

Apathy brings disaster . . .

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The investigator said the big problem is that pranksters fail to consider the life threat in setting fires, and don't consider the fires as arson, but as jokes.

"If they don't start understanding the danger that's involved, someone's going to get killed," Kuticka said. "We're just sitting on a time bomb. It's going to happen."

UNL hasn't had a fire fatality for several years, but Kuticka said he's afraid someone will die before students wake up to the arson problem.

"The public doesn't get concerned until it affects them personally," Kuticka said.

He said some students are concerned about the fires, but many are not worried enough to offer help to fire in-

vestigators.

Kuticka said 50 or 60 cases have been difficult to solve because nobody wants to help. Anyone who has information about the fires can call the state office's arson hotline, and remain anonymous. The number is 112-800-742-7766. Information could lead to a reward if an arrest and conviction are made, Kuticka said.

He said he would like students to offer ideas about solving the problems with fire in residence halls and said he would meet with students to hear them.

Arson seems to be increasing in residence halls, reflecting a statewide arson increase, Kuticka said.

He said the people who set fires pay for the damage along with innocent persons, in increased housing costs.

Frequent fire alarms, whether actual ones or prank ones, produce a dulling effect on hall residents' fear of fire, he said.

"The fire alarms go off so many times that students pay no attention," he said.

The insensitivity to danger causes many students to sleep through alarms, Kuticka said, and this could prove deadly when smoke seeps into their rooms.

"On an average, people will not wake up under fire conditions," he said. "Smoke is like a depressant."

Kuticka said he hopes it doesn't take a disaster like last year's MGM Hotel fire in Las Vegas to prompt students to consider the danger of lighting fires and the danger of ignoring alarms.

Six named to national 4-H congress

Six UNL students will attend the National 4-H Congress in Chicago Nov. 27 through Dec. 3.

The national conference is made up of state winners in 4-H from all over the United States. There are 37 project areas in 4-H in which people are chosen, with one person attending the conference from each area.

Louie Rudman, an extension specialist in 4-H youth development, said 1,600 people attend the conference annually. He said it is an honor for a person to be chosen as the state winner in a particular area and have the opportunity to attend the national conference.

The UNL students who will attend the congress are Sandra Anderson, undeclared; Dale Kavar, an agriculture major; Gloria Keiser, a home economics and communications major, also the Nebraska State Delegate to the con-

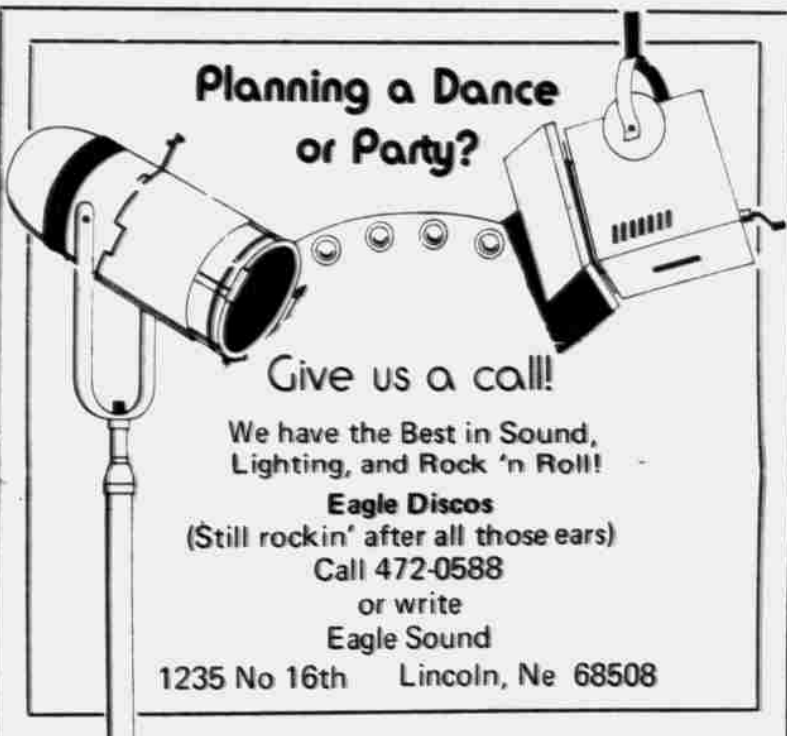
gress; Lisa Krause, a business administration major; and Susan Kurz, a human development and elementary education major.

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