, and is determined to return to a full life and her career as a first-grade teacher.

But there have been moments of near despair.

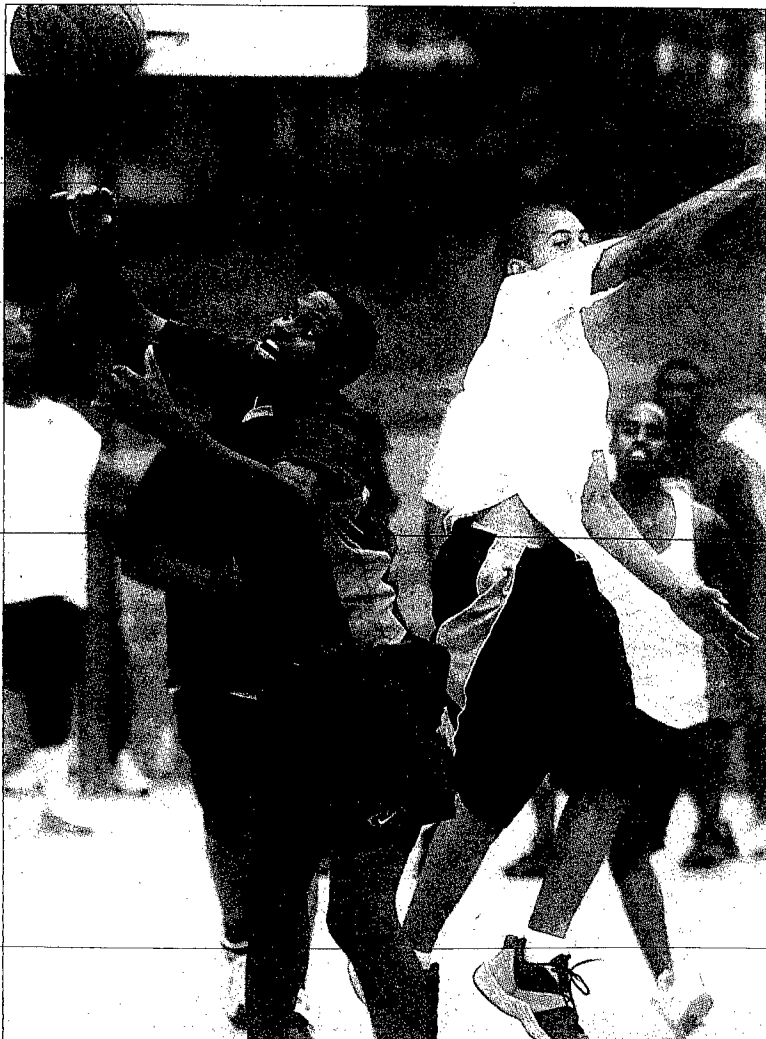
"This should never have happened to you," I said painfully at her bedside that first weekend. Crying, she replied: "This should never happen to anybody."

But it does. And the silence about rape may add to the feelings of victimization.

Geneva Overholser, then editor of the Des Moines Register, made that point in 1989. "I be-

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Evangelizing through basketball



Pastor Melvyn Hayden III, left, battles Roy Hargrove, 19, for a loose ball during a basketball game between members of the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church at 33rd and Lake Streets and neighborhood teens. The teens won, 15-9.

Church lures teens with pizza, hoops

A visiting pastor issues a challenge to neighborhood youths.

By JACLYN O'MALLEY
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Outside their window, members of the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church often saw teen-agers playing basketball at the apartments across the street.

Attempts to persuade the boys to attend services, however, were rebuffed.

A street was the only divider, but the church and the teens seemed worlds apart, said Youth Director Terri Perkins.

A basketball challenge, however, finally brought them together Wednesday night.

A visiting pastor challenged the teens from the Tommie Rose Garden Apartments to a game against members of the church, 3336 Lake St. The prize if the teens won would be all the pizza they could eat.

If they lost? They would attend a service at the church.

