

# Not guilty pleas given in case

■ Three men suspected of sexual assault on a 13-year-old plead not guilty.

BY JAKE BLEED  
Senior staff writer

After arresting Petr and speaking with the teen-ager, police arrested two other men, Aaron Brannigan, 20, and Gerald Jonak, 35, who both live on the 1800 block of South 15<sup>th</sup> Street, for allegedly paying the boy to have sex, Crosby said.

The men do not have criminal histories, officer Katherine Finnell said.

The teen-ager used the money the men allegedly gave him for sex to buy food, money and lodging, Crosby said.

Petr was arrested for a sexual encounter he allegedly had with the teen on Dec. 10, 1998, in Petr's car near 86<sup>th</sup> and Adams streets. Brannigan and Jonak were both arrested for an alleged Sept. 28 incident in their apartment.

Petr met the teen-ager in downtown Lincoln about two months after the boy left home, Crosby said, then introduced him to

Brannigan and Jonak. "It's troubling," Crosby said. "There certainly are people out there who will take advantage of children."

Crosby said the teen-ager had run away from home more than once and that, while homeless, stayed with Petr at least part of the time.

Crosby said the teen-ager was in school Wednesday and that the investigation was not over.

"We hope to leave no stone unturned here," Crosby said. "There's always a possibility that there are others out there."

Crosby said police are looking for 36 runaway children from Lincoln ages 12 to 18. Twenty-three have been missing for more than two weeks as of Wednesday, Crosby said.

"It's pretty difficult to find these kids if they don't want to be found," Crosby said.

Three men arrested on suspicion of having sex with a 13-year-old male runaway pleaded not guilty in Lancaster County Court on Wednesday to charges of sexual assault on a child.

Police arrested David Petr, 21, who lives on the 5200 block of Tipperary Trail, after receiving a call early Wednesday morning saying that Petr was having sex with a runaway teen, police investigator Kerry Crosby said.

"The allegations were that the sexual contact was not by force, it was consensual," Crosby said.

# Law & Order

## Man flees after confronted about stolen bike

A freshman University of Nebraska-Lincoln student standing in the lobby of Abel Residence Hall on Tuesday evening saw a man walk out of the building's elevator pushing the student's bike, Sgt. Mylo Bushing said.

The student confronted the man, who said he'd just bought the bike from someone in the building's basement for \$10, Bushing said.

The student told police he'd locked the bike, a Specialized Rock Hopper Mountain Bike valued at \$650, in the basement earlier in the evening, Bushing said.

The man, described as 5-foot-9, weighing around 160 pounds, with shoulder-length, dark-blond hair and a small beard, fled the residence hall after being confronted, Bushing said.

## Man arrested after running naked down alley

Lincoln police arrested a 28-year-old Lincoln man after finding him running up and down an alley Tuesday completely naked, officer Katherine Finnell said.

Police allege Travis Schaub assaulted his girlfriend and then left the apartment the couple shared in the 1300 block of South 26<sup>th</sup> Street, took off his clothes and began running up and down an alley between 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> streets and A and B streets, Finnell said.

Schaub resisted officers trying to arrest him, Finnell said. He was ultimately arrested on suspicion of domestic assault, indecent exposure and resisting arrest.

Finnell did not know if Schaub's girlfriend was injured or if drugs or alcohol were involved.

Compiled by senior staff writer Jake Bleed.

# Researchers, administrators prepare for Y2K problems

■ Precautions taken to protect research projects as the new year approaches.

BY MICHELLE STARR  
Staff writer

University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers might need to take precautions as the new year approaches, if any of the impending Y2K worries are true.

Probable cause for alarm exists if the new year interrupts utility services, said Marsha R. Torr, Vice Chancellor

for Research.

"One just has to look into a crystal ball and think of the possibilities that could occur," she said.

Because the impact of Y2K cannot be calculated, research projects dependent on uninterrupted light, heat or electricity will be suspended or rescheduled by Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.

Researchers are advised to turn off electrical equipment in case the software might fail during the rollover from 1999 to 2000, Torr said. It is also important to back up data on computers.

UNL's system generators will be able to provide electricity to only one

or two campus facilities on east campus, Torr said.

Torr said she suggested eliminating the use of laboratory fume hoods if possible and also moving all chemicals to safe storage to reduce the accumulation of hazardous fumes in case of ventilator shutdown.

"I don't think a problem is very likely. But we want to be prepared just in case," said Brenda Osthus, director of Environmental Health and Safety.

"It's going to take faculty to think about their research. It's a case by case process," Torr said.

If researchers will be affected by a utilities shut-down, Torr said they

"I don't think a problem is very likely. But we want to be prepared just in case."

BRENDA OSTHUS  
director of Environmental Health and Safety

should contact the research office by Friday.

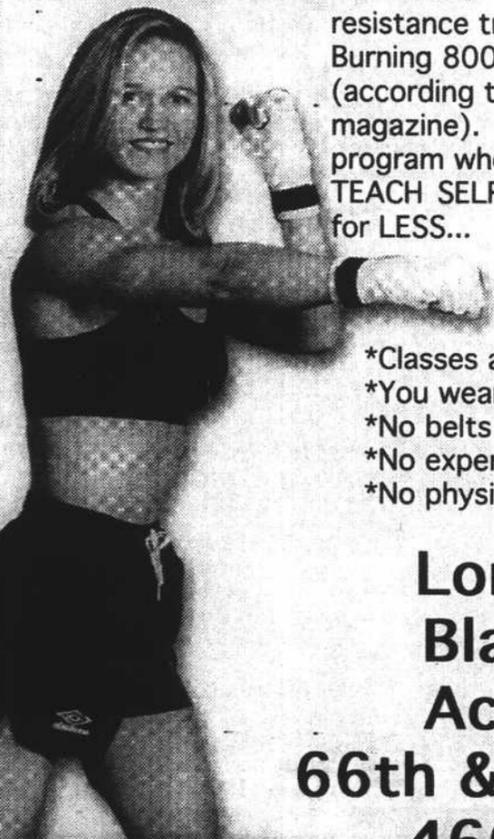
Some projects might be impossible to reschedule, but she said researchers should think about the problems that could occur, especially

if plants or animals are involved in their work.

"In reality, Y2K should be looked at more as a preparation for any time, any power outage...not just Y2K," Osthus said.

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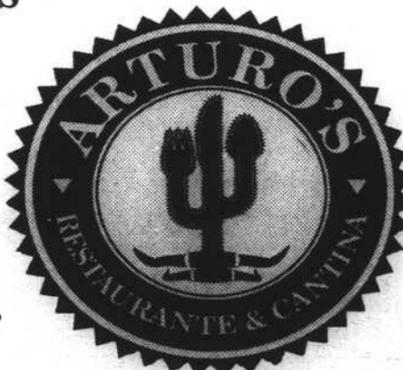
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