

Conference to focus on crimes, victims' issues

By Sarah Danberg
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's first Crime Victims' Issues Conference begins today at the Cornhusker Hotel.

"The purpose of this conference is to talk about where we have been in addressing issues and to identify other issues that need to be resolved," said Nancy Steeves, a Nebraska Crime Commission spokeswoman. "There is a tremendous need to do this."

The conference is designed for first-responders (meaning fire and ambulance personnel), mental health providers, criminal justice personnel, media, clergy and concerned citizens.

"When you become a crime victim, all these individuals may come in contact with you," Steeves said.

The conference was designed to create awareness, provide training and networking and to form broad-based support throughout the community, Steeves said. This will be done through nationally known speakers, work-

shops, a panel session and exhibits.

Keynote speakers include: Dr. Victor LaCerva, medical director of the Maternal & Child Health Bureau for the New Mexico Department of Health; Jack Enter, a law enforcement expert; and Aileen Adams, the director of the Office for Victims of Crime in the U.S. Department of Justice. Gov. Ben Nelson will open the ceremonies.

"What we want to do is address issues and develop a strategy," Steeves said.

Specific issues to be addressed include hate crimes, gangs, domestic violence and its impact on children, the hidden cost of crime and understanding cultural differences.

The conference continues Thursday and is sponsored by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. It is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Only those who pre-registered may attend.

Law & Order

A LOOK AT CRIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Brothers held on shooting charge

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

A pair of Lincoln brothers remained in custody Tuesday after being arrested in connection with a Monday evening shooting in a central-Lincoln apartment, police said.

The brothers, ages 16 and 17, were apprehended by police shortly after the 9 p.m. incident at 2343 W St. Apt. 6, police said.

An argument between the elder brother and a female apartment resident escalated into a disturbance that police responded to about 8:30 p.m. Police said one brother kicked the door as they left the apartment, causing \$200 damage. They returned to the apartment — this time armed — about 30 minutes later, said Lincoln police Lt. Lee Wagner.

"Evidently, these two people came back and a shotgun was fired through the front door," Wagner said.

Shotgun pellets struck Albert

Williams, 22, in the upper body and face, Wagner said. He was treated and released from Lincoln General Hospital.

At least three people were in the apartment when the shooting occurred, Wagner said. Williams, of 6018 Kearney Ave., was the only person struck by the 12-gauge shotgun blast.

The 17-year-old Lincoln boy was arrested on suspicion of shooting into an occupied dwelling and using a weapon to commit a felony. His 16-year-old brother was arrested for suspicion of being an accessory to a felony, Wagner said.

The two boys were arrested at 27th and W streets near their home.

Police said there was no evidence to link the shooting to gang activities.

NARCOTICS

A 24-year-old Lincoln man was

arrested Monday on suspicion of narcotics possession with the intent to deliver, police said.

Police arrested Hector Santiago, 24, in his residence at 1025 N. 23th St. Apt. 22. The Lincoln-Lancaster County drug unit served an arrest and search warrant about 9:30 p.m. Monday, Wagner said.

Officers seized 20 bags of marijuana, a .357-caliber handgun and \$370 in cash. The marijuana is worth about \$800 on the street, Wagner said.

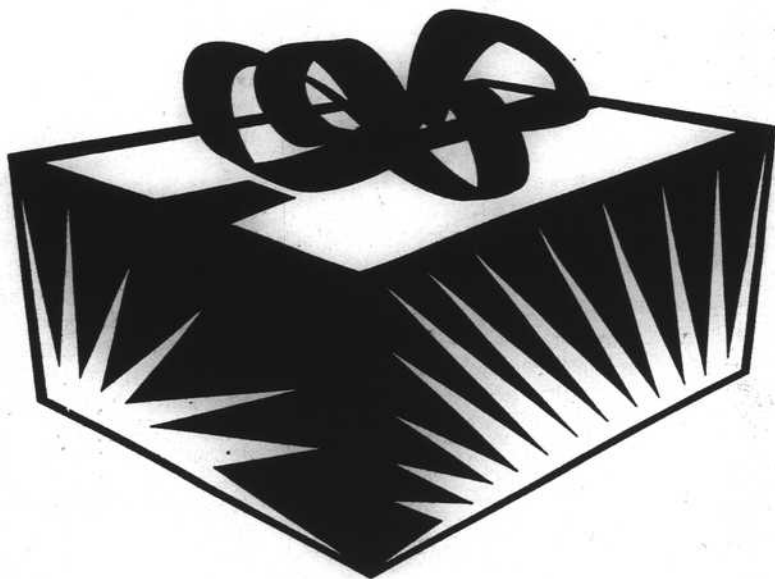
VANDALISM

Five gunshots were fired into the northwest side of Dawes Middle School last weekend, police said, causing about \$1,400 damage.

Police believe vandals used a 9 mm gun to shatter two windows. Two rounds were found lodged in the ceiling, and one was recovered from a wall, Wagner said.

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NAFA

Continued from Page 1

based on academic or athletic capabilities.

Other scholarships come from large corporations such as Coca-Cola and Wal-Mart or from private donors, he said. They have nothing to do with federal loans or grants.

UNL offers more scholarships than are actually awarded because many students choose other colleges and turn down scholarships, Beacon said.

If university scholarships are turned down and not awarded to someone else, they are kept for the next year.

Beacon said some money comes to students from endowments, but millions of dollars go unspent because benefactors make it almost impossible for students to be eligible.

"It's hard to find someone to give it to," he said.

NAFA is attempting to improve these problems, Kowal said. The organization tries to explain all of the federal loans, work study programs and private money available to students.

"We show students where to look, how to look, what to look for and the steps to follow so they don't get overwhelmed," Kowal said.

UNL has a free scholarship program to help students with financial aid that is accessible through the Internet. More than 6,000 scholarships are offered through the university.

Students can receive academic funding and scholarship information by sending a No. 10 self-addressed, double-stamped business envelope and \$2 to cover the handling charge to NAFA, 815 Middle St., Suite 1400, Portsmouth, N.H., 03801.



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