

Parking chaos causes more cars to be towed

By Emily Wray
Staff Reporter

Stacey Barger is not a happy parker. The junior agriculture education major was towed while attending a conference at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education.

"Since I was a registered university student, they thought I was at a class on East Campus and parked in the visitors' parking," she said.

"I had two parking tickets," she said, "and it cost me \$130 in fines and towing fees to attend this conference since the Nebraska Center doesn't give out parking permits for conference participants."

But university and city parking officials agree there is a simple solution to those campus parking woes. The way to keep from getting towed, they say, is to park in the right places and pay violations on time.

"We do not like to tow cars," said Tad McDowell, Parking Services manager at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "After 30 days of an unpaid violation, we can tow."

Whether a car gets towed by Parking Services depends on the circumstances, McDowell said. Parking chaos during the first week of classes contributed to a surge in towing calls, he said.

"Since everybody parks everywhere, the tow rate is a lot higher," McDowell said. This year, that higher rate translated into 44 cars towed between Aug. 21 and Aug. 28.

Of the 38 cars towed since Aug. 28, 11 were towed because of complaints,

McDowell said.

One of those cars belonged to John Widdowson, a senior animal science major. Widdowson had a couple of tickets when he was towed — and he learned a hard lesson.

"I got towed on a legal holiday, so I couldn't get cash to get my car back," he said. "It was not a good experience."

"I haven't gotten a ticket since then," he said.

In addition to paying violations, students also must pay towing fees before their cars are released. And those fees vary.

Bob Green, manager of Lincoln Land Towing, said the fee when towed by Parking Services could be anywhere from \$35 to \$60, depending on how the car was parked. And don't forget to add in a \$5 storage fee per day, he said.

But drivers often have to deal with the city because city meters stand on R, W, 16th and 17th streets and Stadium Drive.

Drivers can get towed by the city if they have an unpaid parking violation more than 15 days old, said Pat Waegli, an administrative aide to Lincoln's violations bureau.

The city towing fee also is \$35 to \$60, but the storage fee is \$6 per day, said Pam Fittje, property supervisor at the Lincoln Police Department.

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Greek houses see rise in pledges

By Heidi White
Staff Reporter

UNL fraternities get a jump on students' hectic schedules by holding their rush over the summer.

Twenty-six of the 28 fraternities on campus participate in summer rush activities. Alpha Phi Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternities rush the beginning of second semester, said Jayne Wade Anderson, director of Greek Affairs.

"Those wishing to pledge a fraternity may do so at any time of the year regardless of when the rush is held," Anderson said.

As soon as the men sign a card, they can move into a house, said senior Matt Jedlicka, president of the Interfraternity Council.

Anderson said applications came in all summer.

As of Sept. 8, the number of fratern-

ity pledges accepted had reached 507, compared with last year's final number of 464. There also was an increase in the number of sorority pledges this year, from 419 to 453, according to the Greek Affairs office.

The fraternity system usually includes about 2,300 men, Anderson said. About 200 of them live at home or in residence halls, 1,500 live in fraternity houses, and the rest — mainly juniors and seniors — live off campus, Anderson said.

"It follows the same kind of pattern each year," Anderson said.

Jedlicka, a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma fraternity, agreed.

"Rush is always the same," he said. "It's a very basic process. The time is spent matching individuals up with the right houses and helping the pledges to get adapted to college life."

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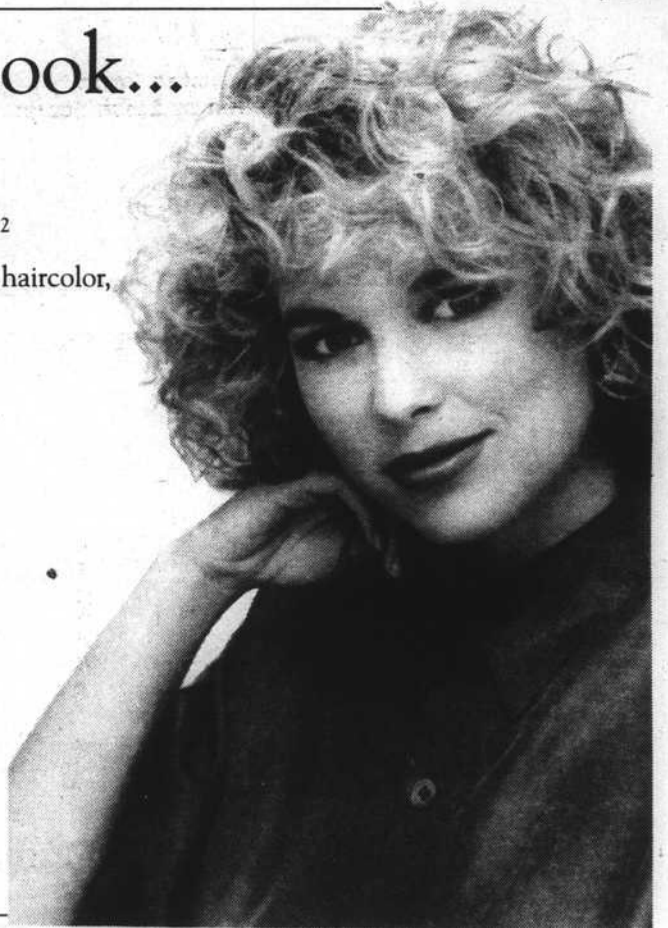
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Law & Order

A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Man attacked at car wash

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

CRIME STOPPER

A Lincoln man was repeatedly stabbed with a screwdriver Sunday evening while he was washing his pickup, police said.

A youth, about 16, approached the 31-year-old man in a car wash at 56th and Holdrege streets, police said. The boy stabbed the man in the back and attempted to attack him several more times, police said.

Police said the boy's face was covered with a blue and white bandanna. The man received a minor cut to his neck and shoulder and two other minor puncture marks. He was not hospitalized.

The man wrestled the screwdriver from the boy, who left the car wash on foot.

The boy did not attempt to rob the man, police said. His motive was unknown.

When a Lincoln woman's purse was stolen Sunday evening, she ran after the thief and noted the license plate of the get-away vehicle.

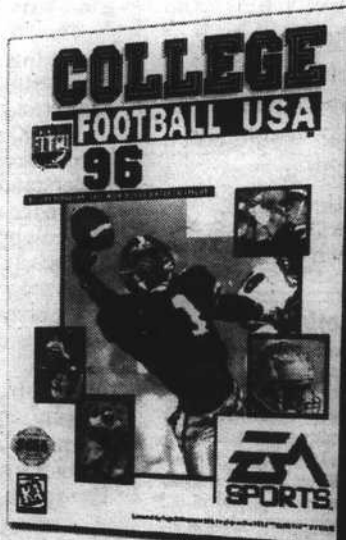
"A nice piece of police work for an 82-year-old lady," said Lincoln Police Sgt. Lee Wagner.

Flora Johnson was walking south on 10th Street between F and E streets about 6:40 p.m. Sunday. She told police that a woman came from behind and grabbed her purse. Johnson followed the woman to her car and memorized her license plate.

"She didn't have to run very far, but she was able to get the license plate," Wagner said.

Police arrested Denise Vasa, 36, for suspicion of robbery. Vasa, 944 E St. Apt. 3, was arraigned Monday.

Johnson's purse, makeup bag and coin purse — valued at \$87 — were recovered, police said.



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