

University officials: Awareness key to safety

1992 BIG 8 CRIME STATISTICS

CAMPUS (with population)	Murder	Forced Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Minor Theft	Arson
Colorado 28,836	0	5	0	7	132	824	23	8
Kansas St. 20,712	0	1	1	4	146	325	7	0
Kansas U. 26,655	0	2	3	11	111	434	11	0
Missouri 24,726	0	2	3	3	56	538	7	0
Oklahoma 21,250	0	2	2	12	70	580	25	3
Oklahoma St. 19,770	0	3	1	2	84	258	3	2
Iowa St. 25,773	0	1	3	10	22	623	5	0
Nebraska 24,620	0	3	3	1	64	853	11	0

By Brian Sharp
Staff Reporter

There's a fine line between awareness, preparedness and fear.

That's how Judith Kriss, director of the Women's Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, describes the issue of safety.

Awareness of one's surroundings can create safety, she said, fear will not.

"That split second that we might have the chance to run, to scream, to get ourselves out of the most critical point — awareness will give us that opportunity," she said.

In a 1988 national study, UNL was found to be the safest campus when it came to violent crime, UNL Police Cpl. Larry Kalkowski said.

In fact, a study cited in a 1990 Lincoln Journal article reported that UNL was the only university of those studied with no reports of violent crimes.

While Kalkowski said he had not seen a real change in the number of crimes reported, UNL does not seem to enjoy that elite status anymore.

Figures the Daily Nebraskan received from UNL Police Director Ken Cauble's office detailed a different campus.

According to the 1992 Big Eight police reports, UNL ranks third in the number of forcible rapes as a percentage of student population.

By similar measures, UNL was first in robberies and larcenies, third in minor theft, sixth in burglaries and eighth in assaults.

The University of Colorado, the University of Oklahoma and the University of Kansas ranked first in these other crime areas.

But there is disagreement about whether safety has deteriorated, or if there's been an improvement in reporting crimes.

Sharon Wacker, administrative assistant to Cauble, said UNL's high numbers could be attributed to a department attitude that pushes students to report crimes.

"I don't know that there is an increase (at UNL), but people are more aware and report (crimes) a lot more," Wacker said. "We (UNL police) are very honest with our numbers."

Kalkowski said he believed that while reporting had improved, it wasn't enough to justify the increase.

In the 10 years UNL has had a crime prevention unit, he said, police have pleaded with the campus community to report crimes. But for the most part, police have been ignored.

"We are still fighting a very solidly entrenched 'it can't happen to me' attitude," Kalkowski said. "You can't really say it's a real push that's started."

In the past two years, UNL has added 36 safety phones (with plans for more), a campus escort service for city campus, and classes educating students about awareness and self defense.

But even though UNL officials are doing more to improve the campus, the perception of safety is deteriorating, Kriss said.

Part of the reason might be an incident two years ago, when Candice Harms, a UNL freshman, was abducted, raped and murdered, Kriss said.

"That one incident certainly raised not only consciousness, but awareness, and made all of us much more aware of our own safety," Kriss said. "I think it brought the university to a whole other level of concern."

Kalkowski said some campus crime can be attributed to the proximity of downtown and the size of Lincoln.

"It's a little of both (the university

and Lincoln community)," he said. "There's no magic boundary that separates the university from any other part of the city."

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR), a separate set of numbers that Kalkowski reports to the FBI, showed a drop in some crimes from 1992 to 1993, while others rose significantly.

Arson and third degree sexual assaults dropped slightly according to the UCR, while burglary increased from 35 to 59. Motor vehicle theft doubled, as did larceny theft, which topped all reports last year at 978.

Rape increased slightly in the UCR, while aggravated assaults rose from one to 44.

Kalkowski said the difference between the two sets of numbers was that the UCR had a different system in classifying offenses.

As Lincoln grows, Kriss said, safety dangers are sure to become more real.

"The campus can be as safe as safe as can be," she said. "But you cross R Street and you're in another safety zone."

The perception of how safe an area is, however, is different for everyone.

Kalkowski said the best way for people to protect themselves and stay safe is to use their head.

