A policeman goes to college: a lot of work and studying

by Cheryl Westcott

What's it like, to be a cop going to college?

It's hard, according to Lt. Bob Jatczak of the Lincoln Police Department. "There's a lot of work to do studying and a lot of work to do here (police station)," he said. Jatczak said police work is

not just an eight hour job; officers often work 10 to 12 hours daily, and those attending college get the odd hours.

Jatczak, 34, is in charge of traffic and patrol for the second shift. He is also responsible for the police helicopter and does a lot of speaking to groups. He spent six years in the military, is now married and the father of five children.

"I understand people a little more now," he said. He noted that his college experiences have helped him with his speaking engagements.

His attitudes toward students have changed, he said. He had thought that many students were attending college to have a good time, but

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"There's a lot of them really trying to better themselves with an education."

Federal funds have paid tuition and fees for the policemen students, but the government funding will probably end with this semester, Jatczak said. Officers attending under the G.I. bill will be able to continue.

The Lincoln Police Department offers an incentive to the officer-student: a two and one half per cent salary increase for each 30 hours of college credit, and a 25 per cent increase with a degree.

Most of the students are attending college for more than the pay increase, Jatczak said. The courses required for a police science major help prepare the officer for better positions.

For example, Jatczak noted that the Lincoln department loses about one man a year who quits to become the police chief of a smaller city. There is a shortage of police science instructors and Jatczak was offered a position at Northwestern University, but did not have enough hours. He should receive his two year associate degree next semester.

Students pursuing a police science major must also have two 12-hour minors. Police courses deal with traffic accident investigation, patrol, report writing, police administration, and juvenile procedures.

The lieutenant has been attending UNL off and on for six years and until this summer did not let it be known that he was a police officer. Since

coming out openly, "It just seems a lot easier in the classroom now." Instructors frequently ask him legal questions and he can cite examples from his experiences.

Surprisingly, Jatczak said, there has been no animosity toward him when other students discovered that he was a cop. He senses a general feeling against authority on campus, but it has not been directed towards him personally. Those that know he is a cop are more friendly, he said.

Students come to him with problems and legal questions. He noted that out-of-town students and non-residents are frequently unaware of city ordinances and can accumulate citations quickly.

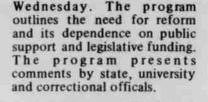
Some students have come to him with information about other people's use of drugs, he said. He follows these up by reporting them to the vice squad, "I'm dead set against narcotics, marijuana or anything," Jatczak said.

The police science major program originated in Omaha and was brought to Lincoln this semester. The program now has 104 officers and eight deputies attending UNL.



Prison teach-in on NET

The NFU Prison Reform Teach-in will be featured on NET's midweek program

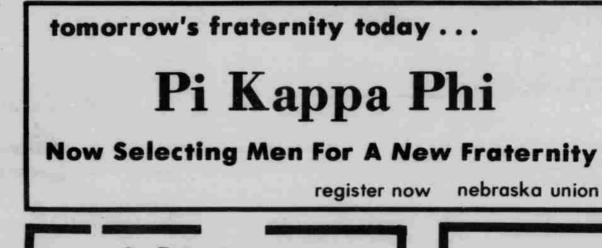


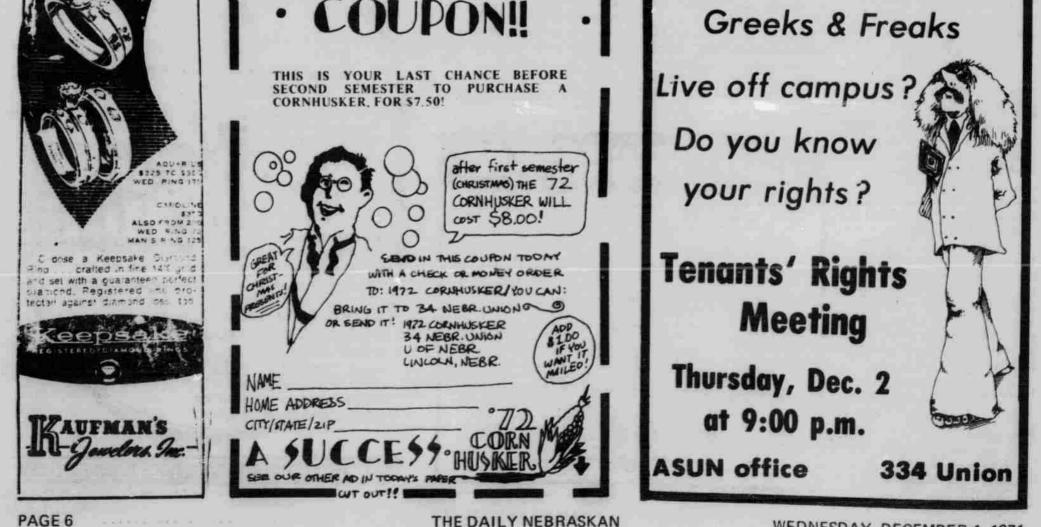
Excerpts from "The Cage," a play describing the lives of four prisoners confined in a single cell performed by former inmates of San Quentin will also be shown.

The Bread and Puppet Theatre, a troupe of puppets, masked players and actors, will present three works by Schumann on "Hollywood Television Theatre" Thursday at 8 p.m. The plays concern reincarnation, an anti-war story and a kingdom threatened by giants.

Joyce Chen returns to introduce the mysteries of Chinese cooking Thursday at 8 p.m. This week's recipe is egg foo yung.







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