

Man arrested after trailer-park standoff

BY JAKE BLEED
Senior staff writer

A 21-year-old Lincoln man led police on a half-hour chase that included the use of a police dog through a north Lincoln trailer park Thursday evening, police said.

Police arrested Kenneth Hamilton after a standoff outside a trailer on N.W. Quincy Street around 5:15 p.m. Capt. Robert Kalwamoto said Hamilton was arrested for making terrorist threats.

Police received a call at 3:29 p.m. that a man with a knife, believed to be Hamilton, was seen near the intersection of First Street and Cornhusker Highway, Kalwamoto said.

Officers arrived in the area but were unable to contact him, Kalwamoto said.

Another call reached police at 4:46 p.m. about a man with a knife who was wandering in the Contempo Trailer Park west of First Street near Interstate 80, Kalwamoto said.

Police arrived in the trailer park but Hamilton fled, starting the half-hour

chase. A police dog took part in a portion of the chase, which ended at a trailer in the 3500 block of N.W. Quincy Court.

The woman who lived in the trailer had to be evacuated by police before Hamilton was taken into custody.

Police refused to discuss details in the arrest of Hamilton. But three witnesses, who said they grew up with Hamilton, gave the following account:

Hamilton stood on the trailer's patio and first pointed a knife at his own chest. As police approached, Hamilton turned the knife at them, said Chris Gibbs, a Contempo Park resident who said he grew up with Hamilton.

Gibbs said police fired four or five shots from a "bean-bag gun" at Hamilton, hitting him once in the chest and several times in the left leg. A bean-bag gun is a converted grenade launcher that shoots bean bags filled with metal shot, intended to incapacitate, not kill.

Police then sprayed mace at Hamilton, Gibbs said, restrained and arrested him.

Gibbs, 21, and two other Contempo Park residents, Justin Schepp, 21, and Joey Perez, 18, said they drove past Hamilton between 4:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. before police arrived in the area.

Gibbs said Hamilton had a history of mental instability.

Groups give students 'safe' place to talk

Discussion groups offer students support, as well as a safe place to discuss problems.

BY DANE STICKNEY
Staff writer

Students looking for a safe haven or just a place to talk about problems can turn to a number of discussion groups organized by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Women's Center and Counseling and Psychological Services are sponsoring discussion and support groups to provide students with an outlet for their problems.

Luis Diaz-Perdomo, a psychology counselor at University Health Services, said discussion groups have existed for many years at UNL but have evolved over the years to meet students' needs.

"We have a series of different groups that cover a variety of things depending on the issues that are brought to us," he said. "Students will oftentimes come to us with an idea and ask us to provide leadership for discussion groups."

Diaz-Perdomo deals directly with the Cross Cultural Communication Social Group and the Gay Men's Discussion Group.

The cross cultural group is geared to expose people to different communication styles for various cultural backgrounds, he said.

The cross culture group meets every other Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Cornerstone, 640 N. 16th St.

Diaz-Perdomo said the Gay Men's Discussion Group acts as a confidential atmosphere for gay and questioning men to explore their ideas.

"We provide a safe environment for people to discuss a wide range of topics from coming out to parent relationships to homophobia," he said. "It's an opportunity for them to discuss issues that are important to them

with people who have similar ideas and experiences."

The Gay Men's Discussion Group meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at an undisclosed location. Those wishing to be part of the group must first go through a screening procedure to make sure the class is right for them.

Diaz-Perdomo said his groups consist of approximately 10-20 members and a group leader. Most of the participants are students, but some are past students.

Norma Cox, a mental health practitioner for Counseling and Psychological Services, is the facilitator for the Grief Support Group and an eating issues group.

Cox said the Grief Support Group has been set up to help students who have lost someone close to them because of death.

"We teach the students strategies on how to deal with loss," she said. "It doesn't matter if it was yesterday or 10 years ago, it is still hard to cope with losing someone you love. I think it is comforting for people to know that they're not the only ones suffering."

The Grief Support Group meets on Tuesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Cornerstone.

An eating issues group helps women discuss concerns about eating. The group meets on Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Women's Center.

Cox said both of her groups are open groups, meaning students are not obligated to attend every meeting.

"If students come once and don't like it, it is OK," she said. "They can come when they need help."

Other discussion groups include Sister Circle: African American Women's Discussion Group, which meets every Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Women's Center and Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Discussion Group, which has yet to disclose its meeting details.

Those interested in obtaining more information about the discussion groups should call Counseling and Psychological Services at (402) 472-7450.

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