"The minute you start thinking you can't be a victim is the exact minute that you indeed can," he said.

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Walk this way...



Mikey can't find his way. He fervently desires friends, fortune and fame. He is aimlessly wandering in search of a better way of life. Find this way at the...

Daily Nebraskan

The Daily Nebraskan is accepting applications for news, sports and arts & entertainment reporting positions for the fall.

Freshmen are encouraged to apply. Pick up an application today at the Daily Nebraskan office -- 34 Nebraska Union.

UNL does not discriminate in its academic, admissions or employment programs and abides by all Federal regulations pertaining to the same.

UNL offers legal services for students

By Angela Jones
Staff Reporter

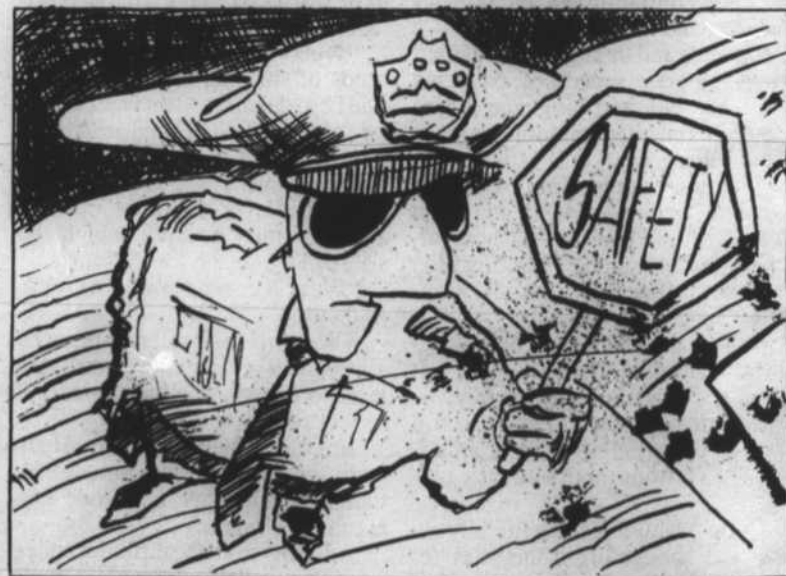
Even with mom and dad hours away, students still have someone to help them out of trouble.

ASUN Student Legal Services Center offers students free legal advice and representation. Legal services are funded by student fees at a rate of \$1.64 per student per semester. The only additional cost students might have is if there is a court fee.

Karen A. Steinauer, attorney at law with Student Legal Services, said that legal services are available to any student who is registered for a class at the time the case is filed.

"Most students are not poor enough to be able to use a public defender, and they don't have enough money to hire an attorney," Steinauer said. "We fill that gap for students."

The last fiscal year, the center handled 1289 cases. Forty percent of those cases dealt with criminal misde-



James Mehling/DN

meanors such as DWI, Minor in Possession, Disturbing the Peace, and Assault and battery, Steinauer said.

The Student Legal Services' attorneys provide court representation to students who have been charged with a misdemeanor in Lancaster County but not felonies, Steinauer said. Any felony charges, or misdemeanor charges that are outside of Lancaster County, must be dealt with by a private attorney or public defender, she said.

The center also helps students get involved with pre-trial diversion programs, where the student does community service work. This helps prevent students from having a criminal record, Steinauer said.

The center does not handle cases involving personal injury, cases involving the university, or any student vs. student cases.

Although most of the students that use Student Legal Services are already involved in a case, the center also helps students with preventive

measures.

Many students are not aware of the many different laws, and this being a bigger city, a lot more of these laws are enforced, Steinauer said.

The center publishes and distributes a Student Legal Services Handbook to help students become more informed on the laws that affect them the most. The handbook is available to students at the Student Legal Services Center located in room 335 in the Student Union.

Steinauer said she and the other attorneys at the center don't want students to feel intimidated to come in and meet with them. The attorneys are here to provide a service to a class of people who normally would go unrepresented. All discussions and personal files are kept confidential, Steinauer said.

Students who have a legal problem or question should call 472-3350 to set up an appointment with an attorney.