

Holloway: Gays have nothing to fear from the police

By Deb Kole

Sgt. Jack Lancaster of the Lincoln Police Department's public relations division spoke at the Gay Student Group meeting Thursday, to promote a cooperative relationship between the police and gays.

The Lincoln Police Department is very crime prevention- and community relations-oriented, Lancaster said.

"There is no policy towards homosexuals that I'm aware of, but the attitudes are very liberal. I don't think that officers intentionally harass gay people."

"Over all the Lincoln Police Department is a very professional department," said James Holloway, president of the Gay Student Group. "Gays have nothing to fear from the police. They take the appropriate action. But if gay people are harassed, they need to know that there are avenues that they can use to complain and that there are organizations to back

them up."

If a person is harassed by an officer, he should report it to the internal investigations division of the police department, Lancaster said. The complaint will be investigated and any necessary action will be taken.

"The action can range from a personal action report being filed to the officer being fired," Lancaster said.

Holloway said he did not believe gays are subjected to any more harassment than most people.

Harassment and assaults against gays are not a major problem, Holloway said, especially on campus.

But the victims of crimes which do occur have a responsibility to report it to make sure the person won't do it again, he said.

The main problem is that gays fear publicity, Holloway said.

"A person can remain anonymous up to a point," Lancaster said. "We're very careful about not releasing names when the victims do not want it released. If a person has to go to court, however, he can no longer remain anonymous."

A vast majority of gays in Lincoln have one foot out of the closet, but one foot dragging behind, Holloway said.

"I've openly admitted that I'm gay and I've had no problems, no harassment," Holloway said. "The times I've come out, I've admitted in the proper context. I don't walk around broadcasting it, but I don't hide it."

"It angers me that I have to make such a big deal about it — 'being gay' — to protect my civil rights," he said.

"Most people think of a faceless abstraction when they think of a gay person, so it's easy to be prejudiced," he said.

"I know of very few people who have

come out to friends and family and had problems," he said. However, employees and landlords sometimes do cause problems, though, he said.

About 20 people attended Thursday's meeting. The group has a core group of about 20, Holloway said.

The Gay Students Group, soon to be called Gay Students Association, was formed to provide a place for gay people to meet each other and come out of the closet, Holloway said.

Lancaster's speech also emphasized crime prevention.

"The time to think about being a victim is before the crime, not after," he said.

He suggested having bolt locks on all doors, keeping all windows and doors locked, placing identification marks on all valuable property and forming Neighborhood Watch Programs. He stressed the importance of reporting all crimes. of reporting all crimes.

Housing rates ...

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Allocation of tickets should be a board decision, not an administrative decision, Janzen said. In 1975, the board set a precedent by allocating 2,800 tickets to the medical center.

"We are the only group of students losing chances to purchase these football tickets," Janzen said. "Students on our campus should be treated no differently than other students or staff and faculty," he said.

Although the medical students will lose their tickets, the medical center staff and faculty will not.

"Evidence does not indicate a shortage of tickets for UNL staff, students and faculty," he said.

Massengale said that last fall, 300 full-time UNL faculty who wanted to purchase tickets could not because of a shortage.

Regent Robert Koefoot of Grand Island said he tried to arrange a hearing with Massengale concerning ticket allocation prior to the board meeting, but Massengale did not return his call.

"I was ignored and it makes me damned mad," Koefoot said. "I think his decision is wrong and he should give the Medical Center students back their football

tickets." He said, however, that the allocation of tickets is still a UNL administrative decision.

The medical students applauded as four medical students and three alumni spoke in favor of keeping ticket-purchasing privileges.

Former UNL football captain and first-year medical student Randy Schleusener said college football has been invaded with a big business atmosphere. Taking tickets away from a student group is "removing the student part of the student athlete."

UNL Alumni Association President Roger Anderson and UNL Faculty Senate

President Larry Walklin supported Massengale.

The UNL Alumni Association is receiving fewer football tickets, Anderson said.

Walklin said the decision is an administrative decision at UNL. He pointed out that part-time faculty and volunteers at UNL also have had their ticket privileges taken away.

Massengale said that he would listen to the medical students' complaints and look into the situation further, but that UNL students, faculty and staff must be served first.

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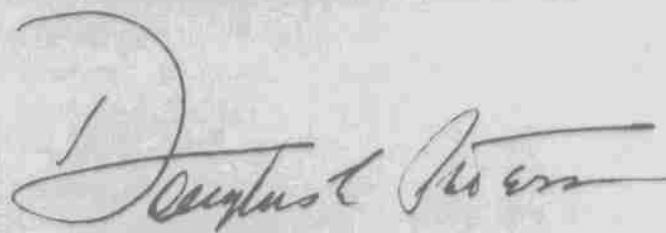
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"Internation Climate of Women" City Union

Tues. Feb. 22
Safety and Sexual Harassment Task Force 12 noon-1 PM
"Sexual Intimidation and the Chilly Climate" City Union

Thurs. Feb. 24
Child Care Task Force 12 noon-1 PM
Discussion of Child Care Options City Union

Tables of Six

Wed. Feb. 23
Networking Task Force 12 noon

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