

Law & Order

A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Five youths face bomb charges

By DeDra Janssen
Senior Reporter

Five Lincoln youths were charged Tuesday with possession of destructive devices that they used to create two explosions, police said.

Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said Wednesday the youths, ages 13 to 15, detonated two homemade dry ice bombs in plastic bottles at 1818 Mindoro Drive.

Police spoke to the juveniles at the scene, Heermann said.

"It's amazing to me that these kids are still out making bombs in light of that fatality we had," she said.

Earlier this summer, a 13-year-old Lincoln boy was killed after a homemade pipe bomb exploded near him.

The juveniles charged in Tuesday's incident were referred to the Youth Aid Unit and released to their parents, Heermann said.

The grass where the incident occurred showed that two explosions had occurred, she said.

Lincoln police also reported several

burglaries Tuesday.

Eric Fortune, 25, of 1814 N. 68th St. reported the theft of \$180, a set of house keys, a portable stereo and compact discs from his home.

The theft occurred between 9 a.m. and 1:25 p.m. Tuesday. The suspect apparently broke the door to enter the apartment, Heermann said.

Garage theft

In another case, Teresa E.A. Teater of Lincoln reported several items stolen from a storage garage Aug. 15 at 2601 N. 27th St.

Items stolen included Comic Celebrity collector cards, a coat, a craft box and several craft-making items, a jacket with "Amerika" written on the back and an "Indian Runner" jacket with "Teresa" written on the front.

Also stolen from the garage were a 35 mm camera, 12 packs of film, 15 hats from a movie theme hat collection, a Galoob box with jewelry inside and a boom box.

The loss was \$3,556. Property damage was \$20.

Beginning midnight Tuesday
8:37 a.m. — Prank phone calls, Abel Residence Hall.
9:09 a.m. — Hit-and-run accident, Nebraska Union meter lot, \$1,000 damage.
12:51 p.m. — Shoes taken, Cook Pavilion, \$185 loss.
12:55 p.m. — Bike accessory taken, Woods Art Gallery, \$5 loss.
1:41 p.m. — Backpack taken, Nebraska Union, \$55 loss.
1:58 p.m. — Projector taken, College of Business Administration, \$600 loss.
2:42 p.m. — Bike taken, 1425 R St., \$1,100 loss.
4:56 p.m. — Broken windows, 1545 R St., \$225 damage.
5:31 p.m. — Backpack taken, Nebraska Union, \$94 loss.
7:05 p.m. — Accidental trip, alarm/security.
7:20 p.m. — Accidental trip, alarm/security.

The perpetrator apparently removed a padlock from the garage to get inside, Heermann said. The garage may have been unlocked, she said.

Heermann predicted that the number of burglaries in Lincoln would increase during the Nebraska State Fair, which runs from Thursday to Sept. 5.

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Police are finding more DWI multiple offenders

By Julie Sobczyk
Staff Reporter

The number of DWI multiple offenders is increasing in Nebraska, a state patrol officer said.

"The numbers increased from 2,761 in July of 1993 to 2,984 in July of 1994," said Jeff Hanson, state patrol information coordinator. "In Lancaster County, there were 435 multiple offenders as of July of 1994."

Hanson said state patrol officers began monitoring the number of multiple-offender drunk drivers last year.

The project has identified the number of those convicted of driving while intoxicated at least four times and who have had their licenses suspended in the state, he said.

Lt. Rick Reitz, coordinator of the multiple-offender project, said the increased number of offenders involved all areas of Nebraska. He said the average profile age of a multiple offender is 32 to 35.

Officials said they weren't sure of the exact cause of increase in multioffenders. But Reitz said the increase could be attributed to greater law enforcement and increased alcohol use.

"Aggressive law enforcement has a lot to do with the increase of offenders," he said. "More people are being stopped. The use of alcohol has also increased."

Hanson agreed.

"More officers are finding more DWI's and are making more arrests," he said. "It may be perceived that the number is rising, but it could be that law enforcement is more proficient."

Hanson said the multioffender

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— Hanson, state patrol information coordinator

project not only identified the multiple offenders but tried to reduce the numbers of drunk drivers.

One part of the project involves mailing letters to multiple offenders. After the fourth offense, a patrol troop commander will send offenders a letter to encourage them to seek help for alcoholism.

"We decided to give letters to them and remind them of their responsibilities," Hanson said. "We give them a number for Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Nebraska as an opportunity for help."

Despite the efforts of the project, Reitz said the primary responsibility for reducing drunk driving laid with society.

"All law enforcement can do is continue to enforce the laws," he said. "It's up to society to teach people not to drink and drive."

"This could be decreased through greater education or even designated drivers. It's everybody's problem, and everybody has to help."

Judge wants 'felony' defined

From Staff Reports

A judge ordered Wednesday that prosecutors amend a charge against NU football player Tyrone Williams to be more specific.

Lancaster County District Court Judge Bernard McGinn sustained a defense motion asking them to define the word "felony" in the second charge against Williams.

"I think the defendant is entitled to a more specific allegation," McGinn said.

Williams is charged with the unlawful discharge of a firearm, often called the drive-by shooting law, and the use of a firearm to commit a felony. The charges are in connection to an incident last January.

The weapons charge is a Class III

felony, which carries up to a 20-year jail sentence and a \$25,000 fine. The unlawful firearm charge is a Class IV felony, which carries a maximum five-year jail term and a \$10,000 fine and a minimum one-year sentence.

Dennis Keefe, Williams' lawyer, who is of the public defender's office, requested the clarification on the charge.

In the January incident, Williams is accused of smashing the passenger side window of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student's car. The student was stopped at a traffic light at the intersection of 17th and L streets.

Williams is accused of firing shots at the car as the student drove away.

An arraignment hearing on the amended charges will be held on Sept. 14.