

Two suspected of meth possession apprehended

BY JAKE BLEED
Senior staff writer

Lincoln police arrested two people on suspicion of possession of methamphetamine early Thursday morning after one suspect called an apartment being searched by police and offered to come over and "help out," officer Katherine Finnell said.

Travis Stutzman, 29, and Michelle Guilliat, 27, were both arrested on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance and possession with intent to deliver.

Police searched an apartment in the 1300 block of C Street around 3 a.m. after a drug dog following a man who fled from an accident led police

to the apartment's door, Finnell said. Police were invited into the apartment after knocking, Finnell said, and saw drugs inside. A search warrant was obtained and, while searching the apartment, the phone rang, Finnell said.

A police officer answered the phone. A man at the other end of the telephone asked the officer if the resident of the apartment was home, Finnell said.

The officer said no. The man then asked if the resident drove to Grand Island and, after the officer said yes, the man said he had just come from Grand Island.

The man then asked if many people were in the apartment and if he could come over to "help out."

Stutzman and Guilliat arrived at the apartment a short time later. Police searched the two and found drugs on both.

Court documents said Stutzman was carrying 22.3 grams of methamphetamine in his right front shirt pocket.

Stutzman told police the lump in his shirt pocket was "my dope," court documents said.

Court documents also said 15 grams of methamphetamine were found in Guilliat's jacket and purse. The 27-year-old told police that Stutzman told her to carry the drug, according to court documents.

Guilliat was held on a 10 percent of \$5,000 bond, and Stutzman was held on a 10 percent of \$7,500 bond.

Train traffic troubles NU students

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place, and he pointed to an accident that happened there recently.

A UNL student was hit by a freight train at 14th and New Hampshire streets Oct. 2 while he was sitting on the tracks early in the morning. Police have said he may have been drunk.

James Jurgens, 21, of Firth, had his leg cut off 8 inches below the right knee, according to police reports.

Events such as the Nebraska State Fair, which takes place just north of where the tracks are, creates an unfortunate situation for children walking back from the fair, Uhrenholdt said.

"At the State Fair with the little kids, or with other big events over

there where the trains frequently go across, it creates somewhat of a hazard," he said.

Uhrenholdt agreed with the other students that traffic during the week near the crossing was considerably higher.

"The timing is usually worse during the week for students," he said.

Said the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe spokesman about his company's train schedules: "Obviously a train has to operate at that area during conflict time. There's no way we can afford just to shut down."

Marc Miller, a junior advertising major, said the railway company needed to look for ways to stop congestion near 14th and New Hampshire during the week.

"I wish they would build a bridge

or something," Miller said.

He said he and his roommate were frequently late to classes because of the trains.

Uhrenholdt said the trains posed problems other than pedestrian-related ones.

"They can present a pretty good hindrance to the bus routes," he said. "The buses often have to wait for the trains to pass by."

The Burlington Northern-Santa Fe official said the problem near 14th and New Hampshire was mostly because of how far the campus extended.

"The campus is right next to the major corridor and terminal, which is a main corridor east of Lincoln," he said. "It just has to do with the demographic population density (at the university)."



Student charged with motor vehicle homicide

Robert Mullin, a 21-year-old University of Nebraska-Lincoln student, was charged in Lancaster County Court on Wednesday with motor vehicle homicide.

The student was arrested Sept. 3 after he allegedly caused an accident on N.W. 48th Street, in which a 15-year-old girl was killed.

Police said Mullin tried unsuccessfully to pass a car carrying the 15-year-old and her 16-year-old sister on N. W. 48th Street but turned back at the last moment, knocking the teen-agers' car into an oncoming delivery truck.

Tawni Perez was killed in the accident. Her older sister, Mikela, suffered minor injuries.

Mullin was arrested at the scene on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Police say man knocked woman down, stole purse

A 6-foot man knocked a 38-year-old woman down near the intersection of 11th and H streets and took her purse Wednesday evening, Officer Katherine Finnell said.

The woman held on to her purse as she fell but, after a brief struggle, the purse's strap broke, and the man fled, Finnell said.

The woman did not suffer major injuries in the attack and lost \$19, Finnell said.

