

Fun Run kicks off UNL homecoming festivities

By SARAH BAKER
Assignment Reporter

On your marks, get set, go! University of Nebraska-Lincoln Homecoming Week kicked off its contests and events Sunday with the 5K Fun Run and Walk on East Campus.

Alli Walters, homecoming chairwoman for the Student Alumni Association, said the turnout was high despite the rainy weather.

"We expect about 200 to 300 participants, mostly students," Walters said. "I am really happy about the mentality of the runners. They seem to be in a great mood, and it should be

a fun day." Junior elementary education major Jill Taylor, who was participating in the fun run, said she was excited to be there.

"I love to run, and running with friends and in the rain is even better," Taylor said.

Jane Scarrow, homecoming coordinator, said this year's homecoming festivities offer some new and different activities for students.

"We have added some new events, like the diversity speaker, the fun run and the fireworks," Scarrow said. "We have also tried to include East Campus in more activities to try and hit all of the student communities who want to participate in the activi-

ties."

The diversity speaker, Marlon Christopher Smith, will be at the Lied Center for Performing Arts tonight at 8.

Scarrow encouraged students to come to the pep rally and the carnival.

The pep rally will be on the East Campus basketball courts at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Scarrow said. The event will feature free ice cream from the University Dairy Store, as well as live music and fireworks.

The carnival, which will begin Friday at 5:30 p.m. on R Street, also features live music.

"The carnival will feature carnival booths, food and a lot of other fun stuff," Scarrow said.

Scarrow said she hopes the week

is a success.

"I am expecting an excellent turnout for all the events," she said. "I hope students take the opportunity to partake in the events."

Other homecoming events include:

■ Visits from Herbie Husker and Lil' Red at 1 p.m. today in Memorial Plaza.

■ Banners will be displayed all day Tuesday in the Nebraska Union. Also, the Collegiate Health and Fitness Tour will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the 14th and Vine streets loop.

■ On Wednesday, homecoming royalty elections will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; the fitness tour resumes

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and the Wacky Olympics get crazy from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 14th and Vine streets.

■ Along with Thursday's pep rally is day three of the fitness tour.

■ Friday is Go Big Red Day, and everyone is encouraged to wear red to show Husker spirit. The climbing wall grand opening is at 3:30 p.m. at the Campus Recreation Center. The Come On Home reception comes to the Wick Alumni Center from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The homecoming dance at State Fair Park is from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

■ The festivities end Saturday with the NU football game against Texas Tech. Coronation of the king and queen will be at halftime.

Mother defended Dunagan in 911 call

By MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

Matthew Dunagan's first defense did not come from a lawyer, but from his mother just moments after he allegedly shot his father.

Dunagan's mother, Kathryn, told a 911 operator at 12:40 a.m. Sept. 30 that her son had defended her against her husband, who was threatening to kill her, according to an affidavit filed Wednesday in Lancaster County Court.

Police found John Dunagan dead on the living room couch from 12-gauge shotgun wounds to the chest. A shotgun was on the floor nearby and by 6 a.m., Matthew

Dunagan, 17, was under arrest.

Dunagan was charged with first-degree murder and use of a weapon to commit a felony Oct. 1. He was released on bond Oct. 3, and will be in court Oct. 20.

From transcripts of Kathryn Dunagan's 911 call included in the affidavit, she told operators that Matthew had shot her husband.

"My husband is an alcoholic, he was drunk, he was going to kill me, and my son defended me," Kathryn Dunagan told operators. "... He's been threatening to kill me for a long time."

According to another affidavit filed at the time of Matthew Dunagan's arrest, John and Kathryn had been fighting earlier that night at their home at 4425 Browning Place.

When the fight started, Matthew Dunagan went to his room and loaded the Winchester pump shotgun.

After the fight ended, Dunagan told police that he overheard his father say he "ought to blow the bitch's head off."

Matthew Dunagan told police he went to his room, got the loaded shotgun and shot at his father three times while he was lying on the couch.

Officers found John Dunagan on his knees, slumped over and face down on the living room couch. The shotgun lay near his body.

An autopsy found two fatal chest wounds. It was unclear if the third shot hit John Dunagan.

In the search, police took a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun from the house.

Kathryn Dunagan told police that her husband kept the weapon on his side of the closet.

Police also took a Winchester 12-gauge shotgun, cases for the two weapons and ammunition.

Police warn students of Lincoln con man

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dates and gets involved in people's lives quickly, they said.

And then the game starts.

First he asks to borrow money. Then, it's their car. Then more money. Then he borrows items - jewelry, football tickets, etc. - and pawns them.

He keeps borrowing, and he never pays a cent back.

"He's taking them for all he can get," Cauble said. "When they want to end it, that's when it gets abusive and violent."

He memorizes numbers easily - he has used memorized student ID numbers to eat at residence halls, lift weights in the Campus Recreation Center and to get into residence halls after hours.

But when his newfound friend starts to say no, Bushing said, things turn sour. He doesn't like people ask-

ing questions, and because he has no job, his income is what he takes from others.

He has harassed people. He has caused disturbances. He has even assaulted people.

He's worked his con more than half a dozen times in Lincoln. Cauble and Bushing said they are trying to stop him, but his actions are not criminal, just close to it.

Not paying back money that has been loaned by a friend is not a crime, Bushing said. But the man has taken credit cards, checks and other items - which is a crime - and his victims did not report these incidents until months after they occurred.

He always has a reason for his need for money, Cauble said; and people want to help him, especially students who are away from home for the first time and willing to help others.

"That's just the way they were

brought up," Cauble said.

Bushing and Cauble said people should be skeptical of newfound friends in a new city. If a student doubts what the new friend is claiming, many things are easy to check out; they said.

Those who feel as though they may be in a relationship in which they are being conned should call the university police or victim services for help.


Bushing and Cauble also warned people to be wary when loaning keys and cars. Keys can be duplicated, and then used to take more items. Cars, if they are used in a crime, can make an unsuspecting student trying to help a friend a suspect in that crime.

Both said that people who think they have been conned should report the incident to the police.

And, they said, get help in trying to get out of the relationship.

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