After an intense game, the neighborhood teens won, 15-9. But they said they'll go to church anyway.



Swehla Hunt, church choir director, leads her group in song toward the end of the game to inspire her team to victory. It didn't work.

"The church guy came up to us and said we'd get pizza if we beat his team, so we came to play," said 19-year-old Roy Hargrove. "I'm still going to attend service. This was a good thing."

Pastor Melvyn Hayden III from Lexington, Ky., is speaking at the church this week, giving motivational talks to youths each night through Sunday.

"When I went over to them, they told me to get off the court and I was bothering them," Hayden said. "I had to think of something quick, so I challenged them to a basketball game."

Hayden said he wanted to show them that they can lead positive lives by staying

healthy, being abstinent, watching their money and going to church.

To prove he was serious, Hayden scored the first basket.

"Every time we've had services, we look out the window and see these guys out here playing," Perkins said. "We want everyone to know they're welcome."

Marquez Veland, 19, said the game was a challenge and changed his mind.

"I stopped going to that church, but I think I'll give it another try," Veland said.

As promised, the teens were taken out for pizza.

"Same time tomorrow," Hayden yelled after the game.

Vacant jobs targeted by council

Members say at a budget briefing that they want the 120 positions eliminated, not just frozen.

By NICHOLE AKSAMIT
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

At a budget briefing Wednesday, the Omaha City Council grilled the city's finance director on why 120 supposedly vacant civilian positions in Mayor Mike Fahey's 2003 budget proposal still appear in the employee totals and in the budget details for some departments.

Councilman Frank Brown accused Stan Timm of "phantom budgeting" and made several jokes about fuzzy accounting, even referring to the long-term finance director as "Mr. Lay" — as in former Enron CEO Kenneth Lay — at one point.

Several councilmen said during and after the briefing that they want the positions eliminated, not just frozen, so city government won't automatically balloon when and if the sour economy sweetens.

Timm dismissed the Enron comparisons, saying he thought Brown was just joking around. He said this is the first time the city has prepared a budget in which the detailed budgets don't all correlate to the summaries on the balance sheet. He said he assembled the budget that way because the city was putting so

many positions on hold at once.

He said it wasn't meant to be deceptive but to keep the positions alive "on paper" even though the funding for them isn't included in the proposed \$229.9 million general fund budget.

"We've counted those positions in the complement, but we don't have the money for them," Timm said. And, as for why the administration wants to freeze the jobs instead of eliminate them?

"That's so that when revenues do recover, those positions don't have to be rejustified," Timm said. "The department directors believe those positions are justified now."

He said that if revenues improved next year, the city couldn't just up and spend more money than budgeted. The council, he said, would have to agree to transfer more money to individual departments from a \$1.5 million reserve account if they wanted to fill some of the 120 vacant positions.

Nevertheless, Council President Chuck Sigerson and Councilmen Dan Welch, Jim Vokal and Franklin Thompson all said they think it makes more sense to cut the positions, many of which the

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Complaints about club frustrate its manager

By CLIFF BRUNT
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Wes Hall thinks Cartiers, the nightclub he manages, has gone above and beyond to be a good neighbor in the Benson area.

He even offered his cellular phone number at a meeting he called with neighbors before the club opened, welcoming them to voice concerns when necessary.

That's why Hall says he's disappointed that some neighbors have complained to city officials and the media without contacting him first.

"For those interested in painting that dark cloud, it's easier to do it that way than to be neighbors and communicate," he said.

Some neighbors say the restaurant and nightclub at 6553 Ames Ave. is responsible for overcrowded residential streets, trash and broken beer bottles, loud stereos and public urination.

They will address those concerns in a meeting at 7 tonight at the Benson Park Pavilion. Hall said he wasn't invited, but Cartiers will send a representative.

Neighbors have gone to the media and called meetings, despite Cartiers' efforts to get along, he says.

Hall and Cartiers owners Richard Williams and Kendra Johnson agreed to several unique conditions when Cartiers' liquor license was transferred in April from Grooves, a former nightclub at 10th and Pacific Streets, and they think the club has lived up to them.

