

Student security guards now patrol classroom buildings

UNL students prowling about campus buildings at night, may be caught by classmates.

Campus buildings now are being patrolled at night by nine or ten part-time student security officers instead of commissioned officers, according to Sgt. John Burke, coordinator of student security.

The system began because of vacations, days off and sick leave left university police shorthanded, Burke said.

The system is similar to the one coordinating student security officers in the residence halls. Student officers have checked resident's keys and patrolled the hall floors since 1972.

"The ones (building officers) we have now are experienced officers in the residence halls . . . some of them are criminal justice majors," Burke said. They average about two years security experience, he said.

Previously, the city campus was divided into three districts and East Campus into one.

"It got to the point that sometimes we'd have one officer downtown and one on East Campus," Burke said. "It was quite a job to get to a building once."

Under the student security system, there are four smaller districts on city campus and two on East Campus.

"When we get a full staff, the buildings will get covered more often and more thoroughly hopefully three or four times a night," Burke said.

Officers check for locked doors, fire hazards, maintenance problems and unauthorized people in the buildings.

The student officers' uniforms are different than the commissioned officers and residence hall security people, but they carry the same two-way radios.

"If there is a disturbance, it would be just like in the residence halls," Burke said. "If they have time to contact one of the cruise officers by radio they would do that."

"Naturally, if they needed to step in and assist somebody, they would. But not at the risk of themselves being hurt."

Student officers cannot make arrests but act as witnesses for regular cruise officers, Burke said. The student officers handle all reports except those for major offenses, he said.

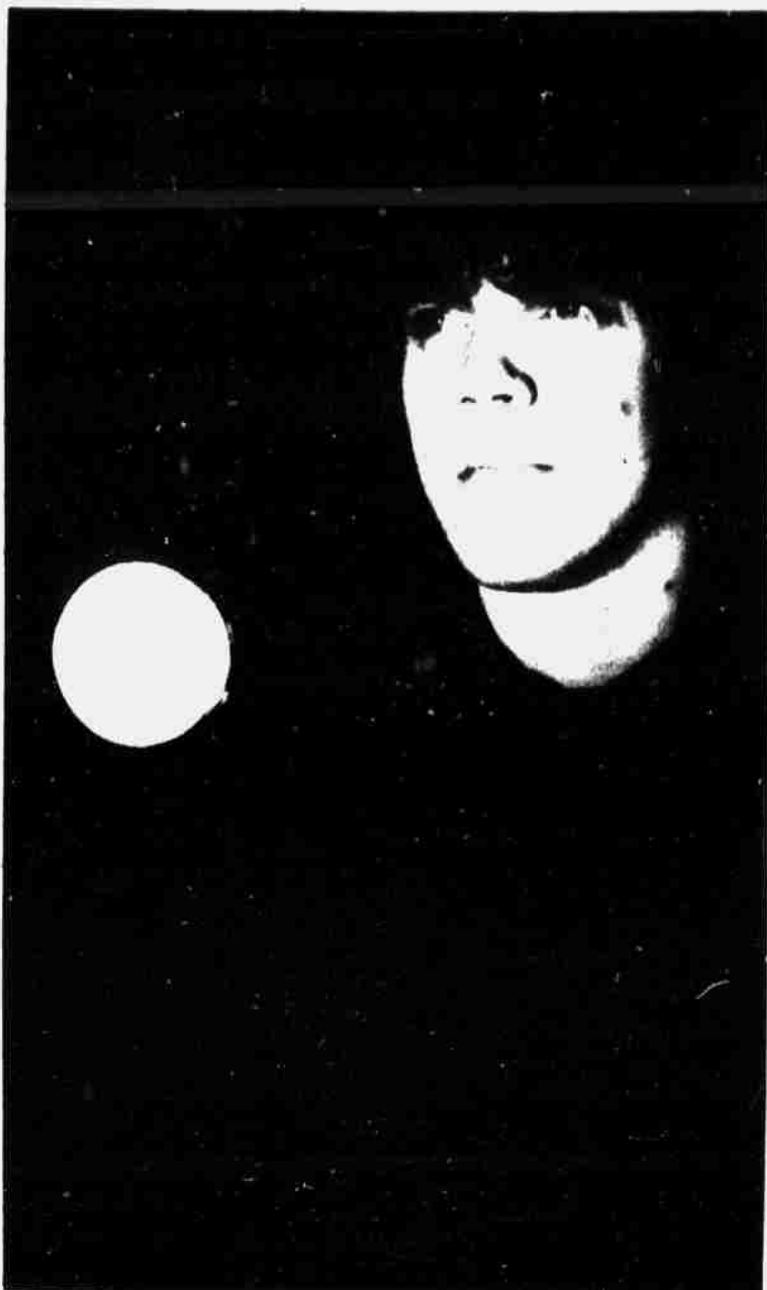


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Student security guard Cooper Hanson shines the light during his rounds of UNL city campus buildings.

Student officers initially are assigned with an experienced campus security officer, Burke said. "Some of them have been out on their own and done fairly well," he said.

Besides better security, the program also saves the university money.

"We could get five student officers for the price of four or three commissioned officers," Burke said. "It's one of the top paying part-time jobs on campus."

The students receive \$2.95 an hour.

The officers find the job "a change of pace," from working in the residence halls, said Cooper Hanson, a student officer.

Although Gunther Feiste said he prefers working in the residence halls where there is "a little more action," he agreed there is "less of a chance of falling asleep in the buildings."

The officers said they preferred student security work over other part-time employment.

"It beats waitressing," said Debbie Larkin. "You don't have a supervisor riding your back all the time if you do your job right."

The three said they schedule classes so they can catch up on sleep in the mornings or afternoons. Hanson and Feiste said they are considering law enforcement careers as a result of their jobs.

The program still is on a trial basis and will be evaluated by June 30. A formal request to continue the project will then go to administration.

FAB gives graduate group new life

By Mary Fastenau

The Graduate Student Association will reactivate since it was given funds by the Fees Allocation Board at its Feb. 24 meeting.

The board granted the Graduate Student Association \$82 to use as "seed money" to publicize the organization.

Suzu Prenger, a graduate student, said the group was caught in a "vicious circle" because the organization has been considered inactive since January 1977. She said they needed the money to publicize the group's reorganization.

The Graduate Student Association is a resource from which the university takes graduate students to serve on various committees. The group will be concerned with inequality in teacher assistants' salaries, graduate student status and the basic rights of these students.

The money was allocated from the contingency fund with the provision that it be used before July 1, the date that was set after the NU Board of Regents' decision to transfer allocation powers to ASUN.

In other business, Godfrey Edozien, president of the

African Student Association, requested \$800 for an African Week and a final party for his organization.

The request was not granted. FAB chairman Nate Eckloff said the board did not think the money would reach a large number of students, a factor FAB must consider.

He also said the contingency funds were to be used in "emergency situations", and the African Student Association was not in danger of disbanding if money was not allocated.

The board also granted deadline extensions for budget requests. These extensions include the Cultural Affairs Committee to March 2, the University Health Center Unions to March 13.

Jack Guthrie, FAB adviser, said he thinks the board was justified in demanding criteria for fees allocation next year.

The board did not reach a decision.

The next FAB meeting will be March 9 at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

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