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SEPTEMBER 14, 1994

Guns still lawful for many past offenders

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

Gerald Schlondorf spent almost 17 months trying to get UNL police to turn over his .45-caliber Commando Mark III semi-automatic gun.

Three weeks later, he was charged with using that gun to shoot a University of Nebraska-Lincoln police officer.

Schlondorf, a UNL senior criminal justice major, was arrested for shooting Officer Robert Soflin in the hand Monday night. Schlondorf is accused of firing 11 rounds at a police Blazer at

16th and R streets, said Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady.

Police pursued Schlondorf after he allegedly drove by two officers near 14th and Saunders streets, pointed the gun out the window of his truck and shouted, "Bang! Bang!" Casady said.

UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble said police had seized the gun Schlondorf fired, along with other items, after Schlondorf attempted suicide on April 27, 1993.

Police responded to a call that day from a resident of Neihardt Residence Center and found

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Student charged in officer's assault

From Staff Reports

Bail was set Tuesday at \$1 million for UNL senior Gerald Schlondorf, who was charged in the attempted murder and assault of UNL police officer Robert Soflin.

Schlondorf faces the following charges:
• Two counts of second-degree attempted murder.

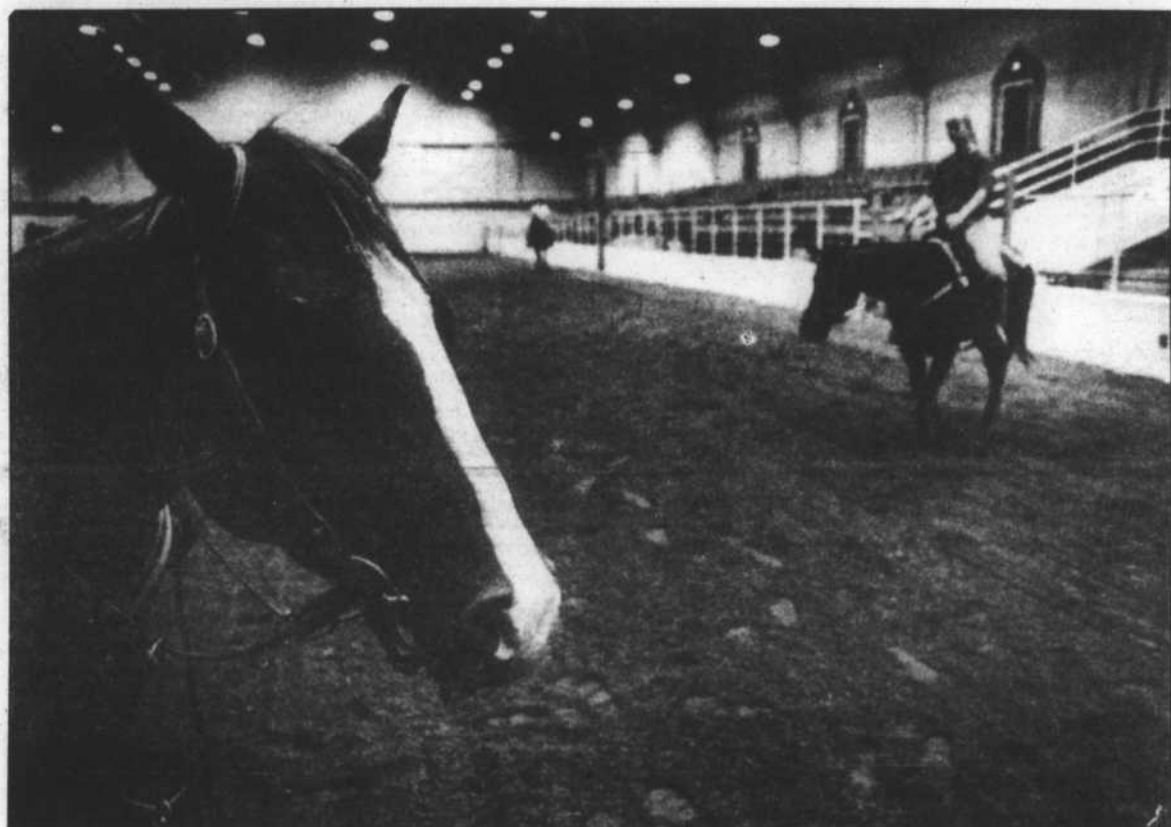
• One count of first-degree assault on a peace officer.

• One count of terroristic threats.
Four counts of using a firearm to commit a felony.

• One count of fleeing from police officers.

Schlondorf will appear in court again next Monday.

NO HORSE PLAY



Shaun Sartin/DN

Students in Advanced Equitation exercise their horses in class Tuesday. Travis, left, is a horse used in the class, which teaches students horse-training skills. See story on Page 6.

Suspect 'nice guy,' 'wanted to be cop'

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

When Brent Peterson heard on the news that his friend had been arrested for shooting a UNL police officer, his reaction was one of shock.

"He was a nice guy," Peterson said of Gerald Schlondorf. "He was a good friend."

