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LINCOLN FIRE INVESTIGATOR BILL MOODY is helped out of his bomb suit Thursday morning. Moody set up the water cannon that destroyed a box believed to be a bomb.

MATTHEW WAITE/DN

Bomb scare hits mansion

No explosives found in box at governor's home

By MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

A mysterious shoe box topped with a naked baby doll bearing satanic markings was destroyed outside the governor's mansion Thursday morning by Lincoln Fire Department bomb technicians.

The message "Sometimes they only tell LIES" was scrawled in black marker on the box's side.

One day after Gov. Ben Nelson closed an anti-terrorism conference, the package was found in the mansion's southwest parking lot along 14th Street by staff members coming to work.

Authorities treated the device as a bomb, and used a cannon to shoot water into the box to disable any potential explosive device.

The device was a box wrapped in duct tape with a plastic tube extending 14 inches from the center of the box.

At the end of the tube was a plastic baby doll which was mounted by a battery-powered motor inside the box.

Pentagrams were etched on the doll's feet and an inverted cross was on its head. Both are considered satanic markings.

The box was placed near a hedgerow more than 50 feet from the west side of the house. An area the size of one city block was evacuated.

Nelson was not in the mansion at 14th and H streets Thursday. Dara Troutman, Nelson's spokeswoman, said he spent Wednesday night in Omaha and had several appearances there Thursday.

None of Nelson's family were in the



MATTHEW WAITE/DN

THE BABY DOLL that topped the mysterious box had pentagrams on its feet and an inverted cross on its head.

house, but several staff members were. They were moved to the east side of the state-owned mansion.

Investigators at the scene speculated that the message on the box related to abortion. The device was found the morning after Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, spoke in Lincoln Wednesday night.

Last spring, a Lincoln Archdiocese order prohibited Catholics from associating with pro-abortion rights groups or face excommunication.

Also on Wednesday, the Food and Drug Administration said approval of the French abortion pill RU-486 was likely by the middle of 1997.

"(The message on the box) is a sad comment with everything that's going on of late in the news," said Deputy Fire Chief Ron Kennett, who made reference to the abortion

issues.

Troutman said the message on the box was a "strong anti-abortion" view. She said whoever put it there did not know the governor's anti-abortion rights stance.

State Patrol Sgt. Mike Toby said Thursday afternoon that no threats had been made and no one had claimed responsibility.

Troutman said the state has increased security in all its buildings, but there was only so much it could do. The parking lot near the mansion is open and public sidewalks run next to the building.

"Not only is it a public sidewalk, it's a public residence," she said. "We're comfortable with the security of the governor."

Lincoln Fire Investigator Bill Moody approached the device wearing a large pro-

Please see SCARE on 3

Some clinics to evaluate abortion pill

THE FRENCH DRUG RU-486 is given tentative FDA approval, and Lincoln women's centers will start reviewing the option.

By ERIN GIBSON
Staff Reporter

Despite opposition from Nebraska Right to Life, the controversial French abortion pill RU-486 could be available in Lincoln soon, but not at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Several Nebraska women's clinics announced they would evaluate providing the pill to women after the Federal Drug Administration Wednesday tentatively approved the pill for use in the United States.

The FDA said the pill was safe and effective when used under a doctor's supervision. Final approval was withheld pending information on marketing and labeling of the drug. Final approval is expected in mid-1997.

Peg Blake, director of the University Health Center, said that the center had not discussed using the drug.

"We would not consider using it at this time," Blake said.

John Keller, director of patient services for Planned Parenthood of Lincoln, said Planned Parenthood would most likely offer the drug after final FDA approval is received.

Planned Parenthood has offices at 2246 O St. and 3705 South St. in Lincoln.

Please see PILL on 3

GQ writer challenges Osborne

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

An "epic character" was how Tom Junod, writer for *GQ* magazine, described Tom Osborne when he met him four years ago.

Now, he claims the head Cornhusker football coach may in fact be a deity.

Tom Osborne is God.

That's how Junod blasphemously begins his stark, nine-page profile of a stoic, weather-beaten, wise Osborne in the October issue of *GQ* magazine, which will hit newsstands Oct. 1.

He doesn't mince words and say "God of football" or "God in Nebraska," Osborne, Junod says.

The only metaphor I could think of for Tom Osborne was God," Junod said. "And I don't mean that in an 'Oh, gee whiz' type of way, I mean the way I think of God is the way I think of Tom Osborne."

Junod, who lives in Atlanta, spent about three weeks in Nebraska researching the Osborne article, "What if Tom Was One of Us?" for *GQ*. He also spent two days on the road with Osborne visiting Cornhusker football recruits.

Recruits who will someday come into

Please see GQ on 2