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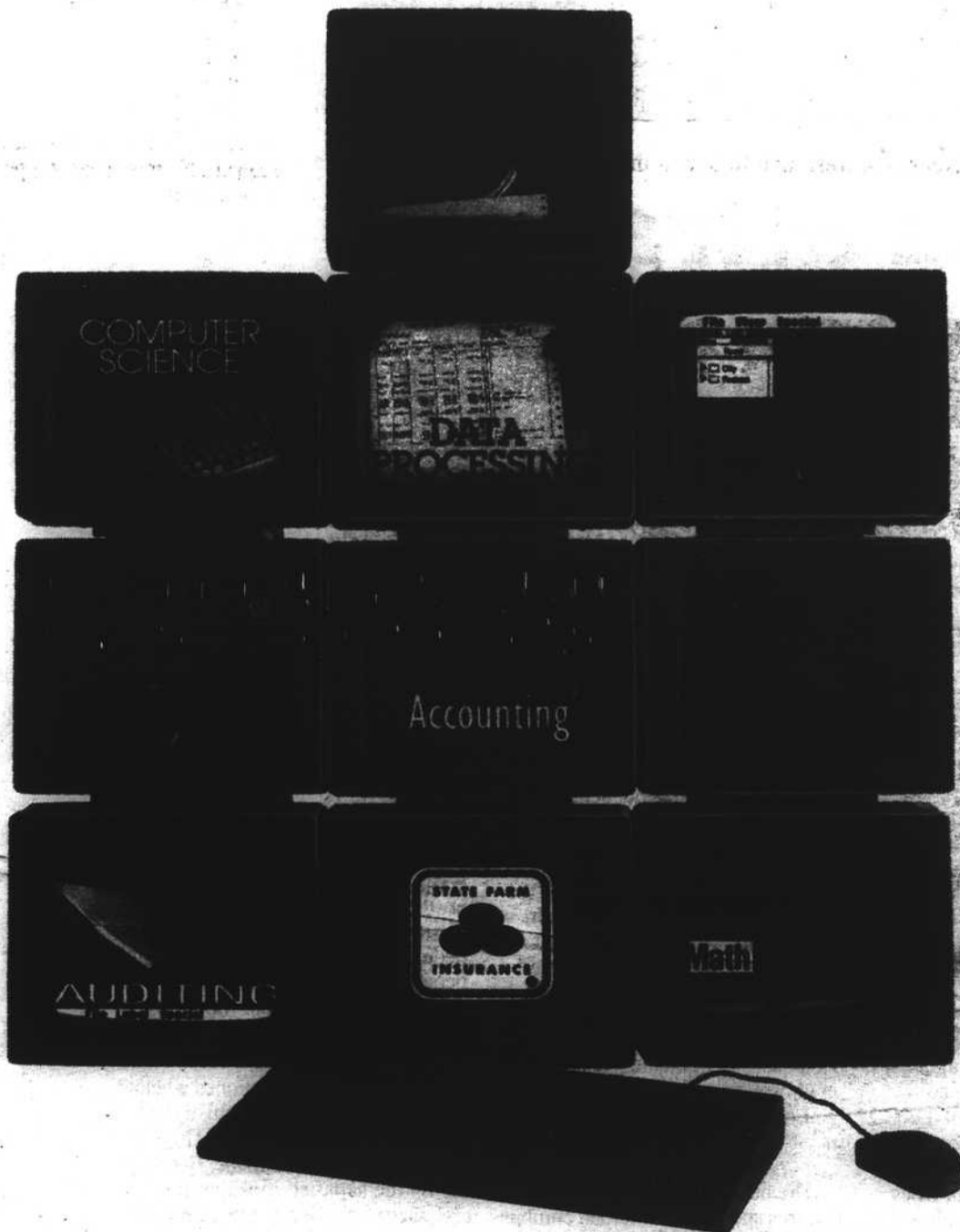
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Afternoon is peak time for crime

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Police officers have no problem explaining why their calls go up at certain times and down at others. Explaining why certain times of the year are higher than others is more tricky, they say.

Officers often can tell what is going on in the academic year by how busy they are.

Contrary to a common perception, football game days, and football season are not report-heavy days and months.