Compiled by senior staff writer Jake Bleed

Environmental planning series continues Saturday

From staff reports

The second conference in a three-part series about environmental issues will be held Saturday at the Nebraska East Union from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The conference, titled "Planning with Vision," will focus on current trends in sustainable development practices, including planning, zoning, natural resource management and economic development.

"It's about smart growth, the difference between urban sprawl and planned development," said Cecil Steward, dean of the College of Architecture.

Speakers for the day include

Jeffrey Johnson, former Omaha metropolitan planning director; Jason McLennan, a Kansas City architect who specializes in "green" projects; and Anita Bahe, whose North Carolina firm advises developers on environmental issues.

The conference, which is co-sponsored by the Lincoln Wachiska Audubon Society, will be opened by Lincoln Mayor Don Wesely.

"I would encourage any students to come who have an interest in community affairs, urban planning, legal issues or just being involved in their community," Steward said.

The cost of admission, which includes lunch at the union, is \$15 for students and \$30 for all others.

Appeals court upholds ruling against ordinance

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tions in Omaha. He no longer does.

The ordinance, which required protesters to remain 50 feet from churches 30 minutes before and after services, was approved by the City Council in September 1998.

The council voted to override a veto attempt by then-Mayor Mike Johanns in the same month.

U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf of Lincoln ruled the city ordinance was unconstitutional in November 1998, triggering an appeal by the City Council.

Judge Myron Bright disagreed with Thursday's appeals court decision.

"The government's interest here is substantial, the nature and scope of the ordinance make the prohibition narrowly tailored and the protesters retain ample alternative channels of communication," he wrote.

"The City Council of Lincoln has enacted a wise and fair ordinance."

Attorney Daniel Klaus, who represented the city, said the appeals court's ruling was surprising and disappointing.

"We thought it was a very narrowly tailored ordinance that should've survived constitutional scrutiny," Klaus said.

The City Council can petition to the U.S. Supreme Court to view the ruling, Klaus said, or try to draft a new ordinance that fits within the appeals court's ruling.

Lincoln Right To Life representative Marilyn Olmer said the ordinance would have affected her organization's distribution of anti-abortion information outside churches.

"The city ordinance could've infringed upon our right to do that,"

Olmer said. "Abortion involves life and death. It's very important for people to be informed."

Olmer said her group distributed anti-abortion information outside churches before elections.

Sandy Danek, also with Lincoln Right To Life, while being pleased with the ruling, said she was "not at all surprised."

Danek said the ruling targeted anti-abortion protesters.

"Our concern came from representing the Lincoln pro-life community," she said. "We saw it in the broader picture."

Danek said Lincoln Right to Life did support the protesters' right to free speech.

"I'm not saying Lincoln Right to Life felt comfortable with the tactics being used," Danek said. "We would, of course, be supportive of their free speech activities even though we would not take part in that activity."

Carl Horton, associate pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, said he was disappointed with the ruling.

"The need (for the ordinance) is still there; it's just a matter of crafting the language so it can withstand a constitutional challenge," Horton said.

Rescue the Heartland protesters, along with other anti-abortion groups, stopped picketing outside the church after the abortion clinic Crabb worked in closed.

Crabb will end his term as elder of the church this year, Horton said, lessening the chance the church will be targeted by protesters.

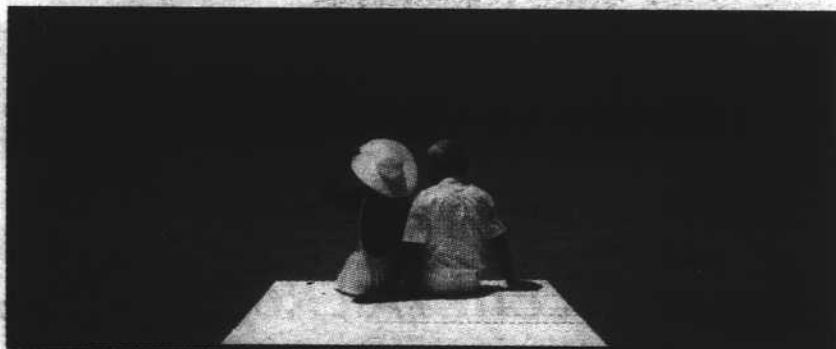
"We fortunately really are not in the same situation we were in when we sought the ordinance," Horton said. "Our congregation has gotten beyond this."

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