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Incidents likely related

Vandals puncture several tires

By Jerry Guenther
Senior Reporter

The Lincoln Police Department does not have any suspects yet from at least 54 confirmed reports of tire punctures that occurred in Southwest Lincoln over the weekend, a police officer said Sunday.

Sgt. Dave Hamly said most of the tires appear to have been punctured sometime after midnight

Friday and before 3 a.m. Saturday.

The vandals did most of the damage between A Street and Highway 2, and from 13th to 27th streets, Hamly said.

About six other unconfirmed cases of tire punctures also have been reported, Hamly said.

Police believe all the incidents are related because the tires were all punctured with what appears to have been a small knife or ice pick, he said.

Randy Pavey, interim manager at T.O. Haas Tire at 13th and South streets, said he knew of at least 15 people who came in Saturday to have their tires replaced that were all punctured in the same way.

Pavey said the tires were struck in the sidewall, making them just about impossible to patch.

T.O. Haas Tire, which normally closes at 1 p.m. on Saturdays, extended hours so people could get their tires replaced, Pavey said.

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HITCHCOCK from Page 1

Hitchcock says the United States at that time was aware of what was happening, but chose to do nothing about it because it was not in its interest to interfere in the food process. He says the United States was propping up the government that it wanted there for political reasons.

"I was on my own. Even though what I was saying from the standpoint of human rights was correct, and from the standpoint of the people I was working with was correct, the political implications were sensitive," he says.

Hitchcock also spent a year in a small village in Botswana in Africa. While there, he worked on the issue of land rights for the bushmen.

The bushmen were being affected negatively by land reform programs sponsored by the World Bank and in part by American tax dollars he says.

According to Hitchcock, the World Bank land and livestock project was pushing for the land to be divided into large ranches, enhancing conservation, wildlife utilization and use of the land.

That meant the bushmen on the land would have to move. Hitchcock says he helped get land set aside for them to continue to live a pastoral existence.

When he arrived in the small village, the people asked him to help them get tenure rights to their land, he says. The first time they came to him, one of the things they wanted was a school for the village, he says.

Hitchcock says he got the school started, getting schoolbooks, and paying for the teacher himself.

"It was a small private school that has now been taken over by the government," he says.

The people wanted health programs, so he arranged for a mobile health unit to make medical visits, and a clinic eventually was set up, he says.

"I made a difference and that's the critical thing," Hitchcock says.

In the classroom, Hitchcock is always on the move.

He writes a point on the blackboard, talking and analyzing the issue as he drifts slowly toward the window, gazing out as he approaches. Suddenly, he turns, rushes back to the board to write down a new thought.

Rod Brandenburg, an anthropology graduate student and Hitchcock's teaching assistant, says Hitchcock is one of the most dedicated professors he's ever known.

"Bob is always updating his lectures -- not every year, but every semester," Brandenburg says.

Hitchcock doesn't tell his students how it is, Brandenburg says, but presents all sides of the issues and then leaves it up to them to form their opinions.

Hitchcock has published many articles and books, including more than 20 publications in the last year.

"He is special (because of) his work ethic, which is all the time," Brandenburg says. "He's always in his office... working on papers or for publications."

"Most of all, what makes Bob special is the fact that he's very dedicated and really cares about what he's doing."

Hitchcock says many anthropologists condemn his work, saying that he is trying to change the people he is studying.

"I say no, I'm trying to give them an opportunity for them to make their own choices," he says.