

# Thieves find UNL is an easy target

By Val Swinton

Apparently, UNL has become easy pickings for thieves in the area. University Police report that last month alone, over \$10,000 worth of university and private property was stolen from campus offices and residences. If that sounds like a lot, it sounds even more serious when broken down on a day-to-day and hour-by-hour basis. According to police figures, an average of \$322 a day worth of property was taken, or \$13 every hour of the month.

"It seems as if there are no specific areas on campus I can see where we're having a problem," according to University Police Sgt. Joe Wehner. "However, we're really getting hit bad in the offices where the secretaries are."

Wehner said the most common problem is the billfold or the purse.

"The secretaries leave their purses under their desks when they leave the office for a minute," he said, "When they come back, it's gone."

### Don't lock door

Wehner says office personnel don't lock office doors when they leave for a short time, and the same problem occurs in residence halls.

Another problem, the UNL investigator said, was with office inventories. Referring to office personnel, Wehner said, "They're not aware of what they got, they don't check it on a day-to-day basis."

Wehner also said there's not an adequate inventory system for university-owned property, and that items worth as much as \$100 often are not inventoried.

A spokesman in the UNL Inventory Department confirmed this, saying that according to the guidelines established by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the minimum value of property to be inventoried

is \$200.

However, the spokesman also said some items that are easily stolen, such as calculators, must be inventoried even if they are worth less than \$200. Each department on campus is re-inventoried every two years, and department personnel must account for missing items.

### Others stolen

But purses and billfolds are not the only items stolen. Wehner said televisions, fire extinguishers, typewriters, jewelry, stereos and records and tapes are also favorite targets.

Thefts of bicycles were down last month, with only three reported stolen. However, Wehner said, bicycle parts, such as tires, account for a lot of reported thefts, and he urged student and faculty cyclists to chain bikes properly, through the front and rear tire, with a heavy chain.

### Who commits thefts on campus?

"We know that there are probably some students and maybe even staff members involved," Wehner said. "But we are convinced that the majority of the thefts are committed by people who are not university-related."

"They are preying on the people at the university," Wehner added, "because they are such easy targets."

Wehner said arrests reveal that about 60 percent of the crimes are committed by persons not connected with the university.

He said he's not convinced that the crime rate on campus is rising, but rather more and more people are choosing to report thefts.

Wehner said the ultimate goal of the police department is to have all thefts reported.

## Woman lawyer fills vacant council seat

Arlyss Brown, a former assistant city attorney has been chosen to replace councilman Richard Baker, who was elected County Clerk Tuesday.

Baker will officially resign from the council Monday, and Brown will be appointed Nov. 20.

Brown, the wife of former clerk of the Legislature, Vincent Brown, has said she will seek election to the council next spring.

Her address, 5800 The Knolls, would apparently make her eligible to run as a council representative for south Lincoln under a plan approved by voters Tuesday to elect four council members by district.

Brown was said to have been selected because there were no women on the council and because her political views are similar to Baker's.

The present city council is only the second since 1940 not to have a female member.

Brown, a Republican, describes herself as moderate to conservative.

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