

UNL denies Mission Nebraska use of Memorial Stadium

By Lee Warren
Staff Writer

UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman sent a letter to Mission Nebraska recently informing the organization they could not use Memorial Stadium for their scheduled July 31, 2004 event

As Mission Nebraska contemplates legal action, [Ron] Brown hopes to "work in compliance with the University" to reschedule the event.

"Jesus Nation." Perlman's letter said the University does not rent the stadium to non-university groups since the football field was damaged during the Farm Aid III concert in 1987.

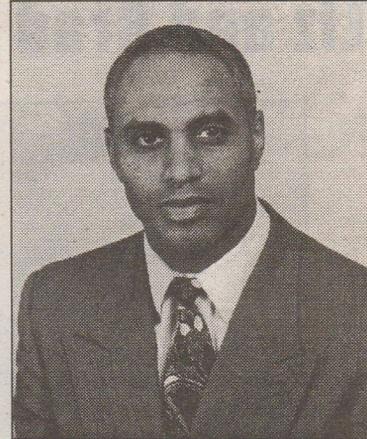
According to Ron Brown, co-founder of Mission Nebraska, Butch Hug, the Assistant Athletic Director at UNL, had already given Mission Nebraska permission to use the stadium.

According to Meg Lauerman, the Director of University Communications at UNL, "If there was the feeling that there was permission, it was at the level of 'well, it's a practical matter of dates', but we haven't had requests to use the stadium for non-university, non-football, events. So, it's kind of a new phenomenon."

"They have let other groups in," Brown said. "One of the examples of the groups that they let in on a regular basis is the Shriners." Brown said Mission Nebraska's legal counsel informed him that UNL has allowed several other organizations to use the stadium since the Farm Aid concert.

Lauerman said the Shrine Game is a "long standing football event with University consent and co-sponsorship." And she said Farm Aid was the last non-university, non-football event in Memorial Stadium to her knowledge.

As Mission Nebraska contemplates legal action, Brown hopes to "work in compliance with the University" to reschedule the event. He said it would be a win-win for UNL and the State



Ron Brown, co-founder Mission Nebraska

of Nebraska. He points to increased revenue for UNL, a boost for the economy in Lincoln and the state as people travel to the event, a moral investment, and good-will between UNL and the residents of Nebraska.

Brown said Christians can get involved by praying for God's will to prevail and by letting their voices be heard in newspapers and other media outlets across the state. He also invites Christians to email responses to Mission Nebraska at email@missionnebraska.org. †