

Daily Nebraskan

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UNL gets clean record in crime report

By **Amie DeFrain**
 Staff Reporter

Beating its Big Eight conference rivals with a totally "clean record," the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus reported no incidents of violent crime in 1988, according to a FBI national crime report released August 6.

"I was rather surprised," said UNL Police Chief Gale Gade, referring to the results of the report. "Other campuses had (re-

ported incidents) of violent crimes, and here, we come up with a clean record," he said.

As defined in the Justice Department Uniform Crime Report, violent crimes include murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Gade said there wasn't one "absolute reason" for the low number of reported incidents at UNL. But he credited the clean slate to the combined efforts of students, staff, visitors and all other people tied to the university.

"We feel really good about the fact that it turned out like that for 1988, whomever may be responsible," Gale said.

The year before, UNL had four rapes reported and four aggravated assaults.

Gade said UNL also placed in the top ten in a survey conducted by the University of Washington in Seattle.

Of the 22 universities that participated in the survey, Gade said,

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Spire: Bodies often silent for reputation protection

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bodies must hold their discussions and make their decisions in open forum, there are exceptions to that rule. One of those exceptions is personnel matters.

Spire said that sometimes public bodies do not disclose reasons for actions in personnel matters in order to protect the reputations of the people involved.

Meyer said the Roskens decision ceased to be a personnel matter when money came into the picture.

"There is a problem with the way everyone is taking the interpretation of open meeting laws," he said. "This failed to become a personnel matter after they decided to retain or fire Roskens. The salary is an appropriations matter."

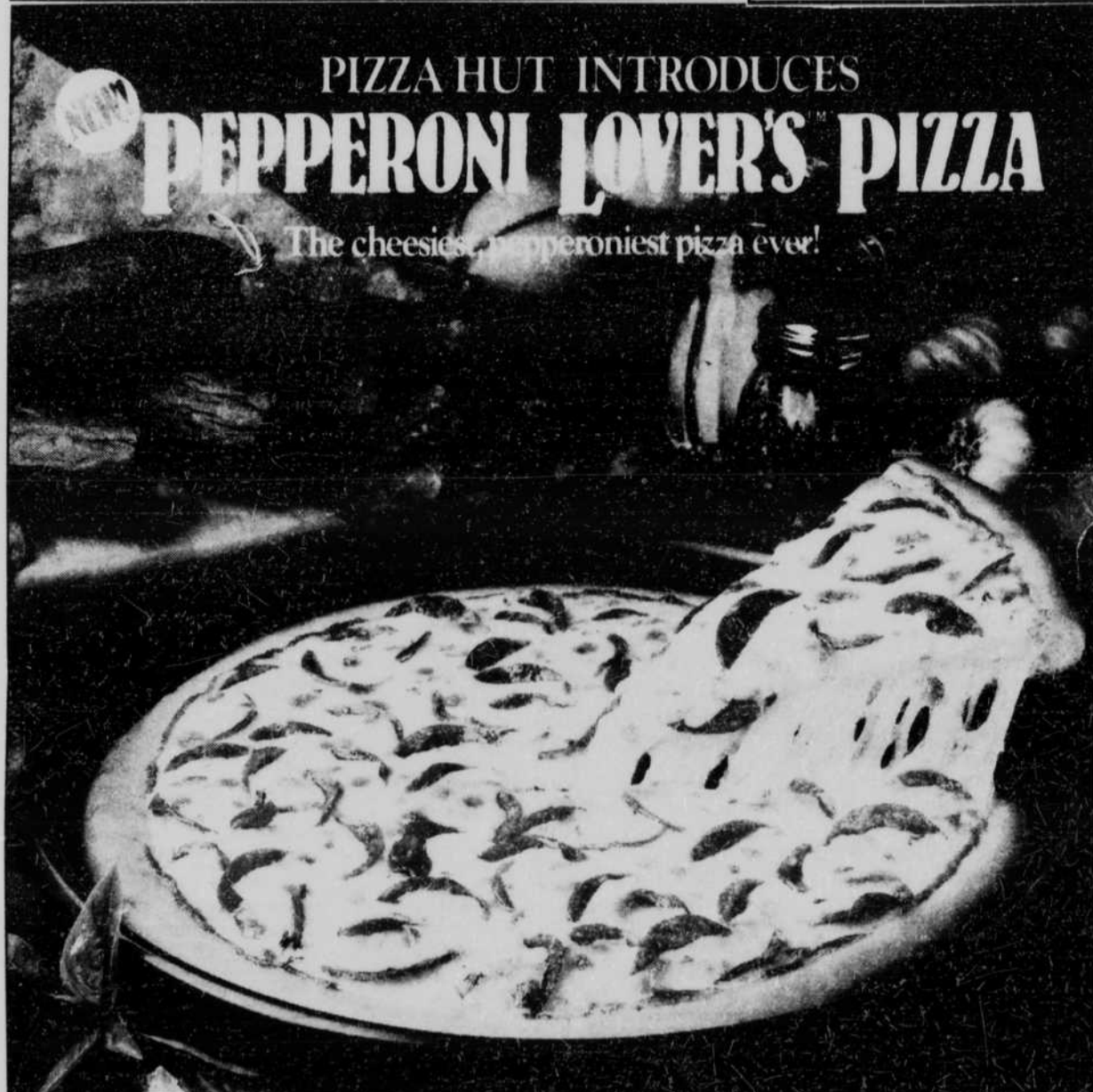
Spire said he could not comment

specifically on the Roskens situation because he did not have all the facts surrounding the regents' decision. He said no state senators had asked him for his opinion on the Roskens situation.

In a letter concerning a closed session held by the Department of Health Certificate of Need Review Committee, Spire wrote the Open Meetings Law "is intended to be interpreted broadly."

In the letter, written Feb. 13, 1987, Spire wrote that state statutes and "the history of open meetings law nationally" calls for open government.

"Secrecy in government is devastating," Spire wrote. "It eliminates accountability. And accountability is fundamental to our governmental system."



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