

# Police Report

The following incidents were reported to UNL police between 12:44 a.m. and 10:19 p.m. Monday.

12:44 a.m. — Person on horseback reported ringing doorbells at 16th and R streets. Police were unable to find anyone.

2:16 a.m. — Burglar alarm reported sounding in a car at 26th and Lynn streets.

8:05 a.m. — Parking permit reported

lost or stolen.

8:45 a.m. — Textbooks reported found by Lincoln police. Owner has not been located.

10:15 a.m. — Accident reported at 16th and Vine streets; no injuries were reported.

10:37 a.m. — Fire alarm reported sounding at Plant Science Hall.

10:45 a.m. — Person picked up by

police in the area of 14th Street from Vine to U streets. Person was returned to a psychiatric unit where he had walked away from earlier.

12:30 p.m. — Parking permit reported stolen from a car in Parking Area 1 near 19th and Vine streets.

12:47 p.m. — Parking permit reported lost or stolen in McCook.

2:26 p.m. — Fire alarm reported sounding at Research Annex A, 329 N. 12 St.

3:35 p.m. — Belated report of money stolen from the Cather-Pound-Neihardt snack bar.

5:25 p.m. — UNL police assisted Lincoln police with an accident involving

minor injuries.

5:42 p.m. — Burglar alarm reported sounding at the Nebraska State Historical Society.

5:45 p.m. — Burglar alarm reported sounding at the south Stadium 113. Police think it may have been tripped by the weather.

6:19 p.m. — Burglar alarm reported sounding at the south Stadium 113. Police think it was tripped by the weather.

6:33 p.m. — Burglar alarm reported sounding at the south Stadium 113. Police think it was tripped by the weather.

6:59 p.m. — Burglar alarm reported sounding at south Stadium 113. Police

think it was tripped by the weather.

7:30 p.m. — People reported throwing rocks at the east side of the Whittier Building.

8:07 p.m. — Person reported soliciting in Sandoz Hall. Person was issued a warning.

8:24 p.m. — Person arrested for reportedly disturbing the peace on the east side of the stadium.

9:13 p.m. — UNL police assisted Lincoln police with an accident on the R street entrance to I-80. No injuries were reported.

10:19 p.m. — Loud stereo reported at 519 N. 16th St.

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Bill Conrad/Daily Nebraskan

Leta Mae Rempe packages some bulk foods at the Open Harvest Co-Op and Bakery. The store stocks spices, whole grains, nuts and beans.

## Cooperative food store survives by expanding grocery inventory

By Kevin Dugan  
 Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

In a system where dollars and sense draw the bottom line, change is synonymous with survival regardless of how unconventional a business may be.

The cooperative food movement, spawned in the late '60s and early '70s, was in more recent years shaken down to its grass roots financially.

The Open Harvest Food Co-op and Bakery, 2637 Randolph St., held out longer than most, but eventually it too cast aside its conservative ways and changed with the times.

So, if you're a bead-wearing vegetarian shuffling along in Birkenstock sandals through a Republican era, you'll still find a wide assortment of natural foods at Open Harvest.

Open Harvest is a non-profit, member-owned grocery open to the public. The cooperative sells cheese, produce, spices, whole grain products and other natural foods. Nebraska has four stores and about 50 food "clubs."

Store manager Jerry Johnston said a national trend of co-op insolvencies developed in the late '70s. Many stores went broke, including two in Iowa. Johnston said these failures forced the store to reconsider earlier ideals.

Open Harvest was slow to change and came close to bankruptcy. The co-op lost more money last year than it had netted in all previous years combined, Johnston said.

As a result, in November 1983, the member-elected board of directors decided survival supersedes philosophy. The board altered the store's business practices, appearance and membership format.

Johnston, an MBA student at UNL, was hired as store manager and was not stranger

to the organization. He has made his way through the ranks from a working member to the board and eventually to his present position.

Johnston said the purpose of Open Harvest is to offer an alternative, inexpensive method of supplying food and service.

Originally, this was accomplished by pricing a straight percentage markup on all products to cover the cost of maintaining a store.

This led to a struggle of ideals against realities, he said. He said the financial problems that arose may have been because of naivete about marketing and general business practices.

"It was a matter of change or die," Johnston said

Open Harvest patterned its changes after an Iowa City, Iowa, co-op where, Johnston said, business is now booming.

A more efficient approach was taken toward buying, marketing, management, advertising and inventory. The store now watches margins and covers cost.

Incorporating these basic business changes has made a difference. Johnston said the volume of business at Open Harvest has always been consistent, yet the co-op has operated in the black since summer.

He said future projections are promising because business volume coincides with the school year.

"I don't know why it is," he said, "because I don't think a large portion of our members are students but business always picks up from September to May."

Johnston said fewer than one-third of all shoppers at Open Harvest are vegetarians. Most people buy at the co-op to supplement other grocery shopping.

Many of the products sold at

Open Harvest are considered specialty or gourmet items elsewhere. Johnston said Open Harvest can sell these items cheaper because inventory volume is much greater than at a health food store or grocery store. "Not everyone eats tofu," he said. "But everyone puts pepper on something, and we've got pepper cheap."

Open Harvest has changed its physical image as well. This was done to better fit the times and to attract more people, Johnston said. The store has a new floor and new bulk bins.

Political statements are no longer displayed in windows because, Johnston said, "some people considered them offensive, and our policy is not to alienate any portion of members or the public in general. We want to serve more and preach less."

Another recent change in Open Harvest is the membership format.

Previously, people were required to work at the co-op to be members. Johnston said this policy was a board decision that excluded people who didn't have time to work.

Currently, a \$25 single member fee or a \$40 household (two adults) fee is the only requirement for membership.

Since this policy change, membership has increased from about 400 to 700, Johnston said.

Open Harvest has a five-month payment plan for those who cannot pay the entire fee at once. The fees are completely refundable upon cancellation of membership.

Co-op members receive a 10 percent to 15 percent price reduction on all store merchandise. Workers receive an additional 3 percent discount for about two hours of work a week.

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