

UNL police plan deters violence

Program accents avoiding situations at work, in class

By Brian Sharp
Staff Reporter

While violence in the classroom and the workplace is rare at UNL, the university police have created a program to ensure it stays that way.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department's new program, "Violence in the Workplace," is aimed at diffusing situations before they escalate to a violent point, Cpl. Larry Kalkowski said.

"This is a service so we're prepared in advance," he said. "The ideal thing is to have all this training and information and never have to use it."

The free program is available to

everyone, not just university personnel and students. It is designed to cover all types of situations, from a student complaining about a grade to a confrontation with an intoxicated person, he said.

"The program tells them (participants) what we as the police department would like to see them do," Kalkowski said. "Primarily, it's designed to give the person a plan to deal with a situation that is anticipated or might develop."

Simple things such as office design can remove some danger from the workplace, he said. Sitting next to the door in a meeting or moving the desk close to an exit avoids being trapped if an individual becomes violent.

Kalkowski said it was also a good idea to have others present if there was a possibility of danger.

Body language is another key topic

covered by the program. Kalkowski said understanding the style and way in which things were said is at the center of diffusing a situation.

"A large percentage of what is heard is not what is said," he said.

Learning the warning signs and reporting suspicious behavior could be the keys to avoiding a violent situation, he said.

Kalkowski began work on the program in late July. Prompted more by things that were going on nationally than specific incidents at UNL, however, he found no one in the area was doing anything. The program draws from various personal safety classes, as well as his own ideas, he said.

"We're not trying to tell people that they have to live in a state of fear," he said. "A little training and preparation for the day is always helpful."

Mini-conference set for March

Diversity panels, open forums, part of day-long event

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

Building on last semester's Diversity Retreat is the main goal of a similar event set for next month, a UNL official said.

John Harris, special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs, said the Second Annual Diversity Mini-Conference was set for March 12 as a follow-up to last fall's diversity retreat.

"The Diversity Mini-Conference gives us an opportunity to bring the

information we share in the retreat ... to a larger group," he said.

The day-long conference will center on the theme "Preparing for a Future in a More Diverse America," Harris said.

Harris said he expected more than 400 people to attend the event. More than 200 people participated in the mini-conference last semester.

Harris said the conference was free and open to the public.

"The challenge for us is making it as good as the last one," he said. "We're working hard to do that."

Harris said the mini-conference would include:

- A workshop on cultural diversity being the challenge of the 1990s.
- An historical overview of Affirmative Action and its effectiveness.

● A panel of international students discussing their experiences in the United States.

● "Workforce 2000," a workshop on the increasing diversity of the U.S. workforce.

● A "Dear Abby" open forum, where people from the audience write anonymous letters about issues they may feel uncomfortable talking about in public.

Harris said the "Dear Abby" segment would be in the same format as last week's Racial Pluralism Action Team rally.

The video festival, a series of videos selected to raise awareness of racial and cultural issues also will return, running concurrently with the program, Harris said.

"We just want to make it an interesting day," he said.

Fire

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He left again with the candles still burning to study at a friend's house.

Wysocki said he received a call a few hours later from Abel staff saying they thought his room was on fire and he should get back.

The fire occurred while Dave Keller, the Abel South Residence Director, was out of town, said his replacement, Senior Student Assistant Troy Gronberg.

Gronberg said he woke up, checked some of the rooms on his floor and went downstairs to talk to the firemen.

When Gronberg and the firemen went upstairs, he said one thing was hard to miss.

"I saw a lot of water," Gronberg said. "There were six or seven rooms that had a layer of water on the floor. The carpet in the hall was soaked."

Gronberg said both sprinklers in the room were going off, putting out about 30 gallons a minute each. He estimated that there was 600 gallons of water on the floor.

The water leaked all the way from the 13th floor to the basement,

Gronberg said.

Wysocki said he was the first to talk to the UNL police. He said he was pretty shaken up when he spoke with them.

The police asked Wysocki where he had been, if anyone was in the room at the time of the fire and if he could give a detailed account of what had happened.

