

Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 96

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 61

Wednesday
November 20, 1996



Williams gets jail time, three years probation

Judge makes example of former NU defensive back

By MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

A judge used Tyrone Williams to send a message Tuesday, sentencing the former NU defensive back to six months in jail and three years of probation.

Moments after Williams apologized for the incident, Lancaster County District Court Judge Bernard McGinn said the incident was "a little more than shooting a gun into the air."

The charges stemmed from a Jan. 30, 1994, incident where Williams, now a Green Bay Packers defensive back, smashed the passenger side window and shot Brooke Bohac's car. Bohac, who was in the car with former New York Jets football player Kevin Porter, was a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student at the



Williams

time; neither was injured.

Williams pleaded no contest Sept. 10 to a felony count of unlawful discharge of a firearm and a misdemeanor count of third-degree assault and was found guilty.

McGinn said the sentence must carry a message to others who could be involved in similar incidents. He said Williams was an "appropriate" candidate for probation, but the incident warranted incarceration.

McGinn said that with good behavior, Williams could be free in 120 days.

Along with jail time, Williams was sentenced to three years of probation, 400 hours of community service and ordered to pay \$1,300 restitution for the felony count. The maximum sentence for that charge is five years in jail and \$5,000 in fines.

Williams was sentenced to jail time for his misdemeanor charge, which carried a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Reading from Bohac's victim impact state-

Please see WILLIAMS on 3

Tenure causes controversy among regents, professors

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

One NU regent called it an "outdated concept." Professors cry out that it protects their academic freedom, and UNL's own chancellor said if "wise and prudent action" isn't taken, explosive fights may be the result.

It's tenure. And at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, like many other universities across the country, administrators and faculty are wondering if it should be revamped, rejected or just remain the same.

It usually takes about six years for professors to reach tenure. Tenure grants professors job security, academic freedom and protects them from summary dismissal unless they are

Please see TENURE on 7

“

As a student taking classes, I had tenured professors that were partly retired on the job. They can slack off and not get fired.”

DREW MILLER
NU Regent

Forced marriages bring abuse charges

By MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

Ignorance of the law is no excuse for two Iraqi immigrants charged with having sex with children, Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said Tuesday.

Two girls, ages 13 and 14, were in protective custody Tuesday after their father, also a recent immigrant from Iraq, was charged with two counts of child abuse. Police allege the father forced the two children to marry men more than twice their age on Nov. 9.

The two men, Latif Al-Hussani, 34, and Majed Al-Tamimy, 28, were charged Monday with first-degree sexual assault of a child. Court records said the men had sex with the children to consummate the marriages.

First-degree sexual assault of a child is punishable by up to 50 years in jail. The men will return to court Nov. 25 and are being held on a \$50,000 bond.

According to court records, the girls said they were forced to marry the men, but their father told police the 13-year-old was only engaged. Police affidavits said she claimed Hussani had sex with her three or four times

between Nov. 9 and Nov. 15.

The 14-year-old told police she ran away after being forced to have sex with Tamimy. Her father reported her disappearance to police. When police found the girl, she told her story.