For the 1995 season, the average number of reports each day was six. The median number of calls, the number that half the scores are above and half are below, was five.

Statisticians, when dealing with a large set of scores, say median numbers provide a more accurate picture, because they are not affected by extreme scores.

During football season, the average

number of calls stayed at six, but the median increased to six. However, the number of calls during the summer is lower than the fall and spring, thereby affecting the total score and not the football season score.

In the top crime days of 1995, only two home games appeared on the list. The Arizona State game on Sept. 16, 1995, was the busiest day of 1995 for campus police, with 22 incidents reported. The next game day, the Oklahoma game on Nov. 24, 1995, was fourth on the list with 17 reports filed.

Manning, who has more than 20 years experience at UNL, said football game days often are quiet.

"People get so built up for that game ... the people are just exhausted," he said. "It's an emotional drain. Win or loss, it's an emotional drain."

Petersen said many incidents that occur at games go unreported. Often, he said, officers will just throw someone out for an infraction.

But removing a fan happens only once or twice a game, Petersen said.

Other events during the school year affect campus crime more than football, officers said.

Campus crime peaks:

— Four weeks into the semester. UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble said by

then everyone has settled in, and thieves start to notice patterns of behavior.

— The weekend before Thanksgiving. Manning said students party a lot before going home for the holiday.

— The weekend before dead week. Manning and Cauble said students get in their partying before finals. Both said there is often a high number of suicide attempts during dead week.

— The weekend before spring break starts. Manning said students get rowdy before they leave.

— State tournament weekends. Manning said the influx of high school students for basketball and wrestling state tournaments give campus police more to do.

Researchers and some police officers have theories of what affects crime — full moons, temperature, tides. Petersen said he doesn't buy into those theories. Cauble gave a tentative endorsement of some theories.

"I think there is some validity to a lot of them," he said. But, he added, "a lot of people laugh at them."

Cauble said he wasn't taking any theory as truth.

"I'll use (statistics) all day long if I think I'll do a better job, but I am not going to swear by anything."

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Colleges deal with violence on campus

SHOOTING from page 1

definitely a significant part of moving on for a number of people.

"If a person needs (counseling), get it for them. Penn State will be surprised by how many people were affected by this incident," Allen-Hogensen said.

The representatives said the incidents that had occurred on their campuses were unavoidable by university security procedures.

"There was nothing that could have been done," said Joe Cardona, assistant director of college relations at Rowan College in Glassboro, N.J.

"Additional police or metal detectors or anything wouldn't have made a difference," Cardona said.

One major difference between these incidents and the one that occurred on the Penn State lawn is that all of the shooters at these schools were somehow involved with their victims.

At California University of Pennsylvania in 1994, a football player shot two teammates after he saw one talking to his ex-girlfriend.

The University of Albany also survived an incident where it is believed the gunman did not know his victims.

On the last day of classes for the 1995 fall semester, a gunman held a class hostage for two hours. No one was killed before the situation was resolved. Students subdued the gunman.

Joel Blumenthal, associate vice president for university relations at the University of Albany, said they made counseling available immediately and asked professors to be lenient.

"We offered those students an opportunity to postpone their finals, most of them wanted to take them and get them over with so that they could get home to their families," Blumenthal said. "Unfortunately, (Penn State's) incident occurred in the middle of the semester."

A case similar to Albany's happened at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on Oct. 12, 1992, when student Robert McElroy aimed his .30 caliber semi-automatic weapon at a class of 20 students. The gun jammed, and McElroy was tackled by another student.

The students and faculty at these campuses said they all felt the incidents were definitely eye openers.

"The campus feels the incident is an unpleasant reminder that we are part of the real world ... the university is still part of a world that we may not want to be a part of, but are," Moore said.

The campus representatives said students will eventually stop looking over their shoulders and begin feeling safe on campus.

"If you're strong and have a good support system you'll be able to continue," Blumenthal said.

Allen-Hogensen added, "It's been a few years for us so it's rarely talked about anymore. I think we are returning to that feeling of a safe environment. It will take a while for people to feel that way again there too."

Staff writer Keightley Wittich contributed to this report.

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