



## UNL Police bureau stresses rape, rip-off prevention

By Deb Palmer

A student, Jack Horner, sat his stuff in the corner, in the Union while eating his pie. He was struck dumb, 'Cause when he was done, His stuff was nowhere nearby.

Apparently Jack Horner isn't the only one losing things. Last year, the UNL community lost \$109,000 from thefts, according to a handbook distributed by Campus Police.

But a new division within Campus Police is working to make students aware of preventive measures to "combat the problems we had last year," said Officer Maureen Knott.

Knott said she is one of three officers assigned to the crime prevention bureau, established this year by Police Chief Gail Gade.

The number of thefts from university buildings and living units was "unreal" last year, Knott said. But that number is decreasing this year and the crime preven-

tion bureau is definitely a factor in that decline, she said.

Officers have had talks with residence hall directors, sororities and fraternities about the safety measures available to prevent crimes in those places, Knott said.

"We need the cooperation of all the residents of the campus in reporting any suspicious activities of people who just wander around, ask questions and seem unfamiliar with campus life," she said.

Awareness of "what to look for" is the first step toward preventing crimes, Knott explained.

One segment of the bureau is the rape prevention program, which Knott said she has worked with again, in an effort to make students aware of preventive measures to avoid a "potential danger."

"New sexual laws have helped us understand that this crime (rape) should be reported and victims should receive the support and understanding of police officers and the courts," Knott said.

UNL has been fortunate in the low

number of rapes this year, she noted.

The crime prevention bureau also encourages students to register valuable property, such as stereo equipment, bicycles, watches and credit cards, with Campus Police.

Another safeguard against theft is inscribing valuables with social security numbers, Knott said. Scribers can be checked out at UNL Campus Police headquarters with a student identification card, she said.

The 45 commissioned officers working in Campus Police "try to keep their jurisdiction within the campus proper," Knott said, but because city streets run through campus, this is not always possible.

Campus police have statewide jurisdiction, she said, and work closely with other law enforcement agencies.

"We have a good working relationship with the county sheriff, city and state law enforcement agencies," she said.

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