

Library detector expected to decrease book theft

By Georgene Cetak

Joe College is back in school and scanning the book shelves in Love Library. Already he has two twenty-page term papers due in two days.

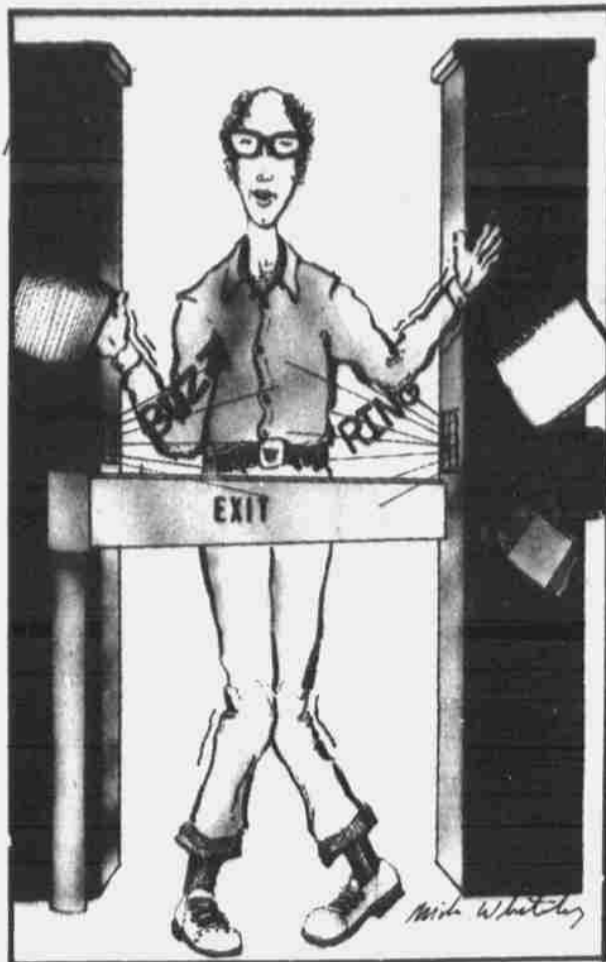
Loaded with six Shakespearean sonnets and eight anatomical essays, Joe heads pell-mell down the stairway toward Love's north entrance. He runs by the library desk, forgetting to check out his books and heads for the door.

Joe mumbles a few words to the book check-out worker. Suddenly, an alarm goes off and Joe feels a cool arm across his abdomen. He looks frantically to the book check-out worker, but sees no one.

Joe has been caught in the clutches of, not a bionic burglar alarm, but Love's new check-out system.

The device, installed during the semester break at a cost of approximately \$46,000, will hopefully curb an annual \$26,000 loss due to book thefts, according to Gerald Rudolph, dean of libraries. Money for the project was allocated through the university's equipment fund.

Rudolph compared the system to an air-



line security device.

"We've placed a target in books to trigger a response when someone exits through the security point," he said.

When books are checked out of the library, the targets are deactivated by a machine operated by an employee behind the desk.

Rudolph said if a person leaves the library with books that have not been deactivated, an alarm sounds and an arm locks, preventing a person from passing through the gate.

When books are returned they are reactivated before being replaced on the shelves.

Although the book targets are not readily detectable, it is possible to see them, said Dean Waddel, assistant dean of libraries.

"There is no guarantee if you do find a target that there aren't more than one, though," Waddel said.

The library staff began marking the books in November.

Rudolph said some materials returned this month may trigger the alarm because

they have not been targeted.

If a person is found leaving the library and the alarm goes off, "we'll assume the person just forgot to check the material out, and we'll ask him to check it out," Rudolph said.

Waddel said if a person is caught stealing books, UNL Campus Police will be notified. Waddel said thefts are not only a financial loss, but an inconvenience for the library staff.

"In some cases they (library materials) are impossible to replace," he said.

Hundreds of the library security devices have been installed across the country, Rudolph said. "It (the device) has proven to be fairly reliable in other institutions."

The University of Nebraska at Omaha, Kearney State College, Chadron State College and Doane College all have installed similar devices.

Two full-time employees, several student assistants and other library employees checked-out books previously. The employees have been reassigned to other library tasks in security, maintenance and circulation, Waddel said.

Correction

An error made during the drafting of a legislature bill led to an inaccurate report of LB789, introduced by Sen. Donald Dworak of Columbus. The bill would raise the age for buying off-sale alcoholic beverages to 21, but would not raise the legal drinking age.

LB679 by Sen. Ralph Kelly of Grand Island, if passed, would raise the drinking age to 21.

The Daily Nebraskan incorrectly identified Sen. Martin Kahle of Kearney as Sen. Maurice Kremer of Aurora in a photograph. The report and photograph appeared in the Jan. 16 issue of the Daily Nebraskan.

Bill increases physician's aid trainees

By Gail Reid

The number of persons accepted into the physician's assistants training program at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine would increase during the next three years if a bill introduced in the Nebraska Legislature becomes law.

Lincoln Sen. Steve Fowler's LB669, would require the college to expand its program and train at least 30 assistants in 1978, 45 in 1979 and 60 in 1980.

Additional physician's assistants could extend health care to rural areas, and supplement doctors' effectiveness, Fowler said.

"The university has not been as aggressive as it should have been in expanding this program," he said.

However, Jessie Edwards, assistant director of the physician's assistants program, said he did not know what the impact of more trainees would have on the program. An increase to 60 trainees could present some problems, and the proposal will have to be further studied, he said.

Nancy Loftis, research intern for Fowler, said there is "a severe shortage in health manpower." Currently, there are 39 assistants in Nebraska, and it has been estimated there is a need for 146 more, she said.

The bill would help produce more assistants to meet needs as quickly as possible, she said. More assistants would allow doctors to use their time and expertise more efficiently, she said.

Edwards said physician's assistants are supervised by a doctor, but their duties include giving physicals, making rounds to hospitals, taking medical histories, diagnosing and prescribing treatment for patients.

During the first 14 months, the physician's assistant's study program is essentially the same as that for medical students. Assistants also see patients, but there is less emphasis on severe problems, Edwards said.

The primary goal of the program is to place physician's assistants in rural areas, he said. Of 52 assistants who were graduated from the medical center, 33 still are in the state; 22 working in areas with less than 5,000 people, he said.

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