

Over-assigning dormitory rooms is necessary—Zatechka

By Kathryn Haugstatter

Some UNL students currently living in the lounges of the residence halls may still be there at the end of the term, according to Richard Zatechka, director of Housing. Of the approximately 240 students that began the semester in temporary housing, Zatechka estimated there were 15 men and 36 to 38 women still in lounges last Friday.

Zatechka said the only way they can move into the rooms is for other students to drop out of school or to move off campus.

But there will not be a problem getting rooms next semester, he said.

According to Zatechka, housing has been over-assigned

for four or five years but the number of students affected this year is the largest so far.

"My guess is there will be over-assigning again next year," he said.

He listed several reasons for over-assigning, such as freshmen and sophomores required to live on campus and admissions at UNL higher than in the past.

Zatechka said many parents he has spoken to feel on-campus housing is a nine-month hedge against inflation.

He also said the civil strife in Iran and the resulting increase in gas prices meant many students couldn't afford to commute.

"Do I tell these people no, you can't live here, take your chances with inflation. Many of them can't afford to live off-campus, so where would they go?" asked Zatechka.

There are no plans at the moment for more residence halls he said.

"We can't predict what the number of students seeking housing will be in a couple of years. It would be fiscal irresponsibility to spend \$4 to \$6 million to build a hall that might only operate one-and-a-half to two years," he said.

Zatechka said he is considering adding more triple rooms in the future. There are now 70 of them.

But Zatechka said he is not convinced the temporary housing situation is the big problem people make it out to be.

"Students spend eight to nine semesters getting a bachelor's degree. Is it that big an inconvenience to live in a lounge for a few months?" he asked.

Rape . . .

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Delta Delta Delta sorority had two members of the Lincoln Police Department speak on the subject Monday night, according to Corrine Wright, a member of the sorority. She said she has heard the rumors concerning sexual assaults, but that was not the main reason for having the officers talk.

In addition to discussing general safety at night, they talked about the importance of keeping the house locked and what to do in case of attempted break-ins, she said.

Wright said the officers said there has been an increase in the number of reported sexual assaults this year. She added that they are hoping it is an increase in the number of reported assaults and not an increase in the actual number of assaults.

Sgt. Charlie Clark, one of the two officers speaking

to the women, said current trends would project an increase in the number of first degree sexual assaults. There have been 49 such cases in Lincoln so far this year, he said. Last year, there were 31 cases through July.

There has been an increase of 130 percent during the last ten years in major crimes, Clark said. Sexual assaults fall into the category of major crimes, he noted. Clark added that he hopes much of that increase is because of an increase in the number of crimes reported and not an actual increase in the number of crimes. It is difficult to determine which is the case, he said.

According to various studies, a majority of crimes go unreported, he said.

Clark said that policies have changed in recent years and the number of victims reporting crimes may be going up.

"We try to build up a trust between us and potential victims. This helps get them to report things," he said.

He added that in 1976, the entire LPD staff was trained in techniques of interviewing sexual assault victims. Victims are being protected more now than they were in the past, he said.

Even though the rumors appear unfounded, Clark said he thinks there is still a need to let people know what to do in case of attack and how to avoid an attack. "I would never pass up a chance to talk to somebody," he said.

To help avoid an attack, he said to always travel in pairs. "Sexual assaults are a crime of opportunity and if there is more than one person, the attacker will not see the opportunity," Clark said. He added that if someone is attacked, they should attempt to escape rather than fight back.

Three charged with vandalism

University police said the alert action Saturday of a custodian in the administration building led to the arrest of three men who allegedly stole a Nebraska state flag and caused \$110 worth of damage to flagpoles.


According to police reports, Dale Runge, the custodian, notified police that the men

were vandalizing the flags east of the administration building. Runge's call was in time for the police to apprehend three University of Missouri students who were in Lincoln to see the Nebraska-New Mexico State football game.

Theft and vandalism charges were filed against the three, police said.

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