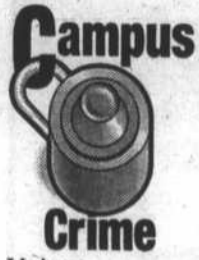


Union officials on guard against event violence

By Cami Walker
Staff Reporter

Nebraska Union management and UNL police are putting up their guard against the threat of violence at campus events.



The awareness is more a result of increasing violence on other campuses, not the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska

Unions. "We've become more concerned about the possibility of security problems," Swanson said. "There has been more evidence of an increase in violence at events at other universities. We've seen little evidence here. We're more in a defensive mode right now."

However, Swanson said last year's report of a discharged firearm at a Culture Center event and last semester's assault on Boon-Chung "Marco" Ong heightened the union management's awareness of potential problems.

While union event security policy hasn't been changed, Swanson said

union management and campus police had started to enforce the event registration procedure more strictly. "We're using the same policy," Swanson said. "We're just paying more attention to the possibility of violence during the planning stages of events."

When planning an event, sponsoring organizations fill out event registration forms with the help of union staff members. If an event is expected to draw more than 100 people, the sponsor usually is referred to the campus police to determine what kind of security measures are necessary.

UNL Police Sgt. Bill Manning said the nature of the event, expected turnout and type of audience were taken into consideration.

Last Friday's quick police response to a fight during an Onyx and Boss concert was a result of this planning. The concert sponsors, union management and university police were aware of a possibility for violence at the event, Swanson said.

Because problems were anticipated, four officers were assigned to the concert.

A fight involving four people broke out, and more than 20 UNL and Lincoln police officers responded when a

Lancaster County sheriff's deputy prematurely pushed his "panic button," signaling an officer in distress.

"Police coverage and response were good that night — excellent even," Swanson said.

He said union officials would continue to pay more attention to the event registration policy, but he agreed with Manning that requiring police presence at all union events was unrealistic.

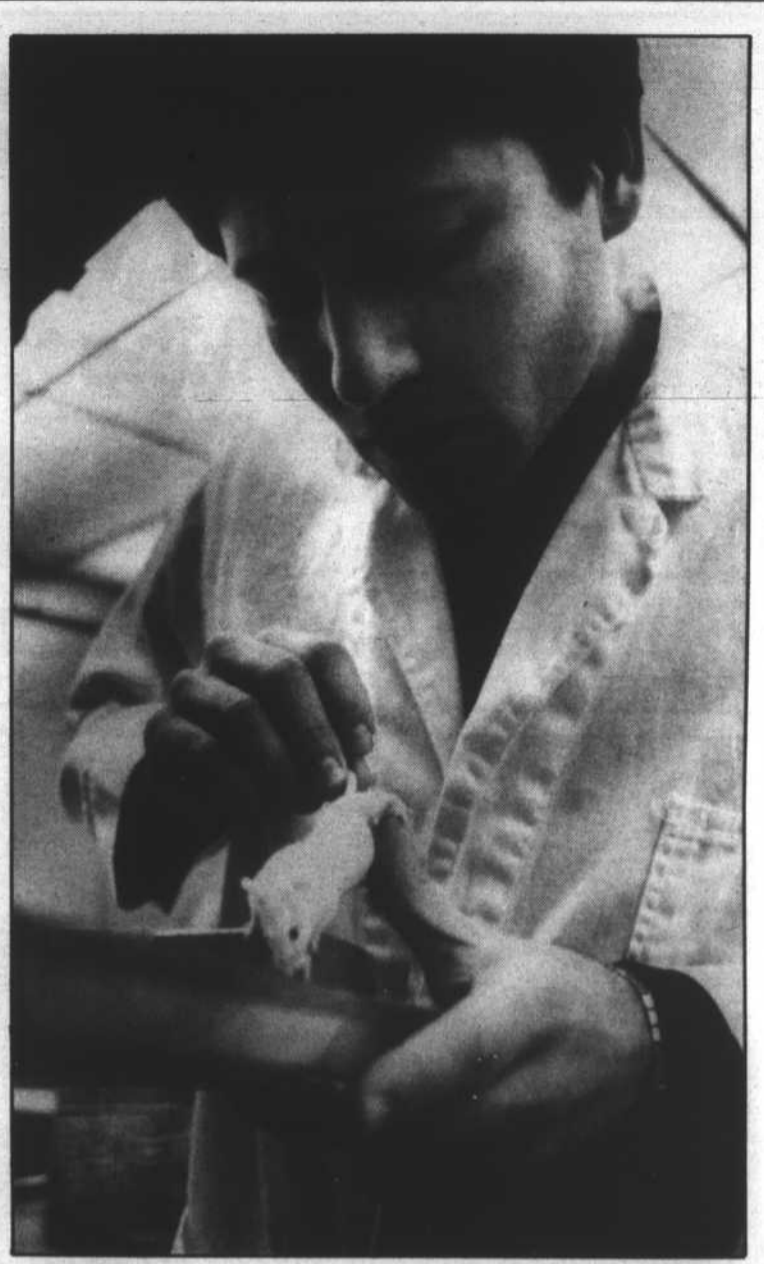
"An officer's time and department resources, at many times, can be better spent," Manning said.

