

daily nebraskan

wednesday, december 13, 1978 lincoln, nebraska vol. 102 no. 59



"Forget the Rhino boot, I'm declaring bankruptcy."

Photo by Mark Billingsley

Police apprehend suspected robbers

Because of testimony from a deaf-mute witness, Lincoln police were able to arrest two men in connection with a Tuesday shooting and attempted robbery at R-B's Beer and Liquor, 1510 S. 17 St., less than three hours after the incident.

Police said the victim of the shooting was Linus C. Schwarz, 62, manager of the liquor store. Schwarz was listed in satisfactory condition Tuesday following surgery at Lincoln General Hospital.

Police Capt. Allen Curtis said no money was taken. The suspects apparently had trouble getting the cash register open, Curtis explained.

Two customers were in the store at the time of the incident, and were told to lie down. The victim was standing when he was shot, Curtis said, but he apparently offered no resistance.

Curtis said there were "at least a dozen" witnesses who came forward with information about what they had seen. But, Curtis said—a deaf-mute who was working on his car provided the most important information.

Curtis said police had to find someone from UNL (he didn't know the name of the female student) to tell police what the witness had seen.

The deaf witness showed police a footprint that indicated where the suspects had gone. One of those apprehended had a shoe that matched the footprint, Curtis said.

The suspects were found in another person's apartment near 17th and Washington streets, which is near the liquor store, police said.

One of the suspects is from Lincoln, and the other from Arkansas, Curtis said.

A small caliber handgun was found in the apartment, police said.

Koefoot wants best education with fewest possible dollars

By Randy Essex

Editor's note: This is the sixth in a series of in depth profiles on the eight members of the NU Board of Regents.

Grand Island Regent Robert Koefoot says he has always been able to "change suits" from surgeon to policy maker very easily. In his role as regent, Koefoot wants to provide the best education possible at NU with the fewest tax dollars.

Because of his desire to save tax money, Koefoot said he whole-heartedly supports the moratorium on new positions declared Friday by NU President Ronald Roskens.

And for the same reason he considers an idea to hire administrative assistants for the regents ridiculous.

The 55-year-old surgeon said he has always gotten the information he has requested from university administrators and the officials have been "more than willing" to provide it.

Waste and luxury

Koefoot said administrative assistants would be a waste of money—a luxury.

"If I can't do what I feel I have to do to be a good regent I should resign," he said. "We are the ultimate body, and we should take appropriate action if we aren't getting information."

He called Roskens' declaration Friday "outstanding and necessary."

"When we are hiring we have to take a good look at what we have and try not to increase the number of teaching positions," Koefoot said of Roskens' decision to review the filling of vacancies and the creation of new jobs.

Coupled with Roskens' guidelines to improve the university's reputation and quality of education, Koefoot said the moratorium "should allow us to do what we hope to, which is providing education while saving tax dollars."

Not politician

Although the doctor talks about saving tax money, he said he's not sure if the word politician describes him very well.

He would rather be called a country doctor. Besides being the owner/director/president of Surgical Associates of Grand Island, Koefoot practices medicine in St.



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Regent Robert Koefoot

Paul, Central City and Fullerton, "often at 3 a.m."

"My life has always centered around rural health, although I'm centered in Grand Island now," the NU Medical School graduate said. He explained that his father was a rural doctor and two of his brothers are rural Nebraska doctors.

So, as a regent, Koefoot is concerned that the NU Medical Center provides Nebraska with country doctors. He wants to be sure the center "does an outstanding job of providing care and physicians" to the people of the state.

'Best' chancellor

Koefoot praised Medical Center Chancellor Neal Vanselow as "better than anyone we've had in the past" at providing the state with those needs.

Between the years of his undergraduate study and medical school, Koefoot served in the U.S. Army from 1943-46. He later attained the rank of major during the Korean War when he served as chief of surgery in a Korean hospital.

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Wagner's business, academic interests arouse controversy

By Lucy Bighia

Editor's note: This is the seventh in a series of in-depth profiles of the eight members of the NU Board of Regents.

People need to realize that the University of Nebraska is a business, said NU Regent Kermit Wagner of Schuyler.

"I understand some of the problems of the university because the university is big business," Wagner said.

Wagner is either owner, stockholder or director of 40 state banks, grain companies or other businesses, including Wagner Mills, which is valued by some at \$12 million.

The university should give better leadership to the agricultural community of the state, he said.

Wagner has been described by Schuyler's mayor, Jeff Pokorny, as a "very influential man" in the community.

The Security Federal Savings and Loan Association, of which Wagner is director, is the primary lending institution in the area, Pokorny said.

Wagner has served on several public commissions, including the State Building Commission and the State Judicial Commission, and has been a delegate to the Republican National Convention.

According to Pokorny, Wagner is very active in city and state government, and is "an extremely good friend" of Gov. J. James Exon.

Wagner said that he has "very little" influence in Schuyler, but is active in the chamber of commerce, and encourages industrial development in the town.

Wagner said he is against more power for the student government, and a voting student regent. This is because of student apathy about their government, he said.

"The biggest complaint I have is student inactivity in student affairs," Wagner said. "Just look at the percentage of students that vote in each student government election. Less than four percent of the UNO student body voted for the new UNO regent."

"There has been a big clamor for student input, and I think the university has accepted it, and I think it's been very effective," Wagner said.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Regent Kermit Wagner

But, he said, because of the small percentage of students involved in student government, he wonders about the quality of such activism.

"If students want a powerful student government, they're going to have to become active in it themselves, then talk to us about it," he said.

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