## Warning tickets are issued as educational tools

By Kevin Higley

You were caught speeding and the officer let you off with just a warning. Consider yourself lucky.

Sgt. William Jernigan of the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) said that unlike a traffic citation, the warning does not count against an individual's driving record.

Jernigan said that the purpose of giving warnings is to point out to the individual that he has violated a city ordinance.

"The warning tickets are issued as an educational tool for the offender," he said.

Warning tickets may be given at the discretion of the officer for offenses that are not "real serious violations," Jernigan said,

He added that the most frequent use of the warning ticket is for individuals driving in excess of the speed limit. If he is only driving three or four miles per hour over the speed imit, Jernigan said the police will often give only a warning ticket.

Jernigan said that the warning tickets, which he estimated number in the thousands each month, are kept on file for about a year. They are only used for identification of automobiles in criminal cases. Other than that, he said they are not used by the department.

John Duve, parking and traffic coordinator for Campus Police, said warnings the Campus Police issue are handled in much the same manner.

Campus Police warnings issued on city property are forwarded to the LPD, said Duve. Those issued on campus-owned property are kept on file by Campus Police.

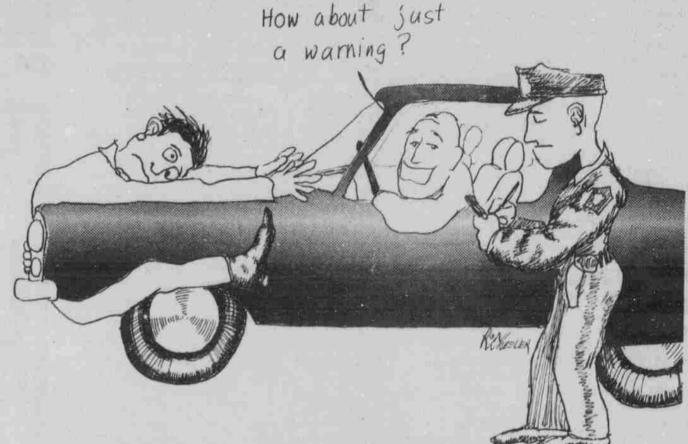
Duve said the warnings issued for parking and moving violations serve as a "courtesy

reminder" to the offender. They also help in increasing efficiency within the campus police system, he said.

Duve said that reoccurance of similar violations often times indicates there is a misunderstanding of a law. If this is the case, the Campus Police will take measures to correct the problem.

He added that by issuing warning tickets, Campus Police has a better record of the activities of its officers.

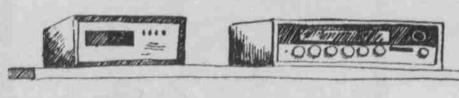
Campus police do not give many warning tickets, said Duve. They are generally given only during the first week of the school year before new students are familiar with parking regulations, he said.



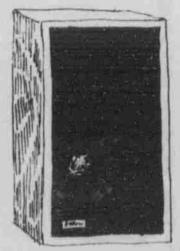
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