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SEPTEMBER 13, 1994

Man arrested in shooting of UNL officer

Witnesses describe crime scene, arrest

By Jeffrey Robb
Senior Editor

Ryan Broussard was driving behind a University Police Chevy Blazer Monday night when he saw a man fire a semi-automatic weapon at the vehicle.

"He opened his door, got out and just started shooting," said Broussard, a UNL freshman, who had been traveling south on 16th Street behind the police vehicle.

Broussard was one of many witnesses who watched about 6:30 p.m. as a man fired nine shots at the Blazer.

University Police officer Robert Soflin, who was driving the Blazer, was taken later to Lincoln General Hospital with wounds to his hand and shoulder.

After the shots were fired, Broussard said, the officer walked to the back of the Blazer. Streaks of blood stained the rear paneling where Soflin leaned against it. Broussard said the police cruiser had been pursuing a faded black pickup truck.

Toshiyuki Taki was walking down 16th Street toward R Street when he saw the man step from the truck and start firing.

After the shots were fired, Taki saw the officer grab his hand. About the same time, Taki, an exchange student studying communication, said the shooter got back in his truck and drove away.

Police chased the suspect down 16th Street and then east on South street. The man then led police south on 27th street.

Nancy Reckewey was stopped in the left-turn lane on 27th Street, waiting to turn on Nebraska Highway 2 when she first heard sirens. She looked in her rear-view mirror and saw a faded black Chevy pickup truck being chased by police cars.

"When I turned around, they were out of their cars and their guns were pointed, and I didn't know where," Reckewey said.

She screamed at her son, Jon Klein, to get down on the floor of her Chevrolet Suburban. She put down her head but then lowered the passenger window to talk to a man in the next car.

"I said, 'What is the deal?' and he said, 'There is a gunman in the car behind you.'"

About 200 students drawn by gunshots and police sirens lined the crime scene at 16th and R streets to see what had happened.

Paul Vicary and Leyla Parra-Vicary, both UNL graduate students, stayed at the scene after they heard the rapid-fire gunshots. They had been heading west on R street when they were stopped by a red light.

"I thought it sounded strange," he said. "I've never seen or heard gunshots here in Lincoln. I saw smoke and I thought that had to be it."

Senior Editors Matt Woody and Jeff Zeleny contributed to this report.



Jay Calderon/DN

Robert Soflin, a University Police officer, receives medical treatment from members of the Lincoln Fire Department and Lincoln paramedics. Soflin, who later was taken to Lincoln General Hospital, was shot in the hand Monday evening near 16th and R streets.

Police chase former student

By Matt Woody
and Jeff Zeleny
Senior Editors

A 31-year-old former UNL student was arrested Monday night for attempted murder after he allegedly fired nine shots at a University Police officer, authorities said.

Gerald Lee Schlondorf was taken into custody after a 20-minute standoff with police in south Lincoln. Schlondorf was arrested after he led police on a low-speed chase through rush-hour traffic from near State Fair Park to 27th Street and Nebraska Highway 2, where he was apprehended.

University Police officer Robert Soflin joined

the pursuit when it reached the University of Nebraska-Lincoln City Campus. Soflin, who was wearing a bullet-proof vest, was shot twice in his police Blazer at 16th and R streets.

Soflin, a six-year University Police veteran, is the first UNL police officer ever to be shot. Sgt. Bill Manning said. Soflin underwent surgery at Lincoln General Hospital Monday evening. He was listed in fair condition early today.

Lincoln and University Police gave the following account of the incident:

About 6:15 p.m., Schlondorf, of 1331 N. Ninth St., drove past Lincoln Police officers, who were standing beside their cruiser near 14th Street and Military Road. As Schlondorf passed the officers in his faded black Chevrolet Custom Deluxe pickup truck, he brandished a gun and shouted threats at the officers.

The police officers pursued Schlondorf south on 14th Street, and then on 16th Street through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

At 16th and R streets, Schlondorf stopped

in traffic. While stopped, he got out of his truck and shot nine rounds at Soflin. Soflin was struck in the hand and received minor injuries to his neck and shoulder.

Schlondorf then got back in his vehicle and left the scene, continuing south along 16th Street. Lincoln police continued the pursuit.

Schlondorf turned east on South Street. Between 20th and 21st streets he fired shots at a Lincoln Police cruiser. At least two rounds hit the car.

The suspect then turned south on 27th Street. Heavy traffic forced him to stop at the intersection of 27th Street and Nebraska Highway 2. After a 20-minute stand-off at the intersection, during which Schlondorf held his .45-caliber Thompson sub-machine gun replica in his truck, police apprehended him without incident.

Schlondorf was booked in Lancaster County Jail late Monday evening and will be ar-

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Search for former UNL student concludes in Seattle

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

The week-long search for former UNL law student Kendra Marshall is finished.

Marshall was found near Seattle Monday about 6 p.m. central time, said Dennis Leonard, a criminal investigator in the Nebraska State Patrol on Monday.

"She was alone, she was safe, and she was sound," Leonard said. "There was no abduction. There was no foul play. There was no criminal activity."

Marshall was reported missing last Monday by her brother, Mitch, when she did not show up for work at Barnes & Noble bookstore in Lincoln.

Officials in the state patrol originally suspect-

ed foul play in Marshall's disappearance. The patrol described the incident as suspicious and out of character for Marshall.



Marshall

Marshall was identified from automated teller machine videotape taken in Chadron Thursday. The tape was the only confirmed sighting the state patrol had in Nebraska. Another sighting of Marshall was reported in Kearney last Monday, but was not confirmed. Leonard said Sunday the patrol was confident, but not sure, about the Kearney sighting. Marshall was found by an FBI agent in Seattle

and has since contacted her family, he said.

"She was there because she wanted to be there," Leonard said from Holdrege. "Once it was determined that there was no criminal case, the case was closed."

"Any reasons she had for being there were personal and private."

Leonard and friends of Marshall said they were all elated by the outcome of the investigation.

Andrew Sigerson, a friend of Marshall who coordinated media relations for the Marshall family, said the news that they received Monday night was wonderful.

Her reappearance in Seattle, however, was a mystery to him, he said.

"I don't have any idea why she was out there," Sigerson said. "Sometimes people just need to get

away."

It may seem like many hours were wasted by the media and the state patrol, Sigerson said, but the outcome of the investigation was worth the time.

Leonard agreed the time spent searching for the woman wasn't a waste.

"When we consider what some of the other alternatives and conclusions are to these things, I couldn't be happier," he said. "I'm not upset at all about the time I spent on it."

Michelle Snurr and Timarree Brown, Marshall's roommates, refused to comment Monday night, saying only that they were happy she was safe.