

Law & Order

Man arrested after sexual incidents with boys

Police arrested a 63-year-old Lincoln man Thursday after two sexually inappropriate incidents with 15-year-old boys this month.

The suspect, a convicted Iowa sex offender, is accused of masturbating under his clothes while talking to two boys and asking lewd questions of another boy in two separate incidents, Lincoln Police Officer Kathy Finnell said.

On April 1, two 15-year-old boys reported to their parents that the suspect had approached them while they were walking in Oak Lake Park at First and Charleston streets. The man tried to have a conversation with the boys while masturbating under his clothes, police said.

On April 4, the suspect tried to talk about masturbation with another 15-year-old boy, who reported the conversation to his parents.

Police identified the suspect because of similarities between the two incidents, and police were familiar with him from a September incident with another boy that is still pending in court.

The suspect did not have to register as a sex offender in Nebraska

because his previous offense was before Jan. 1, 1997.

The man was arrested for two counts of disturbing the peace. He was released after posting \$50 bond Friday, and he has not been formally charged.

UNL freshman gets MIP after traffic violation

A traffic stop early Friday resulted in a minor in possession citation for one UNL freshman.

University Police stopped the 18-year-old student at 1:30 a.m. after he ran a red light at 17th and R streets while heading eastbound, Sgt. Mylo Bushing said.

The driver told police he ran the light because he was following someone he didn't know to an unknown location.

A pat-down search revealed two bottles of beer in each of the man's front pockets.

Though he said the beer belonged to the unknown person in the other car, police cited him for being a minor in possession.

Compiled by senior staff writer Josh Funk

Students take drug-free pledge at Spring Game

BY SANDI ALSWAGER
Staff writer

As part of last week's Tobacco is Trash Week, Nebraska middle and high school students pledged to be drug-free at the NU football team's Red-White Spring Game on Saturday.

Hundreds of middle school and high school students from across the state participated in events at their schools to inform other students that tobacco is trash, said Gina Judds, program coordinator for the American Lung Association.

The week culminated with a tailgate party Saturday morning starting at 9:30 a.m. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Cook Pavilion.

During the week, the students talked to elementary students, held Tobacco Is Trash poster contests and told students about the dangers of smoking, Judds said.

Students also spent the week picking up cigarette butts around their communities. A garbage truck was in front of Cook Pavilion so the students could throw away the butts.

Ashland Public Schools was the only school system to participate in

this project and won prizes for its efforts at the tailgate party.

Other events at the tailgate party included handing out balloons for the game and face painting.

Jami Cool, an eighth-grader from Ashland Public Schools, said her group, The All-Stars, decided to participate in the event because being drug-free was what the group was all about.

"If you choose to do drugs, your life will be ruined," she said. "It is harder to reach your goals if you are using drugs."

Stephanie Booher, a seventh-grader from Ashland, said it was the first time her group recited the drug-free pledge during the spring game.

"This is a really good time to show other kids that drugs are really bad," she said. "Kids have a better chance of being influenced by drugs. This gives them a chance to know it is not right and to tell more people about the dangers of drugs."

Amber Pearce, a sophomore from Fairbury High School, said her school's drug-free group, the Energizers, attended the event to show others that neither drugs nor alcohol were needed to have fun.

"It is good to be getting this mes-

sage across," Pearce said.

Judds said the American Lung Association wanted to help students make a decision to stop smoking, and the spring game and tailgate party were great places to promote this.

About 3,000 young people start smoking every day in the United States, she said.

"We are getting people to realize tobacco is a drug," Judds said. "Young people are the ones starting to smoke. Less than 10 percent of smokers start after the age of 19."

About 40 groups and 250 students participated at the tailgate party sponsored by the Lung Association and Rural Region Five Prevention Center.

UNL's drug-free group, Party Smart, also volunteered to help with the tailgate party.

Angie Child, a sophomore chemical engineering major and the group's president, said the group helped with the tailgate party to support drug-free youth.

"This is a great opportunity for students to be drug-free and a great opportunity to take part in," Child said. "This was not only a benefit for our organization, but we were supporting the students' dedication."

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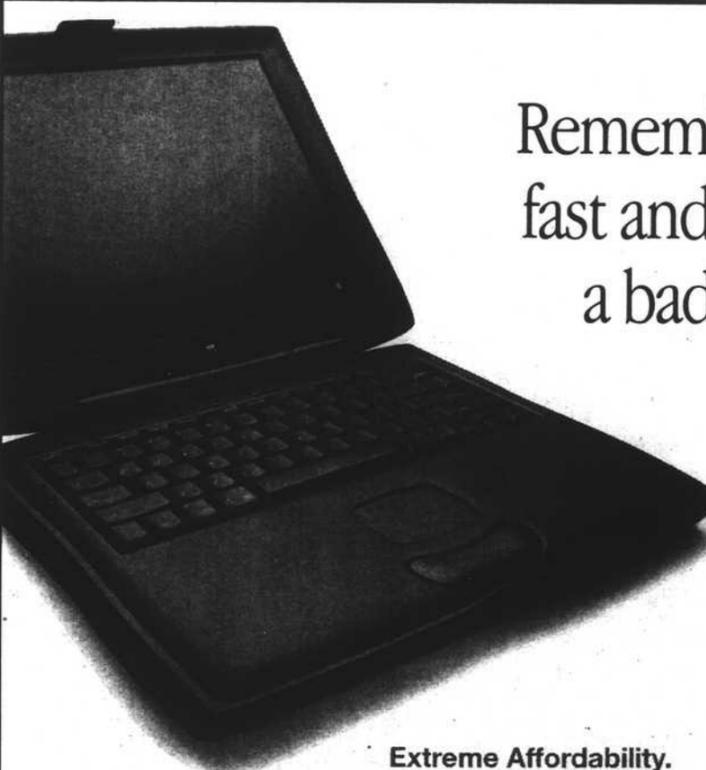
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