

Police say campus can be safer

By Jan Calinger
Staff Reporter

One year after the disappearance of UNL student Candice Harms, students are relatively safe, but they can be safer, UNL police said.



done to ensure student safety.

Judith Kriss, director of the Women's Resource Center, said women are safer in some ways because of lighting, campus police and other factors, but the sense of urgency is not as high now as it was a year ago.

"There was a sense of heightened awareness," she said. "I think we've lost that. I think personal safety is

removed because we're removed from the need.

"I'm not sure that women are now concerned more that they were before the (Harms) incident."

Peg Miller, Women's Center coordinator of counseling, said she agreed. "I think what happened is that it was easy to say, 'This won't happen to me,'" she said. "After Harms, there was panic because no one knew who the assailants were."

When arrests were made in the case, "everyone breathed a sigh of relief and said, 'We're safe.' But the danger is sometimes from people you know," Miller said.

Kathy Mullen, customer service manager of the Nebraska Bookstore, said that in the months after Harms' disappearance, sales of defense products such as mace and tear gas rose.

Mullen said that since last year, the bookstore had doubled the variety of safety products it offered.

Self-defense products, ranging in price from \$10-25, are still in demand, she said.

But Kalkowski said mace wasn't always a good defense.

"I don't like the false sense of confidence it gives some people," he said.

"(Mace) doesn't always work on mental patients, on drunks," he said. "It doesn't always work immediately and it certainly doesn't work if it's in your backpack," he said.

Kalkowski said students could improve their personal safety by using good judgment.

"Common sense and your head are the best weapons you can use," he said.

Kriss said a sense of awareness was the best protection for women.

"This is a safe environment," she said. "We're very fortunate that UNL and Lincoln are safe. But no place is totally safe."

Kalkowski said he would like to see more safety awareness on the part of UNL students in the future.

"I'd like to see people take more of an interest in taking care of themselves and others," he said.

Tuition, degree applications due shortly

From Staff Reports

This week contains two important deadlines for students to remember — tuition payments and degree applications.

Today is the last day to pay tuition fees. Payments must be in to the Bursar's office by 4 p.m. to

avoid a \$25 late payment fee.

Students must also pay a \$25 fee to apply for a degree this year. Friday is the last day to apply for students who plan to graduate in December. Degree applications and payments must be in 107 Administration Building by 5 p.m.

Harms

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cautious," she said. "You certainly don't want people to be panic-stricken."

"If it causes them to at least rethink what they do in terms of their own safety, I think it's a benefit."

Officers said Lincoln police and campus police fielded a flood of calls following the incident. Callers asked for information about safety tips and self-defense classes.

UNL Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said police provided literature about campus safety as part of their crime-prevention program.

Students, he said, should always

be mindful of their own safety. When going out, Bushing said, students should tell friends where they are going and when they'll return.

In the case of Candice Harms, those precautions would have been moot. She was abducted in her own driveway after leaving her boyfriend's house.

Harms said he was disheartened society had declined to a point where students had to worry about their safety every day.

"This is the best time to be a kid in life. You're going to school, enjoying your freedoms. You shouldn't have to worry about being abducted or sexually assaulted," Harms said. "It's just not fair to you kids."

Health

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case of students, Mueller said, that would not necessarily be the University Health Center.

"The whole playing field would change," he said. "Theoretically, this does away with student health plans."

Mueller said if Clinton's plan went into effect, the health center might not even receive student fees, but would try to survive in the competitive environment as other outpatient clinics.

Today, students pay about \$75 a semester in student fees to be able to see health center doctors. Those types of visits would also be included in Clinton's plan.

“We don't know what the shakedown's going to be,” he said. “The Clinton health plan is going to take a long time before it's ever enacted.”

—Russell LaBeau
medical director
University Health Center

Such issues haven't yet been discussed in detail, Mueller said. Even if the plan was passed tomorrow, it would be three years before implementation, he said.

Russell LaBeau, medical director of the University Health Center, also said it was difficult to foresee how the plan might affect the health center.

"We don't know what the shakedown's going to be," he said. "The Clinton health plan is going to take a long time before it's ever enacted."

Mueller said there was a good chance Congress won't go for Clinton's plan at all. He said some reform probably would be approved by the end of 1994, but he wasn't sure how extensive it would be.

"I'm waffling," he said. "It might be a small step, it might be a more sweeping change."

Mueller said very few people in the health care profession were completely against Clinton's plan, but he said there was a lot of disagreement over specifics.

"The insurance industry, by and large, likes it, except for capping premium costs. The Republicans don't like mandates on employers and physicians don't like mandates on cost," he said. "But no one says we shouldn't change at all."

However, Mueller said knowing whether this particular plan would work as well as the Clinton Administration hopes is like looking into a crystal ball.

"It has the potential to control costs," he said. "No system in the world has been able to do that as effectively as they would like."

"But the worst thing we can do is nothing."

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