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Watch group readies for patrol

By Lauri Hopple

The UNL Student Watch Group will begin its final training phase Wednesday and Thursday nights. Red Cross volunteers will train the group in first aid before the group's campus patrols begin Sunday.

Gayle Smith, the group's vice president, said about 90 volunteers participated in the first two training sessions conducted by the UNL Police Department and the Rape-Spouse Abuse Crisis Center of Lincoln.

The organizations emphasize education about and prevention of sexual assaults on campus.

Beth Meyer and Margie Rine of the center outlined the psychology of the potential rapist and the

potential victim at the center's training center Thursday.

There are three types of rapists, Meyer said: sadistic, power or anger assailants. Sadistic rapists make up only 2 to 3 percent of all assailants, while the other two types comprise the remaining number.

"These are the guys who get all the press," she said. "These are the guys like Jack-the-Ripper."

Power and anger oriented assailants use the act of intercourse as a way of gaining control over another person. The assailant usually has very low self-esteem and often feels helpless and depressed, she said.

Rapists often search for certain types of prime

victims, Meyer said. These are people who appear to be vulnerable, indecisive and passive. Other signs may be a failure to meet the potential rapist's gaze or fumbling with car keys or other objects, she said.

Meyer said rapists often use fear tactics or size advantage against the victim more often than weapons.

The most frequent type of rape is date rape, or the assault of one person by another when they are together in a social situation. This type of rape is the least frequently reported, she said.

Meyer also explained Rape Trauma Syndrome and how Student Watch Volunteers should handle people affected by it.

The first stage of RTS is the acute stage, Meyer said, which occurs immediately after the assault. The victim could be hysterical or extremely calm. Calmness is considered psychological shock. The acute stage lasts from a few hours to three days.

Denial is the second stage, where the victim pretends the assault did not upset her. It usually lasts from one to two weeks but can last longer.

The final stage is what Meyer terms the trigger to resolution. This is usually when the victim finally comes to the crisis center for help, Meyer said.

Meyer and Rine evaluated the volunteers' abilities to handle potential rape situations by assigning them roles to play at the training session.

The UNL police conducted a training session Sept. 28 and 29 to instruct volunteers in use of two-way radios, patrol techniques and assessing suspicious persons and situations, descriptions and crimes in progress.

The volunteers also were instructed in the legal aspects of participation in a crime watch group, Smith said.

Smith said the group's policies are to call the police immediately if criminal activity is suspected and to make the presence of the group known at the scene if the crime involves endangering another's life.

