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OPINION

SPORTS
NU forward encouraged



44/22

Windy and partly cloudy today. Tomorrow, highs in the 40's once again.

Student sues UNL, police for violating civil rights

By Shelley Biggs
Senior Reporter

A civil rights case filed against UNL in federal court by Arthur McElroy will be reviewed by U.S. District Court Magistrate David Piester by the end of the week, a court official said.

McElroy, a UNL graduate student who has been charged with attempted second-degree murder, making terroristic threats, and two counts of using a firearm to commit a felony, claims that students and professors interfered with his education.

Allan Wallace, a law clerk for Piester, said McElroy filed the federal civil rights action against parties within the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department, state judges and members of the Lincoln Police Department. McElroy has said his civil rights were violated when these parties granted and improperly carried out searches of his home after his arrest.

"With the civil rights case, McElroy is saying that persons acting under state law violated his federal and constitutional rights," Wallace said.

The case was filed in federal court as opposed to state court, where the criminal charges against McElroy have been filed.

Because McElroy does not have an attorney, Wallace said, Piester will review the complaint documents this week to make sure they are in order before the defendants are notified.

"At this point McElroy is proceeding on his own and does not request counsel," he said.

Should McElroy win, Wallace said, the university and officials involved could be held responsible for compensatory and punitive damages.

Wallace said part of the settlement McElroy was seeking was to have the evidence seized from his home suppressed at his criminal trial.

Wallace said it would be tough to give a time frame for the outcome of the complaint.



Michelle Paulman/DN

Jim Hejduk, an associate professor of music and director of choral activities at UNL, is among the 250 volunteers statewide involved with the Nebraska AIDS Project. Hejduk has been a member of the AIDS Buddy Program in Lincoln for four years.

Ties that bind Common threads of AIDS unite volunteers, victims

By Kathryn Borman
Staff Reporter

Strength and caring are the cords that bind together volunteers whose only other tie is friendship to a person dying of AIDS.

"If you just looked at the group, you would never know it was an AIDS buddy group," Jim Hejduk, an associate professor of music and director of choral activities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said.

Susie Miller Schoen, case manager for the Nebraska AIDS Project, which oversees the buddy program, said UNL students and professors, mothers, a retired minister, a legislative aide and a state engineer were among the individuals who had volunteered for the program — a commitment that was no minor task.

A buddy is a "one-on-one emotional volunteer available to the client for the duration of the illness," Schoen said. Because of the nature of AIDS, she said, that

commitment means staying with the person until he or she dies.

Volunteers must be 19 years old — the only requirement for the program. "It helps to have some life experience beyond high school," Schoen said.

A screening process also is involved, she said, to assess an applicant's motivations, background and support.

UNL graduate student Julie Schanke, who participates in the program, said buddies needed emotional stability and a strong support system.

A potential buddy should "be sure you're able to deal with someone dying," Schanke said, someone who has become a friend.

"I know some AIDS patients — their families don't want to talk about death," she said. "I'm there to talk about it."

Hejduk's experience with his first client through the program was good, he said, because the man he worked with was strong.

"He was as supportive of me

and my stuff as I tried to be of him," Hejduk said.

Hejduk said he and his former client were different people who still had some things in common, such as music.

Sometimes the closest and best partnerships are formed between people who seem different, Schoen said.

"The bond is the illness," she said. "It seems to surpass all kinds of stereotypes one would imagine."

People have gotten involved in the program through different avenues.

Hejduk was drawn to the program when he saw an interview in the Daily Nebraskan several years ago with a member of one of his choirs. She is involved in the Names Project Quilt, parts of which will visit Omaha Saturday and Sunday.

Schanke's unique life experience brought her to the program, she said.

As a graduate student in theater and through her father, who is gay, Schanke said, she

became involved in the gay community and with people who had AIDS several years before she began training for the buddy program.

Schanke has used her experiences to help others. As a new graduate student, Schanke organized A Day Without Art on campus last year to commemorate World AIDS Day Dec. 1. She met Schoen at that time and found out about the Lincoln program.

Just as the people involved in the program came through different avenues, they also have different experiences.

Ron Schroeder, a legislative aide for state Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge, said work as an AIDS buddy could be frustrating. The biggest hurdles, he said, are trying to help a client obtain treatment through bureaucratic agencies and dealing with the stigma and distaste directed toward people with AIDS or who are gay.

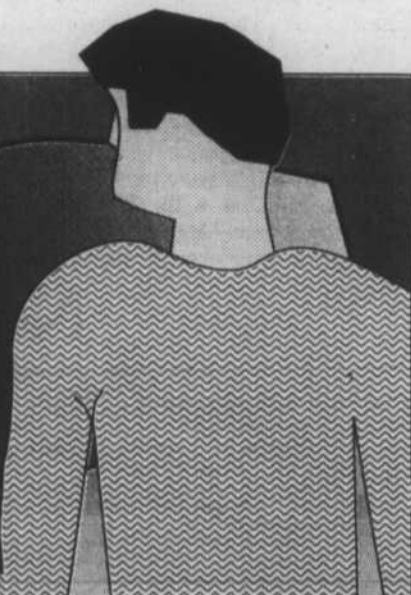
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UNL joins world in fifth annual AIDS Day

HIV, AIDS and the U.S.

At a college campus of about 25,000 students, an estimated 50 students are HIV-positive. 1 in every 500 college students nationwide had tested positive for HIV. As of July, 230,179 people in the U.S. had been diagnosed with AIDS. 150,114 have died. In Nebraska, 301 cases of AIDS with 213 deaths as of Oct. 31, 1992. The State Department of Health estimated that 2,408 people throughout the state were affected with HIV.

Source: Centers for Disease Control



Scott Maurer/DN

Nebraska teenagers contract HIV virus at above-average rate

By Kathryn Borman
Staff Reporter

World AIDS Day marks its fifth observance today with a localized theme, "AIDS: A Community Commitment."

Pat Tetreault, sexuality education coordinator at the University Health Center, said about one in every 500 college students nationwide had tested positive for HIV, according to a Centers for Disease Control study. At a college campus of about 25,000 students, she said, an estimated 50 students are HIV-positive.

The health center, with the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, is recognizing World AIDS Day with a booth in

the Nebraska Union from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information on AIDS will be available for students, and red ribbons will be distributed to show support for the fight against the disease.

The ribbons "symbolize that we're committed to the fight against HIV and AIDS and our commitment to people with AIDS," Tetreault said. "It's a symbol of hope."

Mayor Mike Johanns will sign a proclamation today declaring Dec. 1 as World AIDS Day for Lincoln.

Sections of the national Names Project Quilt from Nebraska and surrounding states will be displayed Saturday and Sunday in Omaha at the Civic Auditorium. The quilt, which comprises squares made by friends and family members of people who have died from AIDS, commemorates the lives of those who have been touched by the disease.

World AIDS Day recognizes people with AIDS, a disease the World Health Organization now classifies as a global epidemic.

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