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MANHATTAN'S

Court volunteers aid crime victims

By Lauri Hopple

The Victim/Witness Unit of the Lincoln Police Department tries to "tune people in" to victims' emotional traumas, unit administrator Shirley Kuhle said Tuesday.

Tuesday marked the first day of the unit's volunteer training sessions in November. Volunteers must have 12 hours of training. Kuhle said the next session will be from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the police department, 233 S. 10th St.

Kuhle, the only full-time police officer at the unit, said the volunteers learn how to counsel and assist victims as they experience emotional trauma and proceed through the criminal justice system.

"We walk them through the whole court procedure," Kuhle said. "Sometimes we might not say anything, but just being there gives them support."

The unit serves victims for the five most serious crimes: murder, sexual assault, robbery, felony assault and burglary, Kuhle said. She said the unit also works with all elderly people who are victims of felony crimes that cause trauma.

Kuhle said Sen. Carol Pirsch of Omaha helped establish the unit in March 1981. It was formed partly because people were afraid of the criminal justice system and were not reporting crimes, she said.

"If a victim is afraid of the system and won't report the crime, the person who victimized him will know they can go back and do it again," Kuhle said. "Without a witness in court we cannot put the person in jail to keep him from victimizing more people."

However, Kuhle said the main reason for forming the unit was to help victims.

"You have to look at what is happening emotionally to people," she said.

Kuhle said there will be another volunteer training session in January. Any UNL students interested in internships should call Kuhle as soon as possible at 471-7181.

Shorts

Shirley Kuhle, administrator of the Victim/Witness Unit of the Lincoln Police Department, will present awards to Lincoln Police Chief B. Dean Leitner and Lancaster County Attorney Michael Heavican for cooperation between the two departments in support of victims' rights. The presentation will be made at 9:45 a.m. today in District Courtroom I at the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St. Only 15 awards are given nationally to recognize individuals contributing to the establishment of victims' rights on state and local levels.

Steven Willborn will present "You and the Law: Employment Discrimination," from 7 to 9 p.m. today in the Nebraska Union. The seminar is sponsored by the College of Business Administration.

Off The Wire

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

Turkish Cypriots claim independence

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Turkish Cypriots, who occupy about 40 percent of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, Tuesday declared their area as an independent state and named it the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash made the proclamation of independence to a cheering crowd of about 5,000 people outside the Turkish-Cypriot assembly, which voted unanimously in favor of the move. Cyprus has been divided between Turkish and Greek Cypriots since 1974, when Turkish troops invaded to protect the Turkish Cypriot community after a Greek-backed coup aimed at unification with Greece.

The declaration sent shock waves through the rest of the island, inhabited by Greek Cypriots, and brought sharp world reaction. Spyros Kyprianou, president of the Cyprus Republic, bitterly condemned the declaration and called for international action to reverse it. Turkey announced it would recognize the Turkish-Cypriot state.

The British government, which gave the island its independence in 1960 and retains two military bases in the south, deplored the Turkish Cypriot move but said it had not prompted any British troop movements on the island.

In Washington, the United States called on other nations not to recognize the Turkish-Cypriot state and expressed regret at Turkey's decision to do so.

"We condemn the move by the Turkish Cypriots to declare their independence and we regret that the government of Turkey has recognized this new polity," State Department spokesman Alan Romberg told reporters. He said the United States considered the move "unhelpful to the process of finding a settlement" to the conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Soviets reject proposal

MOSCOW — The official Soviet news agency, Tass, Tuesday called Washington's latest arms proposal at the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles "absolutely unacceptable." In the first official response from Moscow to President Reagan's latest initiative, Tass said the offer did nothing to bring the two sides closer together and was only a new version of the U.S. "interim option" put forward earlier this year.

Soviet negotiators left Tuesday's meeting in Geneva after an unusually short 35 minutes, but agreed to have another session Thursday, U.S. officials said. Moscow threatened late last month to walk out of the arms talks if deployment of new U.S. cruise and Pershing 2 missiles began in Western Europe. The first cruise missiles arrived in Britain Monday.

Bid-rigging uncovered

AERON, Ohio — Two produce companies have been indicted in a price-rigging scheme that allegedly inflated prices Kent State University paid for produce used in the 14,000 meals it serves to students each day. The Portage County prosecutor estimated that the prices paid by Kent State were 40 percent higher than normal levels. The school spent about \$135,000 a year for fresh produce during the four years covered by the investigation, the prosecutor said.

Soccer fans get unruly

BRUSSELS, Belgium — English soccer fans traveling to a European championship game in Luxembourg rampaged through Belgium Tuesday, leaving a trail of broken bones, police said. Early Tuesday, about 50 drunken fans fought in the streets of Ostende. Four people were hospitalized for fractures. Police had to call reinforcements to quell the trouble and held 15 fans for identity checks. Later, a group of English fans beat up a Belgian railway employee. Police escorted the group off the train, but later released them. Minor skirmishes involving drunken fans also were reported in Luxembourg's capital, and police advised shopkeepers and local residents to close their shutters before tonight's match.