"I just saw it (the reports) on the news. At first, I didn't believe it. I never thought he was the type of person to go out and do that."

Prosecutors allege Schlondorf fired 11 rounds at a UNL police Blazer on Monday, injuring the officer inside. Peterson, a junior physics major,

has been friends with Schlondorf for the past three and a half years, he said. They lived on the same floor in Cather Residence Hall. Schlondorf lived alone.

Peterson said he got to know Schlondorf, eating dinner with him every night and sometimes playing darts, watching television or playing pool afterwards, just to pass the time.

Schlondorf, 31, was studying criminal justice, Peterson said, and was a serious student. He became a senior this fall.

"He always wanted to be a cop," Peterson, 21, said.

Schlondorf applied to be a Lincoln police officer, Peterson said. He passed the written test, went through the physical examination and got to the interview before he was rejected.

Peterson said Schlondorf was com-

See **SCHLONDORF** on 6

Shooting affects police

By DeDra Janssen
Senior Reporter

The University Police Department was quiet the day after one of its officers was shot and wounded in the line of duty.

University Police Chief Ken Cauble said Tuesday that although there was some talk in the office about Monday night's shooting, officers were staying busy.

"You just kinda go on with your job," he said.

University Police Officer Robert Soflin was shot Monday in his police vehicle after a man he was chasing stopped his vehicle at 16th and R streets, got out and fired at him.

Gerald Schlondorf, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln senior criminal justice major, was charged Tuesday with

second-degree attempted murder.

Soflin had joined Lincoln police in the chase when it reached campus. The chase began near State Fair Park and ended at 27th Street and Nebraska Highway 2. Soflin was taken to Lincoln General Hospital with wounds to his hand, shoulder and neck.

Soflin was in good condition Tuesday, according to a hospital spokeswoman.

Soflin, a six-year University Police veteran, is the only UNL police officer ever to be shot.

Cauble said the shooting affected all law enforcement officers in the city, not just UNL officers.

"Law enforcement is kind of like a family," he said.

Cauble said Monday's incident

See **OFFICERS** on 6

Husker shooting unresolved

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

No arrests were made as of Tuesday in the shooting of an NU football player last weekend, Lincoln Police Lt. Steve Imes said.

NU split end Brendan Holbein was grazed in the waist by a bullet early Saturday morning. Imes said a fight between reserve running back Clinton Childs and an Omaha man preceded the shooting.

The fight and shooting occurred during a party at a Lincoln residence

leased to two Cornhuskers, Leslie Dennis, a freshman cornerback, and Justin Stephens, a freshman linebacker.

Holbein was an innocent bystander at the party, police have said.

Imes said he could not release the name of the Omaha man who was fighting with Childs.

A number of football players were at the party, Imes said.

"Quite honestly, we didn't take count of the number of football players there," he said. "Despite popular belief, that doesn't mean anything. I

really don't care how many football players were there."

University of Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said Tuesday that no football players would be disciplined for the incident.

"There wasn't any reason to do that," he said. "If I had any reason to discipline somebody, I would do that."

Imes said police would continue to investigate the case.

"We're still trying to locate witnesses and talk to more people," he said.

Lecture focuses on necessity of new medical procedures

By Jeff Randall
Staff Reporter

How much is a human life worth? That was just one of the questions Professor Burton A. Weisbrod posed about health care reform to a group of about 200 people at Kimball Recital Hall Tuesday.

Weisbrod, an economics professor and director of the Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research at Northwestern University, spoke during a symposium entitled "Health Care Reform and Technological Change."

The lecture was the first in a series of four health care symposiums spon-

sored by the Department of Economics and the Center for Insurance and Risk Management in the College of Business Administration.

During the lecture, Weisbrod discussed the value, effectiveness and necessity of several new medical procedures.

Weisbrod said health care costs had been rising because of technological advances.

"Over the last 40 years, the percentage of our GNP going into health care expenditures has increased several times over," Weisbrod said, "while the amount of money going into our educational system has stayed approxi-

mately the same.

"How could this happen? The answer is simply technology."

Weisbrod said 15 percent of America's gross national product would go toward health care in 1994, compared with only 4 percent in 1955.

"We have asked for technology — and research and development have provided us with marvelous results," he said. "Unfortunately, those results have also been very expensive."

Weisbrod said Americans realized that some research and development should not be done unless it could be made affordable.

"We should not encourage the development of technology that we are not willing to provide to everyone," he said. "Our society is already divided. If we say that you can only have a heart transplant if you can afford to pay \$100,000, we will only create more problems."

Weisbrod also questioned what could be classified as necessary health care.

"There are people out there who will die if they don't receive an organ transplant," he said. "There are also

people who won't die without the transplant, but will definitely experience

an extremely reduced quality of life.

"The question we have to ask ourselves is this: Is maintaining a person's quality of life comparable to maintaining someone's life?"

But Weisbrod said the future of health care reform wasn't bleak.

"We have a lot of tough questions to answer, but the fact remains that the future of health care expenditures is within our control," he said. "If we are willing to spend 15 percent or 20 percent or 40 percent of our money on our health, then we can."

"We just have to decide what is important to us."