

# Daily Nebraskan

April 20, 1993

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

TUESDAY



48/34  
Today, a chance of morning snow showers, otherwise partly sunny. Tonight, partly cloudy and cold. Mostly sunny and warmer Wednesday.



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## Cult brings 51-day standoff to fiery conclusion

### Fire destroys compound; 86 believed to be dead, including 24 children

WACO, Texas (AP)—Doomsday cult leader David Koresh's apocalyptic vision came true Monday when fire believed set by his followers destroyed their prairie compound as federal agents tried to drive them out with tear gas after a 51-day standoff.

As many as 86 members of the Branch Davidian religious sect, including Koresh and 24 children, were thought to have died as the

flames raced through the wooden buildings in 30 minutes. Only nine were known to have survived.

The blaze erupted about 12:05 p.m., just six hours after FBI agents began using armored vehicles to pound holes in the complex of buildings and spray them with tear gas in a bid to force an end to the standoff.

Nine cult members who escaped the flames are believed by federal officials to be the only survivors, but authorities said they would not know the precise death toll until they could search an underground maze of passageways.

Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern

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### Press should have played incident down; news value overstated, instructor says

By Jeff Zeleny  
Senior Reporter

Finding the distinction between news value and entertainment value is difficult in a crisis like the Branch Davidian hostage situation in Waco, Texas, a UNL professor said.

Chris Eskridge, a criminal justice professor, said the broadcast media was dictated to by

Branch Davidian leader David Koresh. Eskridge said the media was too eager to air Koresh's statements in the opening days of the stand-off.

"Early on the entertainment value was there," he said. "Koresh played the game; he was able to manipulate."

Eskridge said it was impossible to know specifics about the case because of the distance, but he said from his vantage point it appeared action could have been different from the Alcohol, Tobacco and

See REACTION on 3

## Pound to be converted into upperclass hall

### Overassignment of Cather Hall causes department to form upperclass complex

By Steve Smith  
Senior Editor

Returning UNL students now have an entire housing complex devoted to them, a housing department official said.

A massive student request for upperclass housing in Cather Hall has prompted the University of Nebraska-Lincoln housing department to convert Pound Hall to an upperclass residence hall as well, said Glen Schumann, assistant director for housing in charge of operations.

Schumann said Friday that the department had overassigned Cather Hall with upperclass students for the fall semester. To accommodate the overflow, housing officials decided last week to do the same thing with Pound Hall.

"We were pleasantly surprised with the student interest in an all-upperclass hall," Schumann said. "We had two choices — either turn people away or try to project what would happen if we opened up Pound, too."

Schumann said the department was confident that Pound could be filled with upperclass students.

The same package in the works for

Cather will be enjoyed by Pound residents next semester, including a coed environment and computer labs on each floor.

Housing officials decided earlier this semester to convert Cather into an all-upperclass, coed hall.

Currently, Cather is an all-male hall and Pound is all-female.

With Pound's addition, Cather will be open during vacations, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. Pound will remain a non-vacation residence hall.

That decision was made by simply asking what kind of vacation housing students wanted, Schumann said.

"We expected the response to be about a two-to-one ratio in favor of non-vacation housing," he said. "To our surprise, it went two-to-one the other way."

Cather's rooms will feature a miniature refrigerator to accommodate those who stay in the residence halls over breaks, when snack bars and cafeterias are closed, he said.

Schumann said of the possible 432 vacancies for the upperclass complex available, 313 already have been filled.

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## Fire officials investigating causes of bar evacuations

By Jeff Zeleny  
Senior Reporter

A release of unknown chemicals that has prompted the evacuation of two Lincoln bars is causing concern for city fire officials.

Early last Saturday morning, Duffy's, 1412 O St., was evacuated shortly before the 1 a.m. closing time because of an irritating chemical in the air, bar owner Reynold McMeem said.

"The people behind the bar noticed they were all coughing, and everyone in the bar was coughing," he said.

The packed bar was evacuated, and the fire department was notified, McMeem said. No lingering odor was left behind by the chemical, he said, which makes him think mace wasn't involved.

An incident in January at Bleachers, 5601 S. 56th St., caused a similar evacuation.

Charlie Beachamp, Lincoln Fire Department investigator, said the chemical used in both circumstances could have been mace because it was easy to purchase and could be carried around inconspicuously.

"It would probably be a little bit easier to set off a mace container," he said.

After both incidents, Beachamp said, mace containers were looked for, but none were found.

Beachamp said the incidents were still under investigation, but he was certain tear gas wasn't used because it was not readily available.

Beachamp said it was a difficult case to investigate, and leads weren't readily available.