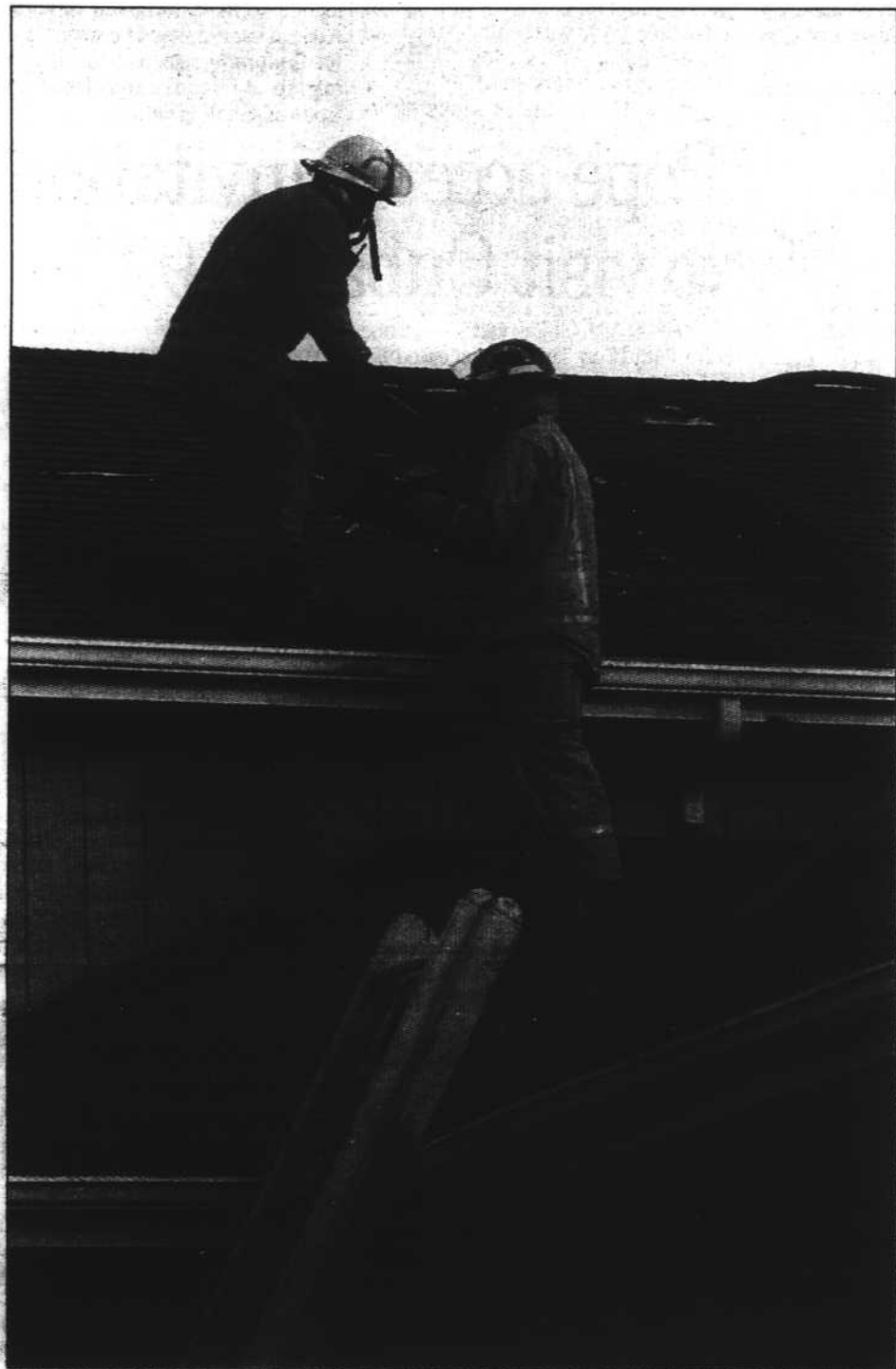
Mohammed Nassir, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor and member of the Lincoln Islamic Foundation, said the men didn't mean to break any laws. They married the girls according to Islamic tradition that has existed for centuries, he said.

Fifty years ago, Nassir said, girls married between ages 13 and 18. Now, girls often don't marry until after high school, but many are engaged as early as 13 or 14.

But Nebraska state law prohibits adults from having sex with people under the age of 16, Lacey said. People under 17 cannot marry. Claims of cultural differences had no bearing on the case, he said.

"The culture, in which I enforce the law, criminal law, is American culture," he said Tuesday afternoon. "When people move to Nebraska, they have to abide by the policy of the Legislature."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

LINCOLN FIREFIGHTERS take debris off the roof of a house at 1731 Trelawney Drive. They were preparing to lay plastic over holes created by an electrical fire that started there Tuesday.

Light bulb sparks fire; attic, bathroom damaged

Human error causes third house fire in Lincoln neighborhood in the last three years.

By KASEY KERBER
Senior Reporter

A fire seared the attic and bathroom of a southeast Lincoln house Tuesday, but firefighters contained the blaze before it spread to other parts of the one-story home.

No one was in the home at the time of the fire.

A construction worker reported the fire after seeing a column of smoke rising from the roof of the house.

Jack Bruns, fire investigator for the Lincoln Fire Department, said the blaze at 1731 Trelawney Drive was caused by a light bulb with wattage that exceeded the requirements of the socket into which it was screwed.

Bruns said the casing of the socket caught

fire and then spread to the attic's insulation.

Rich Furasek, deputy fire chief, said firefighters arrived on the scene five minutes after the fire began.

Furasek said firefighters saw a thick column of smoke coming from a vent in the roof. They broke into the roof to gain access to the fire and contained it before it could spread further.

"The fire managed to burn its way through the studs and into the bathroom, but it mainly burned the attic area," Bruns said.

Firefighters who entered the home were hosed down shortly after leaving the attic. Furasek said the dousing was meant to guard against the harmful chemicals in the attic's insulation.

As of Tuesday afternoon, estimates on the cost of damage to the house were not yet known.

A neighbor said Tuesday's fire was not the first time that Trelawney Drive had seen fires caused by human error.

The woman, who did not wish to be named, said three fires had struck houses on her street in the last three years.