



Radar usage still experimental, UNL police issuing warnings

By Mike Schmoltdt

Use of the VASCAR radar unit by UNL Campus Police is still "in the experimental stage" according to an officer certified to use the equipment.

Sergeant Mylo Bushing said Campus Police got the \$700 radar unit in late August on a grant from the Nebraska Highway Safety Council. No official citations, and only a few warnings have been issued to speeders caught on radar this semester, he said.

Bushing said only a few officers were certified to operate the radar equipment. Bushing said officer Phil Cross and UNI Parking and Traffic Coordinator John Duve both are able to certify members of the police force.

"We're experimenting with it right now," Bushing said. "We'll be in the breaking-in stage until we get more officers certified."

Duve said a training program is going on now and eventually all officers will be able to use the VASCAR unit.

The radar gun mounts on the dashboard of the police cruiser. A control box contains a mini-computer enabling the officer

to determine the speed of oncoming vehicles, whether the cruiser itself is moving or stationary.

Duve said the gun can be turned 360 degrees to get the speed of a car coming from any direction. The radar has a scope of four miles, he said, and has been proven in court to be accurate to within one one-thousandth mph.

According to Duve, the unit is portable and will be used constantly once the whole UNL Campus Police force is trained to use it. He said purchase of additional units would depend on need.

"We want to use it primarily to educate people as to what speed limits are," Duve said. He said warnings will be given first.

A second use of radar is to make traffic studies and determine if an area would be safer with a different speed limit. Duve said if the limit in an area is 35 mph but most motorists are going 45 mph, reducing the speed limit to 25 mph might be in order.

Duve also said an officer can set the unit at a particular speed and go about his routine duties. If a car in the area is going over the set speed, a buzzer will go off to alert the officer.

Agricultural depts. replant

Three Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources College departments now have homes in the new \$10 million Plant Science Complex on East Campus.

The Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Pathology departments are moving into 86,000 square feet of the greenhouse, according to Mike Boosalis, building committee and Plant Pathology Department chairman. The second building in the complex, an 87,000-square-foot laboratory building located north of Keim Hall, is expected to be ready for occupation by May 1978, he said.

The complex, begun in 1975, is expected to relieve overcrowded office and laboratory conditions in the departments' old quarters, Boosalis said.

The laboratory building will provide

more space for teaching, research and extension work, he said, adding the building will contain laboratory, office and classroom space in addition to conference rooms.

"The new complex will certainly improve the overall teaching program in the Agriculture College," he said.

Researchers will be able to work more efficiently, he said, because of new equipment and better environmental control in the greenhouses.

He said office and laboratory space now occupied by the Horticulture and Plant Pathology departments in the Plant Industry Building will be used by the Entomology and other departments which also have overcrowding problems.

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