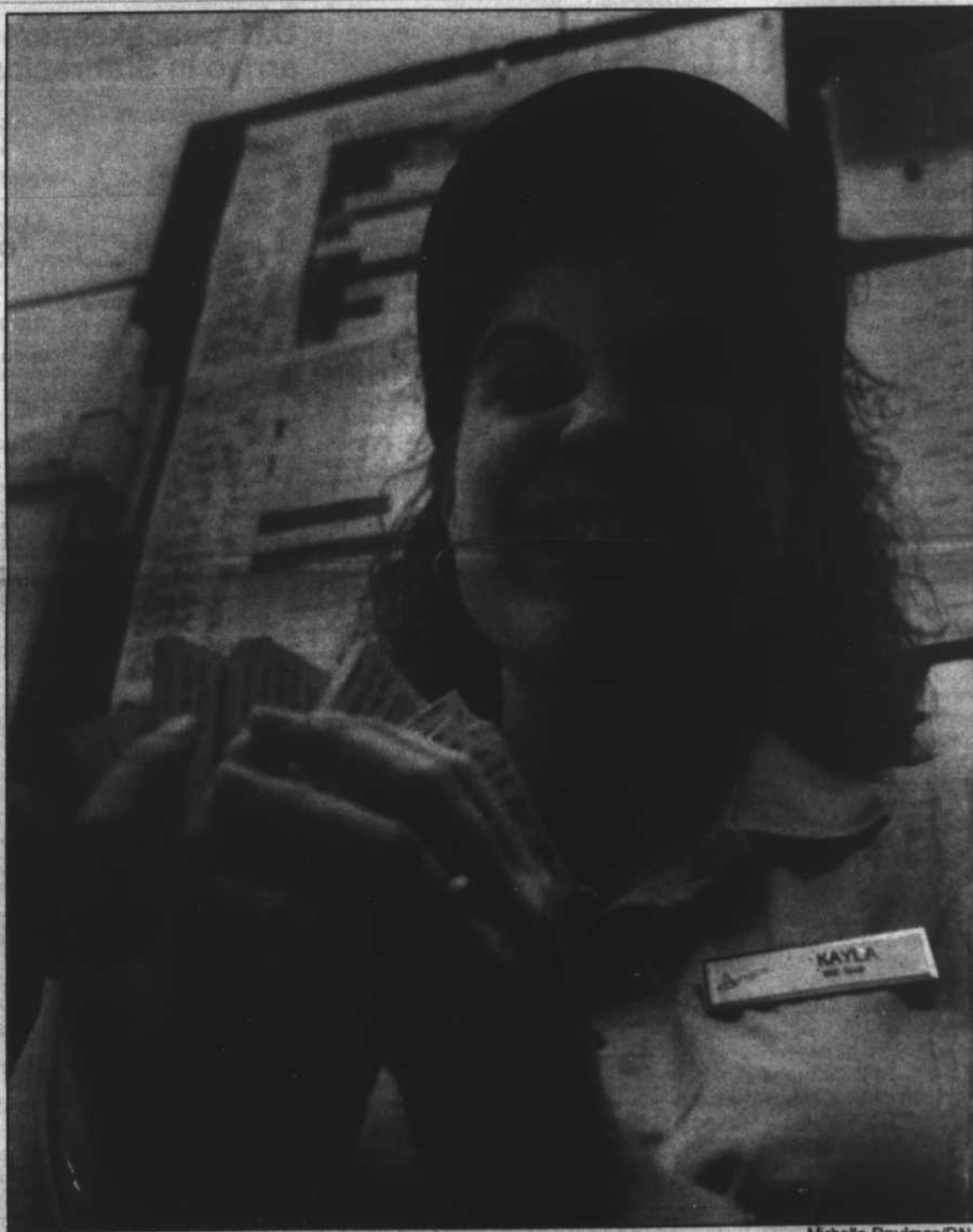
"You don't even have the names of the people who were in there now," he said. "Everybody gets up and leaves. The patrons in there are not going to be the type of people to pull this type of prank."

It's difficult to determine what the penalty would be, Beachamp said, but it would probably fall under criminal mischief charges.

Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said criminal mischief charges include damages to property and criminal malicious intent. The penalty varies on monetary damage and ranges from a Class III misdemeanor to a Class IV felony.

Beachamp said the incidents could stem from the widespread availability of mace.

"It's always been on the market," he said, "but every time you turn on the television you see you should have something like this, but it's not being used properly."



Michelle Paulman/DN

Michaela Aerts, a UNL student and Amigos employee, got the nickname "Crazy Kayla" last year after she became obsessed with handing out Big Swig cards. Although she won the contest, Aerts says the competition was "just fun."

## Go crazy

### Contest drives employee's competitive edge

By Katherine Gordon  
Staff Reporter

"Crazy Kayla" isn't the worst nickname Michaela Aerts has been tagged with. "Chicken lady" was worse, she said.

But that's another story. Aerts, a junior family science major at UNL, has worked at Amigos for four and a half years. Aerts was dubbed Crazy Kayla by co-workers who found her fierce competitiveness a little unusual.

Especially for a Big Swig contest.

A promotion currently under way at Amigos offers a free 32-ounce pop with a \$1.50 purchase and a special card. The cards are available from Amigos employees, who mark them with their initials and distribute them everywhere, except on the restaurant's premises. The employee who has the most cards returned wins \$150 and a trip to Kansas City.

"Last year was the first year I took interest in it," Kayla said of the contest, which has been running for three years. "I got obsessed with it," she said.

"At first a pile of 250 cards

looked like a lot to me, but after 10 minutes on campus they were gone," she said.

Aerts stood outside the Nebraska Union hollering "Free drinks!" and visited fraternity houses with stacks of cards.

These were but a few of her distribution tricks. She also put cards on windshields, in the downtown bars, empty classrooms, gas stations, the libraries and in mailboxes at the residence halls.

When she noticed customers coming to Amigos regularly, she

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