In just over two months, Cartiers has become one of the most popular weekend spots in Omaha. Hall said it draws between 700 and 800 patrons on Saturday nights.

Cartiers is pleased with the success, but some neighbors say it has ruined their peaceful weekends.

Hall said neighbors are just recycling old complaints from Grooves, which he claims got a

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Mother will give up for adoption boy mauled by pit bull

By KARYN SPENCER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A toddler who had his genitals mutilated by a pit bull will be placed for adoption because his mother has agreed to give up the child.

Christine E. Anderson was scheduled to sign the final paperwork last week but couldn't because she was in the hospital having her second child.

Social workers took away that newborn after prosecutors allege, tests found drugs in both mother and child. The boy was placed in foster care.

Anderson, 20, had hearings Wednesday in Douglas County Juvenile Court on both children. She declined to comment.

Anderson plans to give up the maimed child, who is now 2 and has been in foster care since the attack Oct. 11.

Anderson has admitted she was sleeping off a methamphetamine binge when the boy was attacked by her then-boyfriend's pit bull.

Doctors said the boy will need reconstructive surgery, artificial hormones and psychological services throughout his life.

Early this year, Anderson said she intended to quit using meth and clean up her life to get her son back.

A month later, Juvenile Judge Elizabeth Crnkovich decided that was not an option.

The judge ruled this was one of the extreme cases that allowed her to go against usual procedures. In most cases, courts try to reunite children with their parents if conditions in the home can be improved.

The judge said that was unrealistic because Anderson didn't understand the impact of the injuries on her son's future

and her life was too unstable to help the boy to deal with them.

After the ruling, Anderson agreed to give up the boy. She began the standard counseling before finalizing the decision. She plans to finish that process in the next few weeks.

Proceedings have started to terminate the rights of the boy's father.

Anderson still faces three misdemeanors related to the attack.

Her ex-boyfriend, Roy A. Townsend, was sentenced to six months in jail for harboring a dangerous animal.



Christine Anderson gave birth last week to her second child.

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Briefly

METRO AREA

Speakers deadline is Monday

The deadline for applying for an Omaha police officer, firefighter, city dignitary or Community Resource Center representative to visit your neighborhood's National Night Out event is Monday.

Call 444-4873 for a registration form.

National Night Out will be recognized Aug. 6 in Omaha and La Vista. Papillion's event will be from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 4 at City Hall.

Goals of the night include heightening crime- and drug-prevention awareness and strengthening neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. —Shannon Henson

NEBRASKA

Prairie-dog status dead issue for now

LINCOLN — The attempt by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to manage prairie dogs on 17 public land areas was smothered Wednesday.

Commissioners voted 5-1 to halt the development of a conservation plan and to end all studies of the animal.

Randy Stinnette of Inland, who cast the dissenting vote, predicted that prairie dogs will surface again — in a courtroom.

"We have obligations under state law that we have to look after the welfare and needs of all wildlife species, not just those that we pick and choose," Stinnette said.

Officials from the Conservation Alliance of the Great Plains said a lawsuit probably would be a last resort.

An estimated 150 people packed the room in the Game and Parks Commission headquarters. About 45 came by bus from western Nebraska, an area where prairie dogs have few allies. —Larry Porter

Farm Bureau president resigns

LINCOLN — The longtime president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau resigned Wednesday.

Bryce Neidig, president of the organization since 1981, said he was returning to farming. He and his son, Neal, raise corn and soybeans near Madison and Battle Creek.

Neidig also has been active in the national organization, serving for almost 14 years on the American Farm Bureau board of directors. —AP

Teacher sues Seward district

LINCOLN — A Seward high school teacher is suing the school district for threatening to fire him for speaking out against plans to possibly lay off teachers.

Bill Sloup, who has taught in Seward for 19 years, filed the lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Lincoln.

