

Campus escorts offer safe walks

By MARK TRAMPE
Staff Reporter

While many students are thinking about schedules and homework, the UNL Campus Escort Program wants to assure students that campus safety hasn't been forgotten.

Marco Ritzo, head of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Campus Escort Program, said the service's volunteers want students to tread a safe path home from class.

Safety in numbers is the idea employed by the program, Ritzo said. This simple idea has proven effective in five years since the Residence Hall Association started the program, he said.

Ritzo said students can get escorts in three ways:

— Call the program office at 472-1167 Monday through Thursday, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight. After hours, leave voice mail or contact the program director and request an escort.

— In an emergency, students can use the blue phones on campus. The UNL police department puts callers in touch with the escort service.

— Students with night classes can schedule escorts on a regular basis.

When a student calls the escort office, a dispatcher contacts two volunteers for assistance. The volunteer escorts normally arrive anywhere on campus within five minutes of the call, Ritzo said.

The volunteers are sent out in pairs — either two females or one female and one male. They carry heavy-duty flashlights, cellular phones and wear white jackets identifying them with the escort program.

Ritzo measured the program's success by the increase in escort requests. Calls to the service have doubled in the past two years.

About 50 to 75 people take advantage of the service. Some call only once, while others call regularly.

"It's important that the word gets out," Ritzo said.

Car crash



TANNA KINNAMAN/DN

NO SERIOUS INJURIES resulted Saturday when a red pickup truck ran a stop sign hitting a Jeep Cherokee at 19th and P streets, Lincoln Police Officer Tim Kennett said. Four passengers were riding in the Cherokee. The truck hit the front end of the Cherokee and flipped. The truck driver received minor scratches and was cited with negligent driving. A large brown and white dog riding in the cab was not injured.



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