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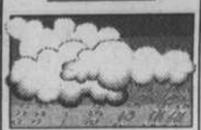
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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DIVERSIONS



THURSDAY



52/30
Mostly cloudy today with a chance of rain. Clear tonight. Tomorrow, cooler yet.

Officials wade through effects of gunman

Police charge UNL graduate student with attempted second-degree murder

By Shelley Biggs
Senior Reporter

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln student who was arrested Monday after he allegedly tried to fire a semiautomatic rifle in a classroom full of students was charged Wednesday with attempted second-degree murder.

Arthur McElroy, 43, of Bennet, is being held on a \$500,000 bond. McElroy's trial has been set for Oct. 26.

McElroy was also charged with carrying a weapon to commit a felony, use of terroristic threats and use of a weapon to commit a felony.

John Colborn, chief deputy county attorney, requested that in addition to McElroy's bond, he not be allowed to own or possess firearms.

After the amount of his bond was read, McElroy told District Court Judge Jack Lindner that he thought "the amount of the bond was excessive."

McElroy also requested that an attorney be appointed for him because he could not afford one.

The penalties for attempted second-degree murder are the same as the penalties for attempted first-degree murder, Colborn said after the arraignment.

With a charge of attempted second-degree murder, Colborn said, McElroy's motive will not have to be proven like it would with a charge of attempted first-degree murder.

Colborn said Lincoln police officers seized ammunition Tuesday during a search of McElroy's apartment. The officers found other weapons in the apartment, he said, but did not seize them.

Colborn said McElroy had been suspended from UNL, but no restraining order to keep McElroy off the campus had been issued. However, Colborn said he still would consider adding such an order to McElroy's bond.

Psychologist fears trauma, aftershocks could return to haunt UNL students

By Lori Stones
Staff Reporter

Mental health personnel met Wednesday with University of Nebraska-Lincoln students whose classmate allegedly tried to fire a loaded semi-automatic rifle at them Monday.

Bob Portnoy, a clinical psychologist at the University Health Center, said counselors met with students to give them a chance to express their feelings about Monday's incident. If students repressed their feelings, he said, those feelings could return later to haunt them.

Portnoy said anyone who had experienced a traumatic event as painful as Monday's incident was likely to experience some form of aftershock.

Arthur McElroy, 43, of Bennet was arrested by Lancaster County deputies after he allegedly entered a classroom in Ferguson Hall

Monday with a loaded Inland .30-caliber M-1 carbine and pointed it at students who were assembled for their 12:30 class.

Students who were in the classroom at the time said the rifle jammed when McElroy, a member of the class, allegedly tried to fire. No one was injured.

Portnoy said students should continue to maintain their normal schedules, keep busy and not make any big life changes, such as ending a long-term relationship or changing their major, he said.

"It is not helpful to tell students in this class it could have been worse," he said. "This is not very consoling."

"It is important to understand it was a traumatic event."

Portnoy said students in the class could have aftershock symptoms that appear immediately,

See STUDENTS on 3

Winners of debates not clear

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Staff Reporter

The first two rounds of the election debates are over and round three is set to begin tonight, but one professor isn't ready to declare a winner.

"I would not simplify it to winning and losing," said Robert Sittig, University of Nebraska-Lincoln political science professor. "I would say, which strategy has been more effective?"

"And in this sense I would say (Bill) Clinton and (Al) Gore's strategy was the most effective. They still have a significant lead."

Sittig said he thought Clinton and Gore's strategy was to stick to the themes that had been successful for them so far. During the debates, both attempted to avoid new and possibly controversial issues, he said.

"I think both Clinton and Gore were schooled or trained or agreed upon the same sort of strategy," he said. "I was struck by the similarity of their presentations, their style and manner."

"I think (their strategy) added up to this: Don't introduce anything new; take the positions we've taken in the past that have gotten us where we are."

President Bush, Sittig said, emphasized American success in foreign policy while Vice President Dan Quayle attacked Clinton and Gore's position.

"I think what Quayle and Bush are doing is indicative of the corner that they either painted themselves into or they've ended up in," he said. "They've got to somehow undo the campaign's doings of the past few weeks."

Bush and Quayle's failure to catch Clinton and Gore's lead indicates the Republicans' strategy has not been effective, Sittig said.

"Just claiming success with foreign policy and patience in domestic affairs is apparently not going to hack it," he said.

And, Sittig said, Quayle's strategy of aggressive attacks on Clinton dur-

See ELECTION on 3



Erik Unger/DN

Senior spunk

Wanda Rossell, 74, playfully punches Lloyd Doan, 78, during morning calisthenics Wednesday at Lancaster Manor. The group exercises for 30 minutes before coffee at 10 a.m.

Gore says ticket offers sunny future

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

OMAHA — Vice presidential contender Al Gore, speaking to a crowd of about 2,500 supporters Wednesday night, offered Nebraskans a sunny Nov. 4 morning.

The alternative, he said, is four more years of dreary mornings — if President Bush is re-elected.

Gore, the Democratic vice presidential candidate, made a campaign stop in Omaha to speak in the basement of the Nebraska National Guard Armory. Gov. Ben Nelson, Sen. James Exon, and 1st District Rep. Peter Hoagland attended the rally.

Gore said the campaign was an unusual one because the Republicans were in such a panic.

"They don't know which direction they're going," he said. "They're running around like chickens with their heads cut off."

"If I have my guess right, and with

— "Everything that should be up is down. Everything that should be down is up... We're going to turn it right-side up."

Gore

Democratic vice presidential candidate

your help, they're going to run around for another 20 days."

Republicans had assumed they would win Nebraska, Gore said. They take for granted that Nebraskans like trickle-down economics and Bush's agriculture policies, he said.

"They may be in for a surprise."

He said Nebraska's economy had dropped with the nation's economy. He said there had been a 250 percent increase in business failures in the state.

"We're going to come back strong," he said.

Bush made promises to help agriculture, Gore said, but he didn't offer a plan until he had been in office for two years.

In the past, Gore said, Bush had called agriculture the heartbeat of America.

"Since Bush took over, we've seen the heartbeat skip a few beats," he said.

Defense is another important consideration in Nebraska, Gore said, because about 15,000 Omahans are employed in the defense industry.

The Democrats will not ignore the importance of the nation's security, Gore said. But national security must be viewed in more than military terms, he said. There also are economic and environmental aspects to keep in mind, he said.

If voters add up what's happened in the past 4 years, Gore said, unem-

ployment and poverty have increased, and real wages and personal income have gone down.

"Everything that should be up is down," he said. "Everything that should be down is up... We're going to turn it right-side up."

Gore said Bush's campaign slogan, "Four more years," should strike fear into voters.

"It sounds more like a threat than a promise," he said. "What about an alternative of three more weeks?"

Gore said the presidential race came down to "the best governor in the United States and the longest-serving governor in the United States against one of the worst presidents this country has ever had."

Afterward, Exon said he was impressed with both Gore's speech and his performance in the vice presidential debate.

"He's a friend of mine. I know his opponent," Exon said. "And (Gore) showed me last night he's no Danny Quayle."