

# Thieves hit fraternities hard

By Brian Sharp  
Staff Reporter

Thefts from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln greek houses have totaled more than \$17,000 in losses in January, a large increase over past months, police said.



The amount triples that of all residence halls, which was \$4,808, and doubles that of all other campus buildings, which was \$8,275.

Numbers from residence halls and campus buildings are close to normal, but the property stolen from greek houses is high, said UNL Police Sgt. Bill Manning.

Police records show the increase was first apparent last December. House members either choose not to report missing items because they weren't covered by insurance or haven't realized they were missing, he said.

According to police reports, a majority of the thefts were reported between 8 a.m. and midnight. But in

only one case was a burglary witnessed.

"Sheerspeculation is that the members of the houses involved have no idea who is coming in and out of their houses," Manning said. "It's like letting a complete stranger into your living room and not saying anything."

There are two descriptions of suspects, he said, both are males, possibly high-school age.

Manning said that when questioned, members in other victimized houses said they saw people matching the same descriptions in their houses.

The descriptions have come from members of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, which was burglarized twice in one week.

The first incident, on Jan. 23, occurred while members were in the house. A source close to the burglary said fraternity members saw the suspects in the house, but chose not to confront them. The result was the loss of more than \$1,000 in compact discs, stereo equipment and other items.

The second attempt was foiled when a fraternity member saw a thief in his room. The man apparently panicked, Manning said, struck the fraternity member in the head and ran off.

Manning said the suspect left be-

hind all \$862 in stolen goods except a jacket, which he was wearing. The member chased the burglar, grabbed hold of the jacket and tried to restrain him, but the burglar slipped out of the coat and escaped.

Brian Mejak, a member of Phi Gamma Delta, said cooperation and a change in house security was needed to stop the thefts.

A theft at the Fiji house, reported less than an hour after the attempt at Beta Theta Pi on Jan. 29, recorded \$5,425 in losses.

"As you know, frats are pretty easy to get into," Mejak said. "This is the biggest (theft) I've seen since I lived here. This is by far the largest dollar amount."

By locking doors and giving keys to members, the house hopes to stop any repeat incidents, he said.

Manning said asking guests who they were with, reporting crimes as soon as possible and being more aware of the current situation were the best ways to stop the thefts.

Police currently have no evidence linking the burglaries, he said, but the investigation is continuing. There is nothing to indicate anyone inside the house is stealing, he said, and no reason to think the reports are false.

## Rally focuses on diversity

By Rebecca Oltmans  
Staff Reporter

Students growing up in Nebraska may come to college without interacting with a person of a different race, John Harris said Thursday at an open forum in the Nebraska Union.

Harris, special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs, said the forum was designed to eliminate the ignorance that stemmed from having little interaction with people of a different race.

The forum, entitled "Building a Cohesive Campus Community," was sponsored by the Diversity Retreat Team and the Racial Pluralism Action Team.

During the two-hour discussion, about 150 members of the audience answered questions about diversity that were submitted anonymously by students.

"It's a shame that you have to be sitting here in college learning what you should have learned in elementary school," Harris said. "But if that's where we have to start, we'll start here."

Harris said teaching about other cultures and histories was not just about doing the right thing.

"The work force in the year 2004 will be diverse and the work force

The structure of the Association of Students of the University of that's not will lose," he said. "It's an economic issue now."

Several audience members said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's history requirement was not its only weakness concerning diversity. Areas such as minority instructors in courses not specifically targeted toward minorities and the new structure of the University Program Council were also addressed.

Nebraska also needed to be examined, Liz Carranza-Rodriguez, an educational specialist from the Multicultural Affairs office, said.

Carranza-Rodriguez said ASUN was not representative of the students they served.

"ASUN is mostly white and greek," Carranza-Rodriguez said. "Maybe ASUN has outlived its usefulness. We need to see what ASUN could change to meet the needs of the current student body — which has changed considerably over the years."

Harris said all races had a story to tell but were not getting any closer together about it.

"We all came over on different ships but we are all in the same boat now," Harris said. "If there's a hole in the boat — whether you're in the front or the back — you're going down."

## Professor: Israel needs new viewpoints

By Todd Neeley  
Staff Reporter

The societal position of women in Israel will not change without their involvement in decision-making processes, a professor emeritus at Hebrew University of Jerusalem said Thursday night in Lincoln.

Ze'ev Falk, who delivered the second annual Krivosha Lecture, entitled "Human Rights in Jewish Law in Israel," said women in Israel were increasingly becoming a part of the decision-making process.

"In order to bring about this change, women should be well represented in rabbinical courts," Falk said to a crowd of about 50 people in Love Library's Great Plains Room.

In some cases, women are already becoming involved. More rabbis have been listening to what women have to say, he said.

Quoting passages from the Bible, Falk said in the beginning men and women were considered equal. He said the Bible also says human rights should be given to the weaker people in society.

He said women in Israel should be declared eligible to chair committees in religious institutions, a process that had already begun.

Eight years ago, he said, there was the creation of elementary schools for girls in Eastern Europe, and now there is a move towards giving women formal religious educations.

For example, Falk said, there had

been a series of colleges in Israel for women pursuing courses in Jewish religion and law.

And since women have become more involved in rabbi courts, they are in a position to demand higher education, he said. But he said there was a lot of room for improvement in women's rights.

"Some rabbis are afraid to take innovative stands" on women's rights, he said.

Falk also stressed the importance of protecting the family.

He said in such a secularized society as Israel, it was difficult to see where the family stands in Jewish law.

"We are in a situation of pluralism," Falk said.

## Campus Rec submits budget

By Kara Korshoj  
Staff Reporter

The Office of Campus Recreation will find out next week if the Committee for Fees Allocation approves its budget increase request.

CFA decided to vote Tuesday after Campus Recreation proposed Thursday evening an operating and a repair and facilities improvement budget, totalling \$2.27 more per student per semester.

Campus Recreation requested a 3.7

percent increase in its operating budget, increasing it to \$62,147, or \$1.27 more per student per semester.

Leah Hall Dorothy, a Campus Recreation coordinator, said there were 29 sport clubs, an increase of 10 clubs from last year.

An increase was requested to attract students to the new activities.

Campus Recreation's repair and improvement budget requested a 20 percent increase, or \$1 per student per semester.

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