



## Just doing their job brings officers wrath

By Dan Lonowski  
Staff Reporter



Some folks scream at her and call her names. Others get down right mean. Most know she's just doing her job.

Kathy Kulwicki, a UNL parking control officer, takes it all in stride. The UNL sophomore expects a few foul words from the public because she has an unpopular job — handing out parking tickets.

UNL parking control officers handed out about 49,000 parking tickets last year, an increase of 12,000 from 1983. Parking violations generated more than \$170,000.

Kulwicki said most folks who receive tickets are mad at themselves rather

than her.

"Sure we get a few of them that holler in our face, but most realize that we are just doing our jobs," she said.

Bryan Kratochvil, a junior in his first year as a parking control officer, agreed with Kulwicki.

"Most people are pretty cooperative," Kratochvil said. "Usually, we don't get any problems at all."

The UNL Police Department has been hiring students as parking control officers since 1983. Rather than hiring all full-time officers, the department employs two full-time and 12 part-time parking control officers. The 12 part-timers are all students.

The department also dropped the old "meter maid" tag and began calling them parking control officers.

"They do more than write tickets for meter violations," said Lt. John Burke, of parking and traffic division. "The students are a godsend on football Saturdays. They really help out," he said.

Burke said the students help patrol the stands and guide traffic during home football games. They also patrol campus during regular working hours, watching for suspicious people or possible criminal violations. Each officer has a radio.

Some days are busier than others. "Some days, I haven't written more than a handful (nine or 10)," Kratochvil said. "Other times, I might write steady all day."

Kratochvil and Kulwicki said they try to maintain good relations with students. Kulwicki said if she is still present when students find a ticket under the wiper blade, and they don't get visibly upset about it, she usually will let them off the hook — that's "void the citation" in police terms.

"I've heard some good excuses why people are parked illegally," Kulwicki said. "Some have no place to park, some are only there for a few minutes, and some are late for class."

OVERFLOW PARKING AVAILABLE  
IN OUR WEST 33RD STREET  
PARKING LOT



Photos, clockwise from top: Parking control officer Bryan Kratochvil places a citation on the hood of a car parked in the south stadium lot. Jamie Helzer studies her watch during a slow moment of the north lot at the Continuing Education building on east campus. Parking control officers Kratochvil, left, Helzer, right rear, and Jerome Bohaboj, right front, receive check off lists of parking violators that have paid their overdue tickets from Sgt. Dick Gammel. Two of the familiar signs showing designated parking in the lot west of Memorial Stadium. Kratochvil checks for expired meters.



Photos  
by  
David Creamer