Sloup said he expressed concern about low teacher morale to Mike Hecker, the school board president. Sloup was reprimanded for speaking with Hecker and for making similar comments at a prayer meeting.

Sloup alleges that the school district violated his rights to freedom of speech, association and free exercise of religion, among other things. —AP

Johanns: Honor Korean War vets

LINCOLN — Gov. Mike Johanns said American and state flags should be flown at half-staff Saturday in observance of Korean War Veterans Armistice Day.

"I hope Nebraskans will take time to reflect on the sacrifices made by true American heroes, our veterans," Johanns said.

More than 33,000 Americans died in the Korean War. The armistice was signed July 27, 1953, at Panmunjom. —World-Herald Bureau

Prayer vigil targets adult novelty store

GRAND ISLAND — Local clergymen have organized a prayer initiative in opposition of an adult novelty store that opened in the city this month.

Volunteers are being asked to pray along a gravel road outside Dr. John's Lingerie and Novelty Boutique.

The Rev. David Vaughn of Victory Bible Fellowship sent 37 letters to area churches last week asking for prayer volunteers. Vaughn's goal is to have two to five people praying near Dr. John's at least once a day through Sept. 1.

The prayer initiative started Tuesday. Dr. John's opened July 23.

John Halton, who runs Dr. John's, has said that an estimated

of publicity is good for his business. Halton runs similar businesses in Omaha, Lincoln and Fort Collins, Colo. — AP

Voters remove Hazard official

HAZARD — Village Board Chairman James Snell will be packing up his office.

Snell was removed from office by a 22-16 recall election vote Tuesday.

His opponents said Snell had been going against board decisions, harassing residents, using other board members' names to obtain information, attending meetings with liquor on his breath and refusing fuel for the firetruck.

The Village Board must elect a new chairman at the next meeting Tuesday. Sherman County Attorney Mark Eureka said. —AP

Flood detour harms highway near I-80

SCOTTSBLUFF — Interstate 80 was not the only thoroughfare damaged by floods near Ogallala.

The State Roads Department is planning to repair about eight miles of Nebraska Highway 27 damaged by heavy trucks using it to detour around Interstate 80 after a section of it was washed out by floods earlier this month.

The problems were unexpected, District Highway Commissioner Tim Weander said.

Scotts Bluff County officials also are concerned about unrelated county road damage linked to the drought. —AP

Fire destroys school annex

WEST POINT — A fire destroyed a school annex building Tuesday and forced West Point Public Schools administrators to look for temporary classroom space.

Firefighters were called to the building shortly after 3 a.m. Assistant Fire Chief Lyle Hansen said investigators suspect that the fire was caused by a welding torch used Monday by repair crews working at the building. —AP

ATV accident kills man near Elgin

ELGIN — A Texas man was killed Tuesday when he lost control of his off-road vehicle Tuesday. The victim was Steven P. LaMar, 41, of Garland.

The Antelope County Sheriff's Office said LaMar lost control of the vehicle about three miles northeast of Elgin and went into a ditch.

He was ejected from the vehicle, which then hit an embankment and rolled. His 11-year-old son was a passenger and suffered minor injuries.

Neither wore a helmet. —Shannon Henson

NEBRASKA

Nebraskan to be held in county jail

ROCHESTER — The defense has withdrawn a motion to allow electronic home monitoring instead of jail for a Nebraska woman charged with trying to kill her husband by tampering with his IV line at the Mayo Clinic.

Connie Lucille Lee's attorney, Terry Walters, had complained that because of overcrowding in the Olmsted County Jail, Lee was getting bounced among other county jails and that he was having trouble contacting and meeting her.

Judge Joseph Chase said he would order Lee held in the Olmsted County Jail until her Aug. 9 hearing.

The 48-year-old Grant, Neb., woman is charged with attempted first-degree murder and aggravated first-degree assault. —AP

IOWA

Hospital, union near agreement

MAPLETON — While five nurses who are on strike continue holding vigil outside their clinic in this town of 1,400, a tentative agreement might have been reached Wednesday between the nurses union and a Sioux City hospital.