Wysocki then talked to the Fire Marshal, who asked the same questions. After the questioning, the authorities let him go upstairs for the first time.

Wysocki said he saw the water that had flooded half of the floor being vacuumed.

"There was no fire damage at all," he said.

The only signs of a fire in the room were the smoke stains on the walls and plastic on the floor from melted crates.

Residents of the 12th and 13th floors were not allowed back onto the floors until 6:30 a.m. Many of the residents took shelter next door in Sandoz Hall in the lobby and friends' rooms.

Deb Mullen, the complex program director for Abel-Sandoz, said maintenance had been working all day Monday to get students' carpets out of

the rooms and dried. She said they were trying to prevent a mildew problem.

Mullen said maintenance were also giving students quarters to dry laundry that had been soaked by the sprinklers.

Currently, there is no policy disallowing candles in residence hall rooms, Mullen said. However, she said, she thought it was dangerous.

Wysocki said the people on his floor had been decent about the whole ordeal.

"A lot of them asked if I needed help cleaning up the mess," he said. "They're just concerned."

The only damage he had was to a sleeping bag, two blankets, two radios and a typewriter.

Sgt. Bill Manning of the UNL police estimated the costs of the cleanup on the floor to be between \$305 and \$350.

The costs to the students' rooms is difficult to estimate, Manning said, since students file damage claims with their individual insurance companies.

Wysocki said he would be able to move back in his room by Tuesday and had some advice for people living in the residence halls.

"Just blow out your candles."

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Thursday

- 7:24 a.m. — Purse stolen and recovered, Ferguson Hall, \$40 value.
- 9:45 a.m. — Bookbag taken, University Bookstore, \$92 loss.
- 10:12 a.m. — Bookbag stolen, University Bookstore, \$126 loss.
- 11:12 a.m. — Noninjury accident, Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, 1115 N. 16th St., \$800 damage.
- 12:47 p.m. — Wallet stolen, Campus Recreation Center, \$17 loss.
- 10:25 p.m. — Phone calls, Phi Mu Sorority, 125 N. 16th St.

Beginning midnight Friday

- 8:59 a.m. — Hit-and-run accident, Area 10 lot near Veterinary Diagnostic Center, \$1,200 damage.
- 9:37 a.m. — Noninjury accident, 38th Street and East Campus Loop, \$300 damage.
- 11:15 a.m. — Purse stolen and recovered, Nebraska Union, \$41 loss.
- 2:53 p.m. — Car stereo equipment stolen, Area 6 lot near Burr Hall, \$25 damage, \$100 loss.

- 4:05 p.m. — Car stereo stolen, Area 1 lot at 17th and R streets, \$900 damage.
- 4:09 p.m. — Car stereo stolen, 1820 rock lot, \$270 damage, \$222 loss.
- 9:04 p.m. — Money stolen, Campus Recreation Center, \$30 loss.
- 9:48 p.m. — Wallet stolen, Campus Recreation Center, \$115 loss.

Beginning midnight Saturday

- 6:17 a.m. — Two phone receivers stolen, Abel Residence Hall, \$50 loss.
- 8:35 a.m. — Arson, door burned, Selleck Residence Hall, \$150 damage.

Beginning midnight Sunday

- 7:11 a.m. — Vandalism and criminal mischief, vehicle damaged, Area 10 lot at 940 N. 17th St., \$500 damage.
- 12:19 p.m. — Items stolen from vehicle, alley 405 in University Terrace, \$385 loss.
- 12:38 p.m. — Items stolen from vehicle, driveway of University Terrace, \$500 loss, \$250 recovered.
- 4:30 a.m. — Fire, Abel Residence Hall, unknown damage.

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The Computing Resource Center is offering free microcomputer classes to UNL students. The classes will feature an introduction to Microsoft Word for the Macintosh and WordPerfect for IBM machines. No reservations are required.

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Introduction to Microsoft Word for Macintosh
Tuesday, February 8 3:00 - 4:00 Andrews Hall lab

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