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Law officials meet students

by BART BECKER
Staff Writer

A meeting between two Lincoln law enforcement officials and students, aimed at explicating police-student relationships, proved both amiable and informative Monday afternoon.

Gail Gade, director of campus security, and Lincoln Police Inspector Robert Sawdon answered questions for an hour in an attempt to clear up misconceptions students have about the police role.

The students seemed particularly concerned with the possibility that undercover agents are being employed by the police during demonstrations and to provide the authorities with information concerning drug usage.

SAWDON TOLD the small gathering that Lincoln police "feel good about the students."

He noted that during last week's march to the State Capitol "people went through the proper procedure. Everything went well from the police point of view."

However, Sawdon added: "We will never divulge when an undercover operation is in effect."

Gade was more specific. "We have no undercover people on campus," he said. But there is a "possibility" that informers exist on campus.

Gade pointed out that the term "informer" is open to a number of varied interpretations.

"WE'RE NOT in the business of enlisting students as informers," he said. "But students come in and volunteer information and they can't be classified as informers."

Sawdon agreed on the point. "About 90 per cent of our information is unsolicited. We'd like to develop more informants."

The discussion of informers led into the subject of communal living. Sawdon said that the Lincoln Police Department does not pay particular attention to the communal way of life in itself. He noted that many students who live communally do so for financial reasons.

"Our attention is not directed toward communal living unless something else brings our attention to it," he said. He mentioned that neighborhood complaints, and even complaints from members of the commune, may lead to investigations.

MANY COMPLAINTS deal with the possession, use or selling of narcotics, the officers agreed.

Said Gade: "We know narcotics are being sold. At this point we're not using informers or undercover people in this area. If we get someone in possession of or selling narcotics we have to take action."

The discussion turned to the recently purchased video-tape machine which was in evidence



Sawdon and Gade . . . no paid informants on campus.

during the rally on the Capitol steps last Wednesday.

GADE EXPLAINED that the machine had not been purchased specifically to provide surveillance at protest activities. He said that the unit "would have been a waste of money" if it had been

purchased only to record demonstrations and similar activities.

"It's a training aid," Gade explained. "It can be used to train new officers in how to proceed in situations with which they aren't familiar."

He also said it is possible that all Regents' meetings may be video taped as a means of recording what business is transacted.

Another piece of legal equipment which has come under criticism is the police helicopter. Several students claimed that the helicopter is being used to keep watch on private citizens.

However Sawdon denied this. The helicopter is used to patrol areas where rooftop crime is prevalent and to answer complaints where it can best be utilized, he said.

"WE GOT a deluge of complaints after we purchased the helicopter," Sawdon admitted, "but the helicopter is working real well."

Its most important asset, according to the veteran investigator, is to instill a fear into the possible criminal. He said the mobility of the helicopter makes it a deterrent to crime.

Despite the magnitude of the issues covered during the hour-long session Gade said that most contact campus police have with students is due to parking violations.

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Spring smoker Wed., May 12

7:00 p.m.

Nebraska Union

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Students' spring session
In the sculpture garden

Tuesday

10:30 a.m. -- Dr. Paul Olson--Parallels to the Counter Culture in other cultures

1 p.m. -- Wes Webb--Paris Peace Talks

1:30 p.m. -- Chicano Liberation Panel (Gilbert Pampas, Froben Lozada, Sam Ramirez)

2:30 p.m. -- Lanny Moles--Ridicimetaphysics

3:30 p.m. -- Don Hillman--Media and the Mind

7:30 p.m. -- Mary Alinder--Educated Natural Childbirth and Breastfeeding

Wednesday

9 a.m. -- June Levine--Foreign Film Rap

10:30 a.m. -- Gilbert Pampas--Political Mobilization of the Chicano People

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