Three years ago, the nurses at the Maple Valley Mercy Medical Clinic voted to join the professional division of United Food Commercial Workers Local 222 in Sioux City and entered into a three-year contract with the hospital. Mercy Medical Center officials weren't pleased, and they have bypassed the five nurses on raises and other perks given to nurses at some of the network's 31 other clinics.

A union representative said Wednesday's talks were productive, with both sides willing to compromise. A vote is expected to be scheduled for Friday. —Chris Clayton

Texan indicted in attack on Omaha native

By STEPHEN BUTTRY
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A Texas grand jury Wednesday indicted Jamaal Adrian Turner of Killeen, Texas, on five charges that could send him to prison for life in the June 21 attack on Omaha native Bridget Kelly.

Turner, 18, faces charges in Bell County, Texas, of aggravated kidnapping, aggravated robbery, aggravated sexual assault, burglary of a habitation and attempted murder.

Turner is accused of breaking into Kelly's apartment in Killeen, abducting her at gunpoint, forcing her to withdraw money from an ATM, raping her, shoot-

ing her three times with a 9 mm gun and leaving her for dead.

Kelly, the 25-year-old daughter of World-Herald columnist Michael Kelly, was able to walk and then run 200 yards to nearby homes for help. That effort not only saved her life, but also led to Turner's capture, said Assistant District Attorney Paul McWilliams.

While police were in the neighborhood responding to the emergency call, McWilliams said, Turner and two other people returned to the scene in Bridget Kelly's car.

After a chase, police captured one of the other men and later arrested Turner at a Killeen house. The two men with Turner

have not been charged and are cooperating with investigators, McWilliams said.

He said police also have DNA evidence and found Kelly's cell phone on Turner when he was arrested.

Kelly is a first-grade teacher for the Killeen Independent School District and hopes to return to school this fall. She is recovering with family in Cincinnati after spending two weeks at Darnall Army Community Hospital in Fort Hood, which is adjacent to Killeen.

Turner is jailed on \$1 million bail. Bail on the specific charges will be set when he is arraigned, probably next week, McWilliams said.

The first four charges against Turner are first-degree felonies, which carry prison sentences from five years to 99 years or life. Attempted murder is a second-degree felony, carrying a sentence of two to 20 years.

A judge or jury sets the actual sentence within the range set by law. For instance, a defendant convicted of a first-degree felony could get a 50-year sentence. The defendant would not be eligible for parole until serving half the sentence or 30 years, whichever is less. With multiple charges, the judge can assign sentences to run one after the other.

Kelly: Society has treated rape victims unfairly

Continued from Page 1

I believe that we will not break down the stigma," she wrote, "until more and more women take public stands. . . . Rape is an American shame. Our society needs to see that and attend to it, not hide it or hush it up."

Sexual violation is not sex, it's violence. It's not love, it's hate. It's not so much an act of lust as of power and control.

Because rape is such a personal and despicable act, it is natural for victims and their families not to talk. But perhaps, in the long run, that works to the advantage of the attacker and to the detriment of the victim.

Justice Department figures indicate that one woman in three is a victim of some form of sexual assault during her lifetime. Since our daughter's attack, that statistic is no longer static — it has come alive, all around us.

Dear friends of ours for 20 or 30 years, several of them, have revealed that they were raped. We had no idea. Some never told

police, counselors or even family members.

"If you or your daughter ever need someone to talk to," an Omaha colleague told me quietly, "I'd be happy to do so. A man broke into my home 11 years ago and raped me."

People we met in Texas told us painful and harrowing stories — a 9-year-old daughter, now 23, beaten nearly to death in an attempted rape; a wife, now in her 40s, abducted in her 20s, chained to a pig sty and raped; an airline supervisor's daughter, now 15, raped by a stranger when she was 12.

The news reports of my daughter's abduction and shooting, and of her 200-yard trek to a subdivision seeking help, produced a comforting wave of sympathy and encouragement.

