

# Man attacks boy talking during movie

**Fight interrupts Saturday evening showing of 'Empire' at the Stuart.**

**By ERIN GIBSON**  
Senior Reporter

A Lincoln man struck back during the "Empire Strikes Back" when he lashed out at a talker Saturday night at the Stuart Theatre.

David Dillow, 29, attacked a 16-year-old boy who was talking loudly and using profanity with two friends about 90 minutes into the movie, said Lincoln Police Capt. Steve Imes. He was arrested and jailed for assault and disturbing the peace.

The boy and his friends sat in the upper balcony of the theater, within earshot of Dillow and his three children, wife and a friend.

Dillow first confronted the boy in the balcony of the theater, and the teen responded by taunting him, Imes said. Dillow then grabbed the talker by the neck and squeezed.

Imes said the boy broke away from Dillow and ran out into the lobby.

Dillow followed, knocking over a table in the lobby while chasing the teen.

The 16-year-old tried to escape through the front doors of the theater, but found the doors locked and sought refuge in the theater's ticket booth, Imes said.

Marilyn Hallinan, theater manager, said Dillow continued to pound on the booth's locked door and pursue the boy.

Another customer tried to intervene and stop Dillow from hurting the boy, Hallinan said. She said Dillow threw the third party into the wall before fleeing the theater.

A Stuart employee called the police, she said. The police told Dillow's wife to turn him in when he returned to the theater to retrieve her, his friend and his children.

Hallinan said the unusual fight in the balcony greatly disturbed audience members.

Dillow "hadn't complained to anybody" about the annoying talkers, and no other audience member had asked an employee to quiet the trio, she said.

"He just took it upon himself," Hallinan said.

The 16-year-old also was cited by police for disturbing the peace, she said.

# RHA OKs new budget for spring

**By SARAH BAKER**  
Staff Reporter

The Residence Hall Association approved its budget for the spring semester, including free voice mail for all senate members, at Sunday's meeting.

The bill needed a two-thirds majority vote to pass. The association tried to pass its budget Feb. 23, but did not have the majority.

The executive board members said they were planning to submit another executive bill calling for compensation costs at a later time. The proposed compensations were not passed with Sunday's budget.

The amended 1996-97 budget totaled \$46,662.

About \$23,000 goes to hall governments for educational and social events. The other half goes to executive expenditures including the campus escort program, movie contracts, welcome committees and other programs and costs.

RHA's funding comes from residence hall students' room and board fees.

RHA also passed another proposed bill that called for free voice-mail services for the entire senate, including committee members. RHA members said they thought that the service would be a great benefit.

# Survival skill taught in self-defense class

**By JONATHAN HOUGHTON**  
Staff Reporter

The best way people can defend themselves is to be prepared, a self-defense instructor said, before they become the victims of a violent crime.

Self-defense classes offered through Campus Recreation are designed to give students the skills and confidence to be prepared.

Instructor Steve Olson said the class is not a martial arts course. He said students learn simple techniques that have been proven to be effective.

"What we're doing is giving them something they can use but not something that requires a large commitment of time," Olson said.

Olson said these skills are important for people to learn because of the dangers in society.

Although students are given one credit hour for the class, many say they take it to learn how to protect themselves.

"I thought it'd be a good thing for me to know with everything going on in the world right now," said Heather Stoneall, a sophomore architecture major.

As a woman, Stoneall said she feels particularly vulnerable.

"Society has told us that women are more apt to be attacked," she said.

Olson said the class is about 90 percent women, but men can also benefit from it. He said the class size, around 50, is larger than last semester's, when the class was originally offered.

"We had more of a demand than originally anticipated," he said.

In the five-week class, students learn how to defend themselves against several kinds of assaults, including a bear hug, a choke hold and a prone assault.

Students are taught four parts of resisting an attack, Olson said. They are taught to verbally and physically distract an attacker, to stun the attacker and then to get away, he said.

"The key is to do what you need to do to escape," Olson said.

But Olson said these techniques should be viewed as a last resort. The class is designed to teach students to protect themselves from attack, not to fight. One of the worst things people can do, he said, is to get into a dangerous situation believing that they can handle it.

"The only guarantee is not to be there," he said. "Nobody wins a fight."

To make this point, Olson does not teach any self-defense techniques in the first class session. Instead, he lectures students on attack prevention.

An important aspect of attack prevention is a confident attitude, Olson said. Even the way a person walks can make an attacker think twice, he said.

"When they have a little more self-assurance, they're less likely to be victimized," he said.

Amy Martin, a sophomore art major, said she felt unsafe walking across campus at night, but the class has given her more self-confidence.

"You always wonder what you'd do if you were attacked," she said. "Now I'm a little more prepared."

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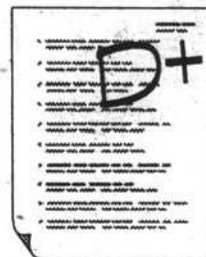
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