Officials to closely monitor group disturbances

By Vicki Ruhga

Inappropriate behavior at football games, group disturbances and bonfires will be monitored closely by university officials and police officers, said David De-Coster, UNL dean of students.

This policy has been in effect for three years and is fairly routine, DeCoster said. It states that UNL officials and police officers will be active in personally identifying those who behave inappropriately.

In order to accomplish this, plainclothes and uniformed police officers will assist in crowd control and individual arrests, DeCoster said.

Police officers also will photograph participants and make further arrests after those involved are identified. The university will continue to take disciplinary action with students when needed, he said.

According to the policy, arrests could be made for a variety of reasons including littering, use of alcohol, disturbing the peace, destruction of property, arson and interfering with the work of police and fire department officers.

Capt. Ken Markle of the UNL Police Department said plainslothes police officers are used fairly often in all phases of police work.

"It really depends on the situation," he said. "If there has been a problem with thefts or molests in a certain area, we put both male and female plainclothes officers in the area."

Markle said four female officers and 32 male officers can function as either plainclothes or uniformed

Cameras and other security serveillance devices are used to identify participants at group disturbances.

"Few problems occurred last year," DeCoster said. "I am very optimistic that UNL students will continue to be good sports supporters and remain cooperative in cutting down on this problem."

DeCoster stressed that in previous years, several problems have occurred.

"Extemporaneous pep rallies and bonfires resulted in a good deal of property damage," DeCoster said. "Large crowds of people who had been drinking presented the real potential for personal injury on the part of students."

Occasionally, intoxicated students would harm themselves by attempting to jump through the fire or prevent a police or fire officer from doing his job, he said. DeCoster said the bonfires did a substantial amount of damage to city roads.

"Football games were also somewhat dangerous, primarily because people were throwing objects such as oranges," DeCoster said. "Spectators were often hit. and a couple of years ago an official was hit. The game had to be stopped while first aid was administered."

"Student sentiment obviously favors our policy," he said. "They realize this type of behavior is no longer just good fun."

DeCoster emphasized that the objective of this policy is not to arrest or discipline students, but to eliminate activity that is dangerous and unhealthy.

"It is only fair and appropriate to make this an ongoing concern, so that this type of behavior does not spring up again," he said.



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Niche sells handmade items

The UNL textiles, clothing and design department offers a unique opportunity for students to sell handmade articles.

The Niche, located in the East Campus bookstore, sells baskets, bags, jewelry, pillows, wall hangings and other articles made by students.

Deb Davis and Melanie Cox, the students in charge of the shop, said they are concentrating on getting students to submit projects.

Since some students are reluctant to sell their handmade articles, Cox said she encourages them to make two so they can sell one to pay for the one they keep.

Although The Niche is mainly for textiles, clothing and design majors, Davis and Cox said they welcome handmade articles of original design from any student, as long as there is space available.



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