The cards, e-mails and prayers had a tangible result for us and for her — they are helping us all get better.

We are so grateful. But at the same time I hold feelings bor-

dering almost on guilt. Why? Because most rape victims must go it alone. They don't get all that moral support.

The walking wounded from the crime of rape try to move on. They rebuild their lives, return to their jobs, rejoin society, caress their children and try to smile — hiding the horror they experienced.

Some victims suffer for years. Some families break up.

And all of that is in addition to the immediate fear of impregnation, HIV or other diseases. (My daughter is not pregnant, and her first HIV test was negative; more are needed.)

Because my daughter's attacker had a gun and was a criminal, he made her feel helpless. But not hopeless.

She tried to talk with him, saying she was a teacher and didn't he remember his teachers? He reacted coldly, telling her to shut up.

Her strong religious faith strengthened her spirit. As he

was about to rape her, she told him: "God doesn't want you to do this."

He ignored her. Even as she feared for her life, knowing what might come next, she offered her suffering up to God.

When the man was finished with her, he got dressed and told her to turn around. He shot her in the back, and she fell. He shot her twice more.

He thought she was dead and left in her car.

The Catholic faith, which Bridget practices, honors a saint named Maria Goretti. A century ago this month, Maria was stabbed 14 times in an attempted rape and died the next day.

By coincidence, according to an account I read, she had used words almost identical to my daughter's. Trying to rebuff the man, Maria said: "No! It is a sin! God does not want it."

God does not want rape, and neither does our society. And yet it continues, and we rarely talk about it.

Children's Home to keep landmark building

By ERIN GRACE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

You can feel the ghosts of parents past in the north Omaha parlor of the Nebraska Children's Home Society, where adults have come since 1924 to become moms and dads.

"We don't want to lose this," Brandt said. "This has a lot of history to it." In its 109-year-old history, the Nebraska Children's Home Society has helped place more than 15,000 children into adoptive homes. That service — offered with no fee — continues today.

The organization also provides foster care for special-needs children and day-care services for children, ages 2 to 7, who have trouble be-

grams statewide plus foster-care and day-care services, would pull out.

But Executive Director Bob Brandt wants to make it clear that the Children's Home Society will keep the three-story brick building.

"We don't want to lose this," Brandt said. "This has a lot of history to it."

In its 109-year-old history, the Nebraska Children's Home Society has helped place more than 15,000 children into adoptive homes. That service — offered with no fee — continues today.

The organization also provides foster care for special-needs children and day-care services for children, ages 2 to 7, who have trouble be-

having at home, day care or school. Other services, such as education and support services for young people with unplanned pregnancies, are provided as well.

Nebraska Children's Home Society owns buildings in Omaha and Lincoln and rents space or has a presence in Fremont, Gothenburg, Grand Island, Kearney, Norfolk, North Platte and Scottsbluff.

The proposed new building would provide 20,000 square feet of space at 118th Street south of L Street. It would house a portion of the organization's adoption and education services.

The organization hopes to raise \$4 million over three

years, with \$1 million going toward programs and \$3 million to the building. Campaign leaders also want to highlight the organization's endowment, which enables it to provide free adoption services.

Among the couples leading that campaign are Bruce and Brenda Harris, who became parents thanks to the Nebraska Children's Home Society. The experience was so positive that over the years, the Omaha couple have mentored prospective adoptive parents, given shelter to unwed mothers in their home and talked at schools.

For more information, call the Children's Home Society at 451-0787 or check the Web site at www.nchs.org.

Budget: Council grills city's finance director

Continued from Page 1

city has been operating without for months, and see if the city can improve its efficiency.

"If we don't do that, how do we ever lower the size of government?" asked Sigerson.

Tim's assurances aside, Vokal said he's not convinced that the mayor's budget really does keep the 120 positions vacant.

"I think the property-tax hike is going toward that wish list of extra positions," he said.

The council asked Timm to provide detailed budgets that show where exactly the jobs are eliminated and that reflect the totals in the budget summaries. They also requested a list of the 105 positions that are now vacant and the 15 others that will be left vacant under Fahey's plan.