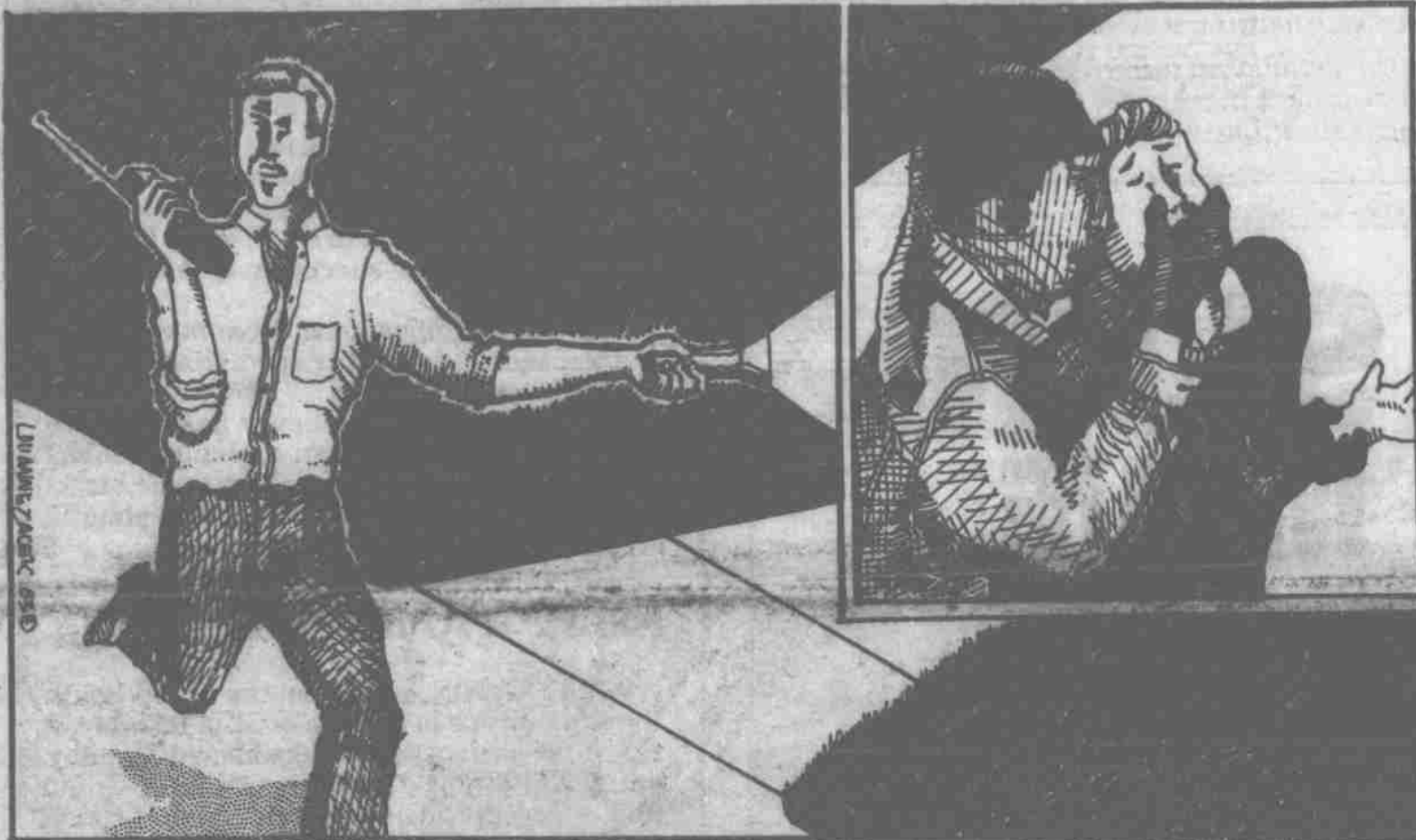


Illustration by Lou Anne Zacek

Officers file sex discrimination suit

By Lauri Hopple

A suit filed against the UNL Police Department for alleged sexual discrimination against female employees has resulted in a recommendation that Police Chief Gail Gade be suspended for five days without pay.

Affirmative Action Office Martin Bradley Munn of the UNL Equal Opportunity agency made the recommendation to UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale last week after UNL Police Parking Control Officers Barbara Houlihan and Susan Feiler filed suit in August.

According to an Associated Press article in the Lincoln Star Thursday, Massengale should reach a decision sometime this week.

Munn also recommended that UNL Police Lt. John Burke be suspended for three days with pay, the article said. Burke is the supervisor for Houlihan and Feiler.

Munn was unavailable for comment this weekend. Houlihan said she filed suit because of unfair treatment from her male supervisors.

She said she was placed on probation for 30 days after being two minutes tardy on Aug. 18. Both Houlihan and Feiler received counseling because of tardiness.

Houlihan said the male officers who were tardy did not receive counseling or probation.

"Probation can lead to termination — that's the scary thing," Houlihan said.

According to the AP article, lawyer Dorothy L. Thompson was called in to review the case. Thompson also is affirmative action director at Kansas State University.

A report by Thompson indicated that no such action was taken against two male security guards who were occasionally tardy, the article said.

Houlihan said sexual discrimination happens frequently in the department.

She filed a previous sexual discrimination suit a year ago with the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission. She said she filed suit after receiving a negative evaluation by a supervisor. She also said she was disciplined for infractions for which males were not disciplined.

"The negative evaluation was based on personal feelings rather than my performance as a parking control officer," she said.

Houlihan said the suit ended with a pre-determination settlement which stated that female security guards at the university would not be discriminated against in the future.

"Obviously it didn't work," Houlihan said. Houlihan said she is not optimistic about possible changes brought about by the new suit.

"This is not the first suit filed and the administration has taken no action, so this suit might not change anything," she said.

Burke said Sunday he preferred not to comment. Gade declined comment Monday.



Staff photo by Craig Andresen

On the upswing

Every fund-raising event can have its ups and downs but Dee Rath, a sophomore human development major, rose to the occasion Monday outside the Nebraska Union during the Gamma Phi Beta Lambda Chi Alpha Teeter-Totter-a-thon. The 168-hour totter-a-thon began last Saturday and will continue through this Saturday. All proceeds will be donated to the United Way.

Tuesday

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