

# Daily Nebraskan

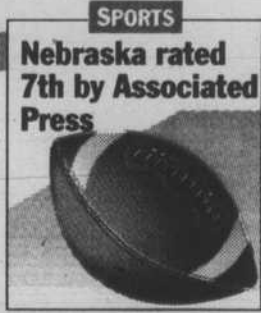
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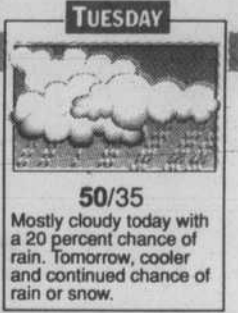


OPINION



SPORTS

Nebraska rated 7th by Associated Press



TUESDAY

50/35

Mostly cloudy today with a 20 percent chance of rain. Tomorrow, cooler and continued chance of rain or snow.



Michelle Paulman/DN

## Making the cut

Duane Butler, a third-generation barber, gives Matthew Farewell a trim Monday at his shop at 2649 N. 48th St.

## Date set for hearing of student

From Staff Reports

A Nov. 23 preliminary hearing has been set for a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student who allegedly tried to fire a semiautomatic rifle at his classmates last month.

Lancaster County Judge Gale Pokorny set the hearing for 10 a.m. for Arthur McElroy, 43, who carried a loaded .30-caliber M-1 carbine into an actuarial science class in Ferguson Hall, pointed the weapon at students in the room and allegedly attempted to fire.

McElroy, a graduate student who was enrolled in the class, pleaded innocent last month to charges of second-degree attempted murder, making terroristic threats and two counts of using a weapon to commit a felony in the Oct. 12 incident.

According to police, the rifle didn't fire because a round already was in the weapon's chamber when McElroy apparently tried to force in another round.

As students ran from the room, McElroy allegedly tried to repair the weapon. When he was unsuccessful, police said, he left the building and fled in his car, which was parked on the sidewalk at the east entrance of Ferguson Hall.

He was arrested about 30 minutes later at his home in Bennet, with the weapon and 81 rounds of ammunition in his car.

No one was injured in the incident.

## Cauble notes initial investigation flaws

### Standard interview procedure not used by university police

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

State Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha said an investigation by two UNL administrators of a police inquiry that targeted African-American students was "totally deficient" and should be disregarded.

The investigation, completed by James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, and John Goebel, vice chancellor for business and finance, examined the questioning of five African-American males in an Anthropology 110 class by Officer Barb McGill of the UNL Police Department.

The police investigation concerned the disappearance of Candice Harms, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshman who has been missing since Sept. 22.

The investigation was initiated when a student reported that Harms, 18, was seated by and talking to an African-American male in the class the day she disappeared.

Police acquired the names of the five African-American males enrolled in the class and contacted them for questioning. Officers also photographed four of the men; the fifth refused to allow his picture to be taken.

Griesen and Goebel's report was given to UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier Nov. 2.

Chambers called the project the "Keystone Kops report," and said it was "absolutely unacceptable."

"It was a textbook example of a snowjob," he said.

The report concluded that "no improper or unprofessional behavior on the part of the UNL police" existed, but that retrospective examination of the incident "casts doubt on the advisability of taking pictures of the students contacted."

The report also recommended the photos be returned to the students, along with any copies that might have been made.

Griesen and Goebel also wrote that the university "will do all in its power to prevent future activity that might raise similar (negative) emotions" among any of its students.

Chambers said neither Griesen nor Goebel should have conducted the investigation because both had private interests to protect.

"It seemed that the purpose of their investigation was to whitewash the situation and protect the administration and the university," he said. "In fact, their report was such a travesty that (UNL Police Chief) Ken Cauble saw the necessity of dealing with the essentials, which they totally ignored."

Cauble's response to the report, dated last Wednesday, said his experience and training as a police officer allowed him to identify flaws and errors in the initial police investigation.

He said that because Griesen and Goebel had no law-enforcement training, their perception that the investigation was routine was expected.

But Cauble's letter listed four areas of the investigation that did not follow standard procedures for such an interview, including the following:

- A failure by investigating officers to familiarize Cauble with the request by the Lincoln Police Department to contact the African-American

## Timeline of Harms investigation

**Sept. 22**—Candice Harms, a freshman at UNL, leaves her boyfriend's apartment at 332 N. 22nd at about 11:40 p.m. She never makes it to her home at 6100 Vine St.

**Sept. 23**—Harms' car is found abandoned at about 5 p.m. in a rural field north of Lincoln. Law enforcement investigators search for clues, but find few in the next month.

**Oct. 22**—UNL Police Officer Barb McGill contacts five African-American males enrolled in Anthropology 110 for questioning after another student in the class reported to police that Harms was seen seated by and talking to an African-American male the day of her disappearance.

**Oct. 27**—State Sen. Ernie Chambers, after speaking to some of the students contacted by police, accuses investigators of conducting a racist investigation. Chambers writes a letter to UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier, requesting a meeting with university officials and police.

**Oct. 28**—James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs at UNL, defends the investigation, which UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble says is a follow-up by the Lincoln Police Department.

**Oct. 29**—Chambers says he is angered by Griesen's defense of the investigation and calls for his resignation or termination.

**Nov. 2**—Griesen and John Goebel, UNL's vice chancellors for business and finance, complete an investigation of the police inquiry and find no "improper or unprofessional" behavior on the part of investigating officers.

**Nov. 4**—Cauble responds to the report by Griesen and Goebel with a letter outlining four areas he thinks were not standard procedure for this type of investigation—specifically, the line of questioning McGill used on the students.

**Nov. 6**—Chambers responds with a letter to Spanier commending Cauble for "standing up for what is right" and continuing to condemn Griesen for his "inadequate explanation."

Scott Maurer/DN

## Commission, regents dispute top priorities

By Shelley Biggs  
Senior Reporter

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, which oversees higher education in Nebraska, has come under fire by officials who say it is nothing less than a bureaucratic nightmare.

John Payne of Kearney, chairman of the NU Board of Regents, said the commission was a layer of bureaucracy sitting between the regents and the Legislature.

The extra time and effort needed to gather information for the commission eventually will turn into extra money out of the pockets of higher educational institutions within Nebraska, Payne said.

"If it continues at the present rate, we will have to find more money to hire more people," he said. "So the money that could be used for new general equipment will be used to handle the requests of the board."

Patsy Martin, community coordinator for the higher education commission, whose authority is granted through the Nebraska Constitution, said the members of the commission needed patience from all officials involved in the process.

"We're the new kid on the block," Martin said. "We've had to make decisions real quickly."

A recent problem for the commission centers on the 1993-95 proposed

See COORDINATION on 6

## UNO officials keeping housing dispute alive

By Susie Arth  
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska at Omaha officials are not yet willing to wave the white flag in their battle to construct student housing on the UNO campus.

Barbara Hewins-Maroney, executive assistant to the chancellor at UNO, said officials still were considering various options for student housing.

"None of us have given up hope," she said.

Hewins-Maroney said NU Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo asked UNO officials to continue to work on a housing plan and offer a solution within six months or one year.

Hewins-Maroney said she believed on-campus student housing was im-

portant to both students and their parents because it would create a stronger campus spirit and better unity.

The campus also would serve its students better if it had on-campus housing because students would be able to walk to a classroom or library rather than drive.

"Students would get a different opinion and view of campus life," she said.

Neil Morgensen, director for facilities management and planning at UNO, said officials still were considering three on-campus sites for student housing.

"The chancellor is anxious to try to bring the resolution to rest as soon as possible," he said.

See DORMS on 6

See LETTER on 6