Other budget tidbits Timm revealed or councilmen or council staff noted Wednesday:

■ In addition to scaling back the Sun Dawgs summer youth program, Fahey's proposal would eliminate the Sun Puppies, a fee-based summer program for preschoolers at some city community centers.

■ Cuts in the Parks and Recreation Department would force crews to mow park lawns every 10 days instead of every week and would increase from 21 days to 28 to 30 days the time it takes crews to mow lawns that violate city code.

■ The proposed budget assumes that the Orpheum will lose \$500,000 next year under the management of the Omaha Performing Arts Society and that the city will have to pay \$250,000 of that expense in 2003.

According to the city's agreement with the society, the city would pay half of the Orpheum's losses up to \$250,000 a year. Sigerson asked Timm to investigate whether the Orpheum was likely to lose that much and whether the city would be billed for its share in 2003 or in 2004.

■ Fahey's budget would pay the Nebraska Humane Society \$350,000 next year for animal control, although the council has not approved a 2003 contract for the society.

■ Fahey's budget relies on a fairly optimistic sales-tax forecast — up 3.6 percent from the city's projections for 2002 and up 4.2 percent from the revised 2002 numbers, partly because of the Legislature's decision to expand sales tax to certain services.

■ Citywide property values,

on which Fahey's 1.5-cent tax increase hinges, could change as people appeal and the Douglas County Board of Equalization finishes adjusting valuations in mid-August. The city has trimmed between \$50 million and \$70 million from the current values in anticipation of those adjustments.

■ Although Omaha has annexed several big-box stores around its fringe, the city still is losing shoppers and sales tax to Council Bluffs and Sarpy County.

■ The city's share of expenses for the joint city-county 911 center is largely determined by Douglas County. Councilmen asked for a better explanation of the city's share.

Club: Local, state authorities report no violations

Continued from Page 1

had rap because it was close to another club, Planet Soul.

The Omaha Police Department has just one police report directly involving Cartiers on file, a June 23 disturbance, that involved a fight and an automobile break-in.

Fire officials and representatives of the mayor's hot line, the Mayor's Office and the Nebraska State Liquor Commission said they have received no complaints about Cartiers and have no record of violations.

Sharon Chvala, who has lived within a block of the club's location for 14 years and helped organize Thursday's meeting, said she knows of at least five 911 calls she and neighbors made about the club late Saturday and early Sunday.

Sgt. Dan Cisar, an Omaha police spokesman, said the Police Department received just one call from the area during that time. He said his department looks forward to helping solve what problems may exist.

"We've worked very closely with neighbors in other parts of the city that are close to bars, and this is no exception," Cisar said.

Cartiers' official capacity is 686. Hall said the club doesn't exceed capacity because customers come and go.

But parking is limited to about 250 stalls, including neighboring businesses with which the club has unwritten agreements. That causes patrons to park along residential streets.

a block from the club, said patrons park in neighboring apartment complexes, forcing residents to park blocks away.

A median prevents exiting patrons from heading west on Ames and forces many to weave through the residential area south of the club.

Chvala said the problems were expected.

"We're frustrated with it," she said. "This is what we knew was going to happen, and nobody listened to us. Our quiet little neighborhood is not so quiet anymore."

Neighboring restaurant Golden China allows Cartiers to use its parking lot after it closes. Golden China Manager Jean Loc said Cartiers keeps the lot clean and has caused her few problems.

City Councilman Marc Kraft said he thinks Cartiers has done its part to keep the area clean. He said he has driven through to investigate three times without being prompted and liked what he saw.

"I found it relatively litter-free and much cleaner than it was before Cartiers was there," he said.

Chvala said she doesn't want the club shut down.

"We're not trying to be nasty," she said. "We just want our neighborhood back. We want quiet."

Hall said Cartiers will continue to thrive.

"We feel very positive about it," Hall said. "It's open, and now it's staying open."

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