

Shoplifting only minor problem at UNL

by Linda Larson

Shoplifting is always a problem but it's not as great on the UNL campus as on many other campuses, according to three local bookstore managers.

"We prefer to think of the kids on this campus as being more honest than kids on many campuses," John Wehr of the Nebraska Bookstore said Friday. "We extend as much trust as we can and will change only if they force us to."

"OUR MAIN problem is stealing from other kids, in the book drops in the front of the store," he said.

This type of shoplifting could be eliminated if students would use the lockers inside the door of the store, according to Wehr. The lockers cost a quarter but the coin is returned when the books are taken out.

"We would get more lockers if they were used," for they seem to be a good anti-shoplifting device," he said.

"THE MAIN TOOL we have against shoplifting is employ surveillance," Wehr said. "We greet as many people as possible."

This serves both as service and an anti-shoplifting function, according to Wehr. Making the customer know that you're aware of his presence is important, he said.

The goal of the store is for each customer to be able to recognize the employees and to be able to see one at all times, he said.

WEHR SAID he doesn't believe in mirrors and cameras

as anti-shoplifting devices. Too often surveillance tends to become a game, he said.

"We will and have prosecuted," Wehr warned.

Students and faculty are the ones hurt most by shoplifting, Wehr said. The company is not hurt when prices must be raised.

Larry Behrends, assistant manager of the University Bookstores, said shoplifting is definitely going up.

IT COULD become quite a problem, Behrends said, but his store is always working on ways to combat it.

"We continually work on layout of merchandise," Behrends said. Being able to find things easily cuts down on shoplifting, he said.

If someone has to hunt for something and then stand in line a long time to buy it he is more liable to just walk off with it, according to Behrends. Maybe he will feel he is justified due to his own inconvenience, he said.

"ACKNOWLEDGING the customer's presence immediately puts him on the defensive," Behrends said. If someone comes in the store with shoplifting in mind he will more likely carry out his idea if the only clerk is in the corner completely ignoring him, he said.

Behrends said prompt and friendly service are important factors.

"Clerks working on the sales floor are the biggest deterrent to shoplifting," Behrends said. "They must be alert at all times."

"WE HAVE HIRED off-duty policemen in rush periods and have tried mirrors," he said.

Behrends said most people think shoplifting is carried out only by the customer but this isn't true. The store has merchandise amounting to a certain investment, he said.

At the end of the year the books are balanced, Behrends explained. The difference is called shortage and it includes

shoplifting, mistakes in record keeping, and possible employee theft, he said.

"WE CAN ONLY make an estimated guess as to the actual amounts of shoplifting. It is different in each of our stores."

Stanley Linnertz, manager of the Campus Bookstore, said shoplifting is not as big a problem in the Midwest as elsewhere in the nation. He said shoplifting seems to go

hand-in-hand with student unrest.

The blame can't be put on the student entirely, Linnertz said. It is the store's fault too.

IF A STUDENT feels he is being cheated by exorbitant prices he won't hesitate as much to steal, Linnertz said.

It is important to develop a trusting relationship with students, according to Linnertz.

Volunteer orientation tells duties

An on-going volunteer orientation program has been organized at UNL for the purpose of informing and discussing the expectations of student volunteers. The program, organized by the Volunteer Council, will be on alternating Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the Student Union. Next week's orientation is Thursday.

According to Janet White, Volunteer Council member, the orientation program is important because volunteers often don't understand what is expected of them.

"For example," White commented, "a big sister volunteer may not realize what her role requires. It could take 6 or 7 weeks before she receives a response from her little sister."

The orientation will include the film, "Profiles In Poverty," a portrayal of poverty in Nebraska. The film will present facts concerning poverty and children which will relate to volunteer work with low income children.

"Volunteers should become familiar with low-income peoples' attitudes and how to

deal with them," White said.

Also on the orientation agenda will be discussions with experienced volunteers and community professionals. These discussions will provide volunteers with advice on avoiding pitfalls concerning the practice of giving money to the counselee and acting as a friend rather than a disciplinarian.

These discussions will also

deal with the different activities to pursue in relation to the counselee's attitudes and goals.

All new or potential volunteers will be required to attend an orientation. Volunteers who experience an orientation through their organization are not required to participate but are urged to attend.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Monday, Oct. 25

- 3:30 p.m. Nebraska Union-Student Tribunal.
- 3:30 p.m. Nebraska Union-Builders Scholarship.
- 4:30 p.m. Nebraska Union-Tassels.
- 5:30 p.m. Nebraska Union-Towne Club Pledges.
- 5:45 p.m. Nebraska Union-Alpha Gamma Sigma.
- 5:45 p.m. Nebraska Union-Unicorns.
- 6 p.m. Nebraska Union-Special Services Tutoring.
- 6:30 p.m. Nebraska Union-A.A.U.P. Dinner.
- 7 p.m. Nebraska Union-Prayer and Praise.
- 7 p.m. Nebraska Union-NFU "J.D. Salinger."
- 7 p.m. Nebraska Union-NFU


- "Libertarianism."
- 7:30 p.m. Nebraska Union-ASUN Nader Organization.
- 7:30 p.m. Nebraska Union-Math Counselors.
- 8 p.m. Nebraska Union-A.A.C.S.
- 9:15 p.m. Nebraska Union-Kappa Psi Pledges.
- 9:15 p.m. Nebraska Union-Kappa Psi Actives.
- Tuesday, Oct. 26
- 9 p.m. Women's Residence Hall-Walk for Development.

WARRANT ADS COMING UP PAGE 7!

TODAY! Through Sunday

Public Sessions Friday at 8:00-10:00 p.m.
Sat & Sun; 2:30; 3:00-5:00, & 8:00-10:00 p.m.

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Telephones: editor: 472 2588, news: 472 2589, advertising: 472 2590. Second class postage rates paid at Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Daily Nebraskan is a student publication, independent of the University of Nebraska's administration, faculty and student government.

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3:30 TUESDAY
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OTHER EVENTS TUESDAY:

- 1:30 pm "THE CAGE" will take part in the Teach-in on Prison Reform
- 7:30 pm Rap; Rap-in-Abel North Lounge
- 10:30 pm Teach-in on Prison Reform

"THE CAGE" sponsored by Union Talks and Topics Committee
Teach-in sponsored by Nebraska Free University