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## Safety tour finds few problems on-campus

From staff reports

A campus safety walk Saturday turned up a few burned-out bulbs, but little else, participants said.

"It was rather uneventful but very useful," said Ellyn Meyers, director of Landscape Services. Both she and UNL Police Sgt. Bill Manning said the walk helped officials identify a couple of minor trouble areas.

"There were some burned-out bulbs that we encountered," Manning said. "But with the number of lights on campus, that's not unusual."

Meyers agreed. In addition to the lightbulbs, she said, a few shrubs may need to be trimmed back, but most concerns can be simply addressed.

"I think everything looked fine this time around," she said. "I think that it's really helpful just to check areas out, and make sure we're giving campus a look to see how we're doing."

If students, faculty members or staff have safety concerns, she said, they can still call UNL Police. Or to report burned-out lights, they can call (402) 472-1550.

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# Choma charged with manslaughter in death

■ After the shooting victim's death, prosecutors amended charges against the man already in cus-

while the two men struggled over a gun in front of Choma's home. Higgins died in the hospital three days later after remaining in critical condition.

Prosecutors Monday amended the charges against Choma following Higgins' death, but his bond remained at 10 percent of \$750,000.

Police records filed in court gave the following account of the events leading up to the shooting:

The shooting was the culmination of an ongoing dispute between the two men.

On April 4, one day before the shooting, Choma went over to the home of his live-in-girlfriend's mother. An argument ensued, and Choma pointed a gun at his girlfriend's mother.

Police contacted Choma that night about threatening his girlfriend's mother.

The next afternoon, Higgins, who shared the same address as Choma's girlfriend's mother, went to Choma's apartment on the 300 block of South 25th Street.

Police were called to the apartment at 2:10 p.m. on reports of gunshots. When officers arrived, they found Higgins lying on the front porch covered in blood.

Higgins was transported to BryanLGH Medical Center West, and police contacted and arrested Choma inside his apartment.

When he was arrested, Choma had blood on his shirt, pants, hands and left shoe.

Choma's girlfriend told police he had admitted shooting Higgins.

Choma faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison for each of the five charges.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 4.

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior staff writer

A Lincoln man died last week of a gunshot wound suffered in an argument, and his alleged assailant was charged with manslaughter Monday.

Kenneth Choma, 20, was also charged with two counts of terroristic threats and three counts of the use of a firearm to commit a felony.

The death of David Higgins, 42, stemmed from a dispute between the two men a week before Monday's hearing.

Higgins was shot in the groin



### Man caught masturbating in Love Library on Sunday

A 46-year-old man was arrested for masturbating in Love Library on Sunday evening.

Someone called police after seeing the man masturbating in the second-floor link area of the library, University Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said.

The caller gave police a description of the man, and when an officer arrived he saw the suspect leaving the library.

The officer took the man back inside the library so the caller could identify him.

The suspect, who had a Des Moines, Iowa, address, admitted that he had been arrested for indecent exposure before.

### Lincoln woman raped early Sunday morning in alley

A Lincoln woman was raped in a Near South alley early Sunday morning.

The 26-year-old woman told police she had left a party shortly before 2 a.m. to look for a friend when she was attacked in the alley between 10th, 11th, A and B streets, Lincoln Police Officer Kathy Finnell said.

She said a man grabbed her and forced her to have sex.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic man in his late 20s with black hair. He was possibly driving a red/black Nissan truck.

### Omaha man taken to detox from Smith Hall

A non-student, who could not stand on his own in Smith Hall early Saturday, was taken to detox.

After a community service officer saw the 19-year-old man staggering in a Smith Hall lounge, an officer was called, Bushing said.

The Omaha man was taken to BryanLGH Medical Center West for treatment of a cut above his left eye before being taken to detox, where he was found to have a .187 blood alcohol content.

### UNL sophomore refuses medical help after drinking

Paramedics were called to Pound Hall after an 18-year-old sophomore became ill after a night of drinking.

A friend of the woman called 911 after they returned to ninth floor, and the woman was vomiting and shaking and her skin was cold to the touch, Bushing said.

When paramedics arrived, the ill woman refused medical treatment.

Her friend told police that she had four shots of vodka and two beers at an off-campus party.

Compiled by senior staff writer Josh Funk

# Nguyen charged in strangling

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior staff writer

Through a Vietnamese interpreter, Dat Nguyen was charged with murder Monday for strangling a Lincoln

woman who refused sex.

Nguyen was arrested Thursday evening, 10 hours after the body had been found, police said.

Just before 2 p.m. Thursday, Betty Bich Tran,

34, was found dead in her bedroom by her sister.

On what would have been Tran's 35th birthday, a county court judge set Nguyen's bond at 10 percent of \$750,000 for the charges of first-degree murder and the use of a weapon to commit a felony.

Police said Nguyen and Tran worked together at Farmland Foods in Crete. Though the two lived at separate addresses, they carpooled to work together.

Witnesses told police that the two left work together around 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

When police arrived at Tran's house on the 4500 block of South 47th Street, they found Tran lying on her bed covered with a blanket.

Tran's right wrist had been slashed several times and there was fluid coming out of her mouth. Autopsy results Friday showed she had been strangled.

Thursday evening police contacted Nguyen at BryanLGH Medical Center West after he had attempted suicide.

Nguyen's brother called 911 from his apartment on the 2500 block of Vine Street around 9 p.m.

Nguyen and his brother told police at the hospital that he had admitted killing Tran, and after treatment Nguyen was taken to the police station where he was later arrested.

In his statement, Nguyen told police he had wanted to have sex with Tran and became upset when she refused.

According to documents filed in court, Nguyen then pushed Tran on to the bed and choked her.

Nguyen then slashed Tran's right wrist several times to see if she was dead.

Nguyen's preliminary hearing was scheduled for 10 a.m. on May 11.

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