

Spring break keeps officers on their feet

By Chad Lorenz
Senior Reporter

Just because college students let loose during spring break doesn't mean police do.

Police departments at spring break hot spots still enforce the law and in some cases, bump up their efforts.

Sgt. Charles Morrison of the South Padre Island (Texas) police department said the department brought in reserve officers from March until mid-April to keep up with the surge of crime.

During spring break, officers respond to nearly 400 calls in a month, compared to 20 to 30 calls per month the rest of the year, he said.

South Padre Island, a town normally populated with 1,200 people, booms to 30,000 to 40,000 during the peak periods of spring break, Morrison said.

Having so many people in South Padre isn't the biggest problem—it's having so many drunk people, he said.

"That definitely contributes to everything else," Morrison said.

SPPD officers respond to more assaults and disturbances involving alcohol, he said, but let the state deal with alcohol itself.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission sends in at least 20 agents to regulate underage drinking and local alcohol laws in South Padre, he said.

Officers see more burglaries and criminal mischief during spring break, Morrison said, because people leave their hotel rooms and cars vulnerable.

Sgt. Leo Picchocki of the Winter Park (Colo.) Police Department said noise and alcohol were the biggest problems during March and April.

"When you have young people drinking, you have music, you have an increase in decibel level," he said.

Officers respond to complaints of noisy neighbors in hotels and condominiums and issue citations for major disturbances, Picchocki said.

The department sticks with the same size force all year, but can bring in officers from surrounding towns for assistance, he said.

Winter Park police will bust spring breakers for alcohol. Sometimes hotels will ask for on-site security to guard against underage drinking, Picchocki said.

"The problem with spring break is the kids who come out and drink are underage."

Home state fun

Lack of money doesn't have to hinder plans

By Doug Kouma
Senior Editor

The beaches of Florida may be warm and inviting, and the ski slopes of Colorado may be cool and glamorous.



But they're both so darn expensive. Geani Ronne, of Four Seasons Travel at 131 S. 14th St., said an average spring break package to Florida or Mexico could cost \$600 to \$800 per person. With \$40 and \$50 lift tickets, a ski package can cost even more.

But that doesn't have to stop college students strapped for cash from getting away for the break.

Ronne said relatively low air fare rates to Las Vegas and Phoenix made both popular sunny-weather destinations, although most flights in March were likely booked.

For students set on the more popular destinations, Ronne said, spring break companies often offer low-cost packages to Florida, Mexico, Texas and Colorado. The packages use chartered flights and book six to 10 people per room, she said.

But the students don't seem to mind. "Most of the kids live in dormito-

"Sometimes, just getting away is fun. Fly to Chicago, get a hotel and go sight seeing. You could do the very same thing if you went to Omaha or Kansas City or Grand Island."

GEANI RONNE

Four Seasons Travel

Carol Owen of the Grand Island Convention and Visitor's Bureau, said students on a budget could spend an enjoyable week in Nebraska's Third City.

Spring break falls during the "Wings Over the Platte," celebration, which attracts 80,000 to 100,000 people to the city over a six-week period.

The celebration marks the migration of the more than 500,000 sandhill cranes that will pass through the area. Many groups offer sunrise and sunset tours, cookouts, campfires, hikes, banquets and workshops.

Want to spend a day at the track? The 43rd season of thoroughbred racing at Fanner Park will be in full swing. General admission and a seat in the clubhouse costs a mere \$5, and keno is the game of choice in the nearby sports lounge.

For shoppers, Grand Island is well-known for its many antique and specialty shops, and the Conestoga Mall is one of the two largest between Omaha and Denver.

For night life, Owen suggests the Piccadilly Dinner Theatre, Nathan Detroit sports lounge, or City Limits, a popular bar among the college-age crowd.

But, no matter what locale students choose as their destination for spring break, a little imagination and a little money can make any place seem like a choice destination.

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Cyberbreak
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as a skier's paradise. To ski or not to ski, that is the question. There's still a problem you're overlooking, though, dear. Transportation. Were you planning on flapping your arms? So, how to get you there, huh? Flying, perhaps? There are a couple of places you can look. United Air (<http://www.ual.com>) is a good place to start.

If you've got something against United, there are several general sites. Poke around the Yahoo yellow pages (<http://www.yahoo.com/>) and there's a listing of airlines.

Another place is (<http://www.pctravel.com/>) where one can look for airline tickets and make reservations.

Afraid of flying, huh? Well, there are other options. You could go by train. Try AmTrak. (<http://www.amtrak.com/>)

Trains don't fly. At least, not usually. After spring break, however, what they do is anyone's guess.

Still not your speed, huh? If not by land or air, then by sea, methinks! Glance around cruise lines and see if you want to go sailing. Granted, it's not cheap, but if you've got the dough, be sure to go to (<http://www.srv.net/shop/cruise/cruises.html>).

Can't find what you're looking for at any of these places? Check (<http://www.travelweb.com/>) and see if they have any links for you to follow. They have something to send you just about anywhere.

You can always release your inner child and go where everyone in America should go, DisneyWorld! My roommate, whose sister works there, assures me you can NOT see it all, but do what you can, dear. Browse a little first at (<http://www.travelweb.com/thisco/wdw/wdwhome/wdw.html>)

Now that your plans are all set, I want you to go out and have a wonderful time now. Don't get sun-burned, don't have too much to drink and look both ways before crossing any street.

Ya'll come back now, 'hear?

Hicks is a freshman news-editorial and English major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

Left Behind
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be better off than his friends who went on long-distance trips during spring break.

"They might have the advantage of having a good time," he said. "But they'll have the disadvantages of being broke, sun-burned and hung-over."

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