

Recent car vandalism prompts Crime Stoppers reward offer

From Staff Reports

A recent spree of vandalism to vehicles in Lincoln has prompted Crime Stoppers to issue a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible, the Crime Stoppers coordinator said.

According to Lt. Lee Wagner of the Lincoln Police Department, car windshields and side windows have been shot with a BB or pellet gun or car tires have been slashed.

At least 100 cars have been vandalized since November, including 15 to 20 Monday night, in northeast and southeast Lincoln, Wag-

ner said.

Bob Fixter, the president of Crime Stoppers, said the award was approved Tuesday and will be in place for 30 days.

Marjorie Shriver, public relations chairwoman of Crime Stoppers, said the award money comes from donations and fund-raisers.

"We hope the reward will encourage someone to come forward with the information eventually," she said.

Anyone with information about the vandalism should call Crime Stoppers, she said. Informants will remain anonymous.

Drug

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ted.

Boot camps are "cruel and unusual punishment," Walker said. "You will be able to find people to support the bill, but look at who those people are," Walker said. "The Nazis would support it; they loved the idea of regimentation. The Ku Klux Klan would support it; they already wear uniforms."

The committee also heard testimony on LB976, which would establish drug-free zones around all elementary, secondary, post-secondary and vocational schools, as well as playgrounds, youth centers, public swimming pools and video arcades.

Sentences for manufacturing, distributing, or possessing controlled sub-

stances within the drug-free zones would be harsher than convictions for the same crimes anywhere else.

Sen. Carol McBride Pirsch of Omaha, one of the bill's sponsors, said the purpose of the LB976 is to try to do something about the early age at which children begin to use drugs.

She said the bill would work best if large signs were posted around the drug-free area.

"The signs will remind dealers to leave our children alone, that we are determined to stop drug use in our kids," Pirsch said. "The signs will also carry a message to our children that drugs aren't acceptable."

The committee also heard LB904, sponsored by Sen. Paul Hartnett of Bellevue. The bill would require student teachers or interns to have professional liability insurance. The insurance would cover accidents in classrooms while student teachers or interns are in charge.

Childs

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seals' coats, making the coats worthless to the hunters, he said.

The killing of the seals has gone from 200,000 per year to less than 6,000, he said.

Greenpeace began in 1971 as a mission, not to save an animal species, but to stop nuclear testing, he said.

A group of Canadians and Americans chartered a fishing boat and sailed to an underground nuclear testing site on an island off the Pacific Coast of Canada.

The group's intention was to park the boat close enough to the island to halt the testing, but the group was stopped by U.S. Customs and forced to turn back, he said.

A welcoming party greeted the group when it returned to Canada, and eventually enough support was generated to stop testing on the island within the year, he said. The island is now a bird sanctuary, he said.

Greenpeace also is working to prevent the killing of dolphins during tuna fishing. Dolphins are caught accidentally in tuna fishing nets and drown or are killed in the boat's machinery, he said.

Work is being done to stop the killing of African elephants for their ivory, to ban fluorocarbons which damage the ozone layer, and to preserve the Amazon rainforests, he said.

Brady

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buying handguns, he said, the bill would help stop "impulse killing."

Gerald Spahn, a Lincoln gun owner, said he is against the proposed legislation because it would restrict private property.

"It's my personal property," he said, "and why should I have to ask the state of Nebraska if I can sell it?"

Robert Welsh, owner of Shots Indoor Shooting Gallery in Omaha, said the bill would "inconvenience the honest, everyday citizen."

Several officials attended the press conference in support of the bill, including U.S. Rep. Peter Hoagland of Nebraska and Nebraska Attorney General Robert Spire. State Sens. Jim McFarland of Lincoln, LaVon Crosby of Lincoln and John Weising of Gering, co-sponsors of the bill, also were present.

Ashford said LB642 is expected to be debated in the Legislature on Friday or early next week.

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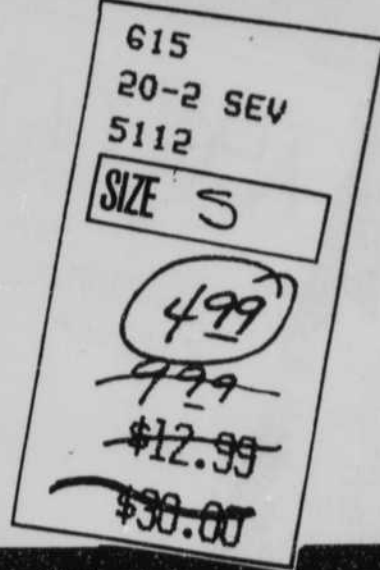
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