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Colorado man charged in highway motor battle

By Chad Lorenz
Staff Reporter

An attack on a Lincoln man led to a brutal battle between motorists on Cornhusker Highway Tuesday evening.

Mark Meyers of Arvada, Colo., repeatedly rammed his '94 Chevy truck into an '87 Plymouth Sundance driven by Robert Thomas, 2932 N. 52nd St., Lincoln Police Lt. Lee Wagner said.

Police gave the following account of the incident.

The auto assault began on westbound Interstate 80 just before 7 p.m. when Meyers began tailgating Thomas.

Thomas exited the interstate at the Waverly exit and headed west on Cornhusker Highway. Meyers continued to follow Thomas closely.

Meyers allegedly hit Thomas' Plymouth from behind three or four times as the two vehicles headed toward

56th street, causing Thomas to stop his vehicle.

Meyers' truck rammed Thomas' car again after he stopped and pushed it through the intersection, Wagner said.

Thomas drove across the median and began traveling east on Cornhusker Highway. Meyers then crossed the median ahead of Thomas. He began traveling west on the eastbound lane of Cornhusker and hit Thomas' car head on.

Thomas then left his car and ran to another stopped car on Cornhusker Highway.

Meyers rammed his truck into that car and stopped to get out. He pursued Thomas on foot when police appeared on the scene and took him into custody.

Meyers was charged with second-degree assault, reckless driving, felony vandalism, suspicion of driving while intoxicated and refusal to take a chemical test.

High-tech classroom to make debut in Hamilton

By Beth Narans
Staff Reporter

Some students taking classes in Hamilton Hall next semester will experience more than just a talking head.

Hamilton's room 110 will be renovated into a high-tech classroom by August 1 for \$99,330. The classroom will have multimedia access using a 3-gun projector that will receive signals from VCRs, computers, video discs and visual presenters, said Joe Goodwater, the project manager.

The projector will allow movies, slides and animation on a big screen at the front of the classroom. The teacher will be able to control all the functions from one spot, he said.

Installation of multimedia is going on around the university. Henzlik Auditorium, Bessey Auditorium and Architecture Hall have similar equipment, Goodwater said. The university also hopes to install a system in Love Library's large lecture hall and in the Plant Sciences building on East Campus.

Charles Anson, professor of health and human performance, said that to keep up with programs at other universities, the University of Ne-

braska-Lincoln needed multimedia renovations.

Today's students have grown up with technology, he said. They are much more demanding and require a lot more to stimulate their interest. Pictures, sound and motion in lectures help meet the needs of today's students.

"It's bringing Hollywood into the classroom in a positive sort of way," he said.

In addition, these classrooms help meet the different learning styles of students. Some learn better by hearing the information, he said, while others benefit more by seeing the information.

"Students really like taking these classes," he said.

About 800 students who had taken the classes with high-tech multimedia were surveyed, and the results were positive, Anson said.

Faculty also think this communication is needed, he said. It allows them to be more than just a "talking head" and more than just a lone source of the students' information.

"We're getting some pretty fancy classrooms," Anson said. "It's allowing the teachers to provide a much more stimulating lecture."

Nelson pledges support for disability programs

From The Associated Press

While it appears he did a complete about-face on developmental disability programs, Gov. Ben Nelson said he has never faltered in his support for them.

Nelson said he has found a way to bolster, rather than abandon, a program for those with developmental disabilities.

Many eligible people have received services like job training, respite care, rehabilitation and support to help them live away from home after they are too old for public education. About 1,500 mostly adult, mentally retarded or otherwise disabled people have been on a waiting list for the services.

Nebraska was one of the first states to provide care from birth to age 21.

"We agree that it makes no sense to invest in services for the first 21 years and then have few services available, risking the gains that have been made," Nelson said at a morning news conference.

"This is a wonderful day for a lot

of people," said Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, chairman of the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee.

"This is a very ambitious proposal and one of the most positive I've seen," Wesely said.

The senator had criticized Nelson in January when the governor proposed to save money by scuttling the program.

"I can see why some people thought that I had reversed my position after I had offered a bill (LB726) to end the program," Nelson said in an interview after the hearing before Wesely's committee.

He said the bill was a vehicle to promote a thoughtful and honest discussion of ways to meet the needs of these people in a responsible manner.

Nelson said he never had an adversarial relationship with advocates of the programs, but he didn't want to play a cruel hoax on them if the money wasn't going to be available.

At his request, the committee killed the measure.

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