He said having on-duty officers patrol events was often more feasible than assigning an officer specifically to an event.

"Saying there's not going to be a fight at this event, because there's an officer on duty, is like saying this bank isn't going to be robbed because there's a security guard and camera there," Manning said.

Swanson and Manning both said they would continue to stress preventative planning for campus events.

"I think there is always the possibility of improvement," Swanson said. "We'll continue to review our own staff coverage."



Jeff Haller/DN

Mouse house

Brad Freking, a doctoral student in animal science, picks up a mouse to be weighed as a part of an ongoing experiment in the genetic aspects of heat production in mice. The goal of the experiment is to generate populations differing in genetic potential for heat production as a biological model for other livestock species.

Haze

Continued from Page 1

could be reluctant to pursue hazing charges.

In other floor action Tuesday morning, a bill redefining the role of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education gained first-round approval with a 26-0 vote.

LB683, proposed by Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, would clarify some of the original legislation that created the commission.

The bill would establish authority for the commission when dealing with

a building project using more than \$300,000 of tax money. Warner said there were no provisions for projects dealing with non-tax money.

Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, who supported the measure, said the bill merely eliminated some language.

"By and large, what (Warner) is proposing is positive for the commission," Withem said. He said Warner had replaced the word "policies" in several places with "guidelines."

Withem said when he and Warner wrote the original bill, Withem knew what "policy" meant, but he said it was misinterpreted by the commission. He said the change would elim-

inate any problems with the commission interfering in university governance.

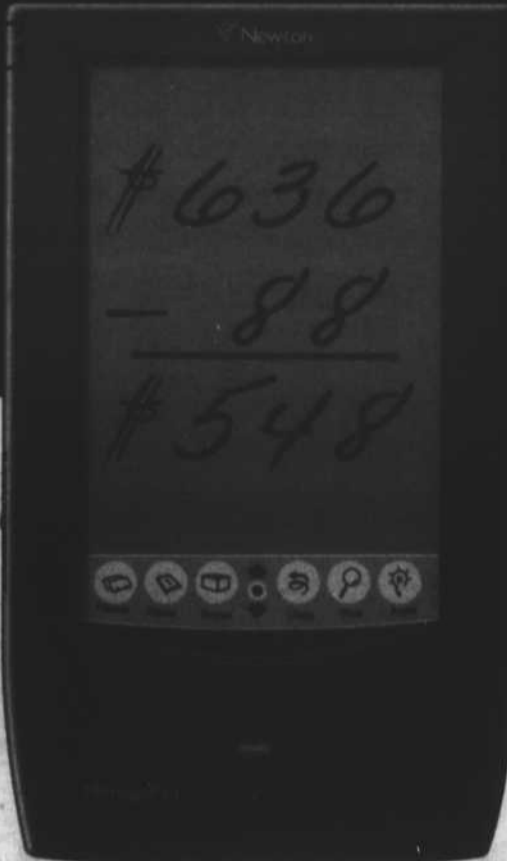
Though the coordinating commission has been under fire lately, Withem said, he did not want the legislation to send a message of nonsupport.

Sen. Ardyce Bohlke of Hastings, chairwoman of the Legislature's Education Committee, also supported the bill. She said the bill cleared doubts about how the commission should be run.

"I do believe this clearly defines the role of the coordinating commission," she said.

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