

Campus watch group forming for safety's sake

By Eric Peterson

A student volunteer group may patrol areas in Nebraska Hall and Love Library next semester to ensure student security. Troy Lair, a junior political science major, is in charge of the project and is working with ASUN's Campus Life Committee. Lair said Neighborhood Watch groups working in many Lincoln areas inspired the possibility of a similarly organized watch group to patrol

potentially hazardous parts of the UNL campus.

"It would be a deterrent to crime," Lair said, "and will give campus a more secure feeling, so that people walking across the grounds can see some of our people there and know that they'll be safe."

Lair said two sexual assaults in the Nebraska Hall area have made some students apprehensive about being on campus late at night.

"The big effect crime has on people is fear... The campus should do something to alleviate that," he said.

Student volunteers would work in pairs and wear distinguishing clothing. They would also carry two-way radios. "In case of emergency, they can call immediately for help," Lair explained.

He said some fraternities and residence hall floors already maintain escort services for women who are on campus late at night and are afraid to walk alone. Lair indicated he will work with these groups and try to coordinate them with his own.

Lair said the ASUN Senate, the UNL police and the UNL administration all have expressed support for the volunteer patrol plan. He said a rough constitution

is now being formulated for the group, and that administrators and the UNL police plan to offer suggestions and revisions for it.

"One of their main concerns was for the volunteers not to take action by themselves, but to call the police if trouble occurs," Lair said.

Shelley Stall, attorney and director of ASUN Student Legal Services, has aided Lair in working on the plan and the patrol constitution.

"It seems that there are a lot of different legal questions involved" involving the rights of the volunteers involved and liability in case of the unexpected, Lair said.

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Trauma victims benefit from hospital's heliport

By Linda Liekhus

"Trauma is the greatest killer of people between the ages of 1 and 44," said Carol Petersen, head nurse of the emergency department at Lincoln General Hospital. Lincoln General, designated as a trauma center, has recently built a new heliport to provide quicker transportation service for trauma victims.

Petersen said that in trauma cases "the first hour is the critical period and the salvage rate (of victims) is critically increased" if victims are received at a trauma center within that first hour. The heliport, built with donations of \$150,000, allows Lincoln General "to provide all types of accessibility to the trauma center," Petersen added.

She said any helicopter can land on the heliport, which was constructed on the roof of the building. Sky Med and Life Flight, Omaha based helicopter firms, have made the most use of the heliport, although it has been used only five times since it opened Nov. 1, 1982, she said.

Petersen said she expects more usage of the heliport, but she "can't even anticipate any projected figures" for the future.

Along with Lincoln General, other Lincoln hospitals have taken interest in the transporting of patients by helicopters.

Carol Dahl, director of public relations at St. Elizabeth Community Health Center, said St. Elizabeth's heliport has been a "real good thing for the hospital to have." However, at St. Elizabeth's, the heliport is better described as a helipad because it is located on the ground, Dahl said.

Since the building of the helipad

in 1971, the center has had a lot of use, especially by the helicopters of Pathology Medical Services, which operates the laboratory at the hospital, Dahl said. Army National Guard helicopters have used the helipad the most.

Life Flight and Sky Med use it also, she said.

Many of the patients transported by helicopter are either going to or coming from the neo-natal intensive care unit or the burn trauma unit at the hospital, Dahl said.

The Heliport at the Veterans Administration Medical Center is rarely used, possibly once or twice a year, said J. Gonzales, chief of the medical administration service.

The heliport, which was constructed several years ago by the National Guard, can be used only during the day because it doesn't have lights, only reflectors, he said. However, it is important that the hospital have the facilities so helicopters can land there, he said.

The only Lincoln hospital that currently doesn't have a heliport is Bryan Memorial Hospital. Yet, "it is something we can probably consider," said Ron Wachter, hospital vice president.

Bryan Memorial is currently undergoing construction, so the possibility of a heliport won't be considered until late 1985 or early 1986, when the construction project is finished, he said. An occasional helicopter does land now, although there isn't a heliport.

After the construction project is finished, "if we're interested and can justify it, (it) looks like we can find someplace to locate it (the heliport)," Wachter said.

Human rights event Dec. 10

Human Rights Awareness Evening, in conjunction with International Human Rights Day, will be at the Malone Community Center, 2032 U St., from 7 to 10 p.m. Dec. 10.

The keynote address will be given by state Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha. In addition, dancers from the Indian Center, Inc., the Hispanic Children's Dance Group and the Cambodian Dance Group will provide entertainment.

A \$2 donation is suggested. The event is co-sponsored by Nebraskans for Peace and Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty.

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