

Security measures "not always foolproof"

By Nancy Stohs

The good guy at UNL has tricks up his sleeve, too. So one concludes after a check into security measures taken against theft by University Police, the Union, housing office, and the bookstores.

Before you plot your next major rip-off, you might want to think twice and read on.

UNL dormitories

Every night student security guards are on duty, one to a residence hall, from 10:30 to 6:30.

Trained by Campus Security, they patrol basements and check students coming into the building for identification. After 1 p.m. they patrol the floors.

Any student entering a residence hall after 1 p.m. has to sign in himself and his guest. Persons caught

upstairs are checked against this list, University Police Lt. Robert Edmunds said.

Student guards are assisted by regular partolmen who patrol the campus at night.

If a prospective theft makes it upstairs without suspicion, he may run into another problem.

Over the past two years, a new, interchangeable lock system has been installed gradually by housing in residence halls.

Before, when a student lost his room key, he could buy a new one from the housing office for \$1.

Now, the lock is removed, all extra keys destroyed and a new "core" made that fits the old door knob. So if you find a lost key, it's probably useless.

According to Joe Zannini, assistant director of housing maintenance operations, the system is computerized so no adjoining rooms have similar cores which can be opened by the same key.

Also, keys for the new system can't be duplicated anywhere in Lincoln.

The new system is installed in all residence halls except Harper-Schramm-Smith, whose system will be finished by summer, and Abel-Sandoz, which will have it the summer after, Zannini said.

Union

The Union doesn't suffer from any "major" thefts, said Daryl Swanson, Union assistant administrative director. The many security steps taken there may be one reason for the dearth of thefts, he said.

Three years ago, self-service magazine sales at the North Desk were discontinued. Swanson said the Union had lost \$5,000 a year in magazines.

They now are sold by an attendant at a South Union counter.

Preventive tips told

To keep from becoming a theft victim, University Police recommend the following preventive measures:

Register valuables with the UNL police. Cards are available from ASUN or at police headquarters, on Avery Road, across the street from the north fieldhouse.

Don't leave your room for any reason without locking the door.

Don't take valuables with you when using a locker in a public dressing room.

Mark your property. This includes books. Electric engraving tools, called scribes, are available free to students and faculty from living units or UNL police.

Don't park your bike in an out-of-the-way place. Park it on bike racks in well-lit areas. Get a strong chain and gook lock, and run the chain through the front wheel and the frame.

Don't leave your car unlocked, and never leave valuables, such as tape decks, in plain sight. Lock these in your trunk if possible.

Don't loan out your keys. It takes only minutes to make a copy.

Don't be a victim of nonexistent companies or charities. Soliciting on campus without a permit is prohibited. Ask to see it.

Report a crime if you witness it. Or call UNL Police at 472-3555 if you see a suspicious person in your living unit.



In only 15-20 per cent of all reported thefts is the thief apprehended, according to Lt. Robert Edmunds, University Police.

Last summer a similar problem was alleviated, he said, when drinks in the North Crib were put on an order basis. Before, the assembly line was arranged so a student could fill up a glass and leave, or drink part of it, refill it and then pay for only one drink, he said.

24 hours daily

Custodial employes occupy the building 24 hours a day, all year long, he said. Storage and sales inventories are kept accurately.

In the main lounge no furniture is loose or easily movable. 30 potted plants are the only items unattached.

Even at that, the plants (at \$25-\$75) and the pots (worth \$50-\$100) disappear occasionally, he said.

The Union suffers mostly from what he called "aggravating theft," of silverware, of dishes from the cafeterias and directional signs saying "Room 232" with an arrow.

"What anyone would want with that, I don't know," he said.

Food service suffers

Food service suffers especially.

Every time the Union loses a white coffee cup, it costs \$1.06, said Bob Richeson, assistant director of food service. Each year 960 white cups are stolen.

Spoons disappear about 45 dozen a year (42 cents apiece), ashtrays, 90 dozen a year (30 cents apiece) and black coffee cups, about 25 dozen a year (\$1.92 each). The thefts total over \$2,100.

Swanson said his disappointment is that students aren't "more possessive" about property their fees have paid for, and don't volunteer information about thefts they witness.

He said he can't believe any crime can be committed easily in the Union with out someone—staff or the public—seeing it.

Bookstores

The perfect crime: stealing the books from another student, filling out a false drop slip and then reselling the books to the bookstore.

Perfect? Hardly. Cooperation among the three bookstores (Campus, University, Nebraska) will almost guarantee your getting caught, said Lt. Robert Edmunds, University Police.

When a student notices his books missing, Edmunds explained, he calls UNL Police and is asked to give the title, author and any other identifiable marks of the books.

That information is passed on to the bookstores, he said, and each time a book is resold, it is checked carefully for identifying marks.

In addition, the student selling the book has to show his I.D. card and sign the sales receipt.

Not all identifiable

One problem is that not all books are identifiable, said Linda Baker, trade dept. manager at Nebraska Bookstore.

If you sign your name on the first page, it will simply be torn out, she said. She suggested marking the book along the side, across the edges of the pages, with a felt pen, or signing your name on a certain page inside.

Some students are caught because they try to sell books dealing with unrelated fields, Edmunds said, such as pharmacy and law. Employes are aware of books unlikely to go together in one student's curriculum, he said.

Baker said at peak selling times, such as the beginning of the semesters, 70 additional people are hired to work at Nebraska Bookstore, but not necessarily for security.

Greek house thefts low, says Anderson

Two years ago, \$100 in clothing was stolen from the Pi Beta Phi sorority house at UNL. They were brought there by a member, who was a campus representative from a Lincoln clothing store.

No one saw who took the clothes, and they were never recovered.

Another sorority house lost over \$100 worth of food from their basement storage room in recent months. The door to the room was found unlocked at odd times, a member said, and packages of cheese were discovered behind the furnace, apparently for pickup later.

Again, no one was charged with the theft and the food was never recovered. Kitchen employes are suspected, however, of taking it and reselling it for cash. Last week the lock to the door was changed.

TV sets, tapestries, chests of drawers all have disappeared from UNL houses one time or another. And at least once a year several members notice they're suddenly missing small amounts of cash or other similar items.

The easy-come-easy-go atmosphere of Greek houses would seem to make them easy prey for Jack-the-Ripoff artists, and make incidents such as these common occurrences.

Most fraternities leave their front doors unlocked, and few sororities or fraternities have locks on the doors to their individual rooms, as in the residence halls.

"Friends" are free to wander upstairs anytime to look for a particular member, when perhaps they don't know anyone in the house.

A check with several of UNL's houses, however, shows the incidence of theft there is rare.

"Usually there are people around and about," said Jane Anderson, coordinator for Pannel and IFC, echoing what many houses said.

Sororities, usually more security-conscious, lock doors at 10 or 11 p.m. and issue keys to all members, she said.

In addition, many houses now have a "scribe" from University Police to mark valuable items, she said.

SAFETY PAYS

WARNING

ALL WAYS

SHOPLIFTING IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE

- IT'S 10-to-1 YOU'LL BE CAUGHT —
- YOU'LL DISGRACE YOUR FAMILY —
- YOU'LL SPEND TIME IN JAIL —

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THE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF NEBRASKA

All law enforcement officers, in uniform and plain clothes, are determined to catch shoplifters! Don't take a chance . . . The odds are too great against you . . . and the sentence can be severe.

THIS FIRM IS CO-OPERATING IN A PROGRAM OF CRIME PREVENTION

