

Amberwood

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through a door accidentally left open or unlocked.

Residents still nervous

Desiree Hajj, an 18-year-old UNL freshman biological sciences major, said she moved into her apartment the week McMenamin was murdered.

She was so nervous, she said, that she asked a friend to stay with her and her 16-year-old sister for a few weeks after the murder.

Hajj said she was concerned about her safety because she lived only with her younger sister.

"I'd like them to do something," Hajj said. "It might cost more, but it would be safer."

Brigette Weier, who has lived in the complex for almost nine months, said that after the murder she was scared and requested the management install a deadbolt lock on her door.

Now she feels more comfortable, but she still keeps an eye on unfamiliar people in her building.

"I'm very suspicious, even six months later," Weier said.

She said she hadn't seen any additions in security since the management took over, only re-roofing and pink and blue flags scattered throughout the complex.

"Everything I've seen has been cosmetic," Weier said. "The management, as far as security, has not addressed it at all."

Although management changed the locks to each apartment, Weier said she didn't think that security improved much because people could break into an apartment whether the lock was old or new.

The apartment units now have deadbolt locks on every door. Not all doorknobs have locks, but tenants are free to install their own.

Bob Fiedler, a Lincoln fire investigator, said apartment tenants were limited to two locks on their doors for a quick escape during a fire or other disaster. A lock is any device that requires special knowledge, such as a code, or a special device, such as a key or wrench, to open.

Weier said she felt safer than most tenants because she lived with her husband and her apartment was on the third floor.

But, she said, she thought younger people living alone in the complex would be concerned for their safety.

Weier said she would like to see additional security, such as access controlled locks, because she is pregnant and fears for her child's safety.

Katherine Miles, a UNL agronomy graduate student, said when she moved in a year and a half ago, she was surprised to see that the outside doors

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BRIGETTE WEIER
Amberwood resident

of the apartment didn't lock.

Miles moved into apartments expecting to get an extra door between her and the outside, she said.

The apartment units are accessed through common hallways, which can be entered from the outside through unlocked doors 24 hours a day.

Miles said she was disturbed that anybody could freely flow in and out of her building. She said she was more concerned after the murder.

"I was angry about the lack of security," Miles said.

She said she now thought the buildings should have more security.

"The locked doors I think are the biggest thing," Miles said.

She said she understood that entry systems such as electric locks with intercoms could be expensive and raise rent. But having locks on the four outside doors of each building didn't seem expensive, Miles said.

Miles said she also was concerned about the new management's method for changing the locks on the doors of each apartment unit.

When Miles returned from winter break, she found a locksmith changing the lock on her apartment door, she said. He told her to get her new key in the complex office.

When she went for her key, the attendant in the office asked only her apartment number before giving her the new key, Miles said.

"That was kind of strange," Miles said.

Anyone who knew her apartment number could have gotten the new key because no one asked for identification or even a name, she said.

Other complexes

Some apartments in Lincoln keep buildings secure through controlled entry systems or security services.

Nancy Akins, a manager at Meadow Wood apartments, Seventh and Superior streets, said tenants were given a key that unlocked the doors to the building.

Meadow Wood also has windows outside that prevent access even when opened, she said.

The Z-window design uses three panes of glass that let air in and keep intruders out. When one pane is slid over, another remains in place in front

of it so air blows in between the two. The management also publishes a monthly newsletter with security tips and has a 24-hour phone line tenants can call if they see anything suspicious, she said.

Sarah Siefkes, complex manager for Claremont Park Apartments, 1341 N. Ninth St., said its parking lots are patrolled by Metropolitan Protection Service at nights and weekends. All tenants are given a phone number for MPS to report any disturbances or suspicious activity.

Tracie Wenzel, property manager for Chateau Development, 1025 N. 63rd St., said the complex had locks on patio doors and windows and a well-lit parking area.

The complex does not have controlled access, she said.

Bill Rohren, senior account agent for Allstate Insurance, said apartment complex owners could get reduced premiums for having security measures in their buildings.

Allstate reduces apartment insurance premiums by approximately 5 percent if the buildings have both deadbolt locks and fire extinguishers, Rohren said.

An electric security system would take about 10 percent off premiums, he said.

The company would evaluate any other security systems and offer a discount appropriate to the complexity of the system, Rohren said.

Improving security

Vicki Whitehorn, Amberwood complex manager, said management had ideas for improving security, but wouldn't explain them.

"I'm not at liberty to go into those right now," Whitehorn said.

John Eifler, an Elkor regional director in charge of Amberwood, said the complex was adding extra lighting to the complex.

Incandescent lights will be replaced with brighter fluorescent lights in all the exterior fixtures and 12 to 24 lights will be added outside, Eifler said.

As standard procedure for the corporation, the door locks for each apartment unit were replaced, Eifler said.

The replacement eliminated a master lock system with which a single master key could open any door, he said. The master key system was dangerous, Eifler said, because so many copies are given to maintenance workers and apartment staff.

Eifler said the new management would add any other security needed in the complex.

"We're continually evaluating security needs," he said.

Eifler said Amberwood management was considering controlled access entry but had not decided for sure.

"I can tell you it's being looked into for cost benefit and to examine security effectiveness," he said.

Bomb explodes in double-decker bus

LONDON (AP) — An explosion tore through a double-decker bus in central London on Sunday night, injuring at least eight people and showering the street with shards of glass and twisted metal.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion immediately fell on the Irish Republican Army, which broke its 17-month cease-fire on Feb. 9 with a truck bomb that devastated the Docklands business center, killing two people and wounding scores.

A second bomb was defused in London's theater district last week. The IRA said it had planted that device.

Police said they had received no warning before Sunday night's blast. In the early hours Monday, police could not confirm the explosion was caused by a bomb.

Ambulances and five fire engines rushed to the Aldwych area of central London Sunday night, emergency services officials said, after the explosion on Wellington Street near the Strand at 10:38 p.m. (5:38 p.m. EST). Scotland Yard confirmed eight injured, four seriously, and a number of "walking wounded."

"I was walking down the road

and I saw a big white flash in the sky," eyewitness Anthony Yates said. "I looked and then I saw a double-decker bus but there was nothing left of it, it was completely blown to pieces."

The bus, on a scheduled route, exploded outside the Waldorf Hotel near Covent Garden, an area that would have been filled with theatergoers on any other night but Sunday, when most London stages are dark.

Several hours before the blast, Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party, appealed for talks with British Prime Minister John Major.

"At this very dangerous and this very risky phase of our struggle we offer the hand of friendship to John Major. We say to John Major, 'Pull back from the abyss.'" Adams told about 1,500 supporters in Catholic west Belfast.

"Don't see our hand of friendship as a sign of weakness," he said. "It is a sign of strength."

Adams maintains that the IRA decision to end its 17-month cease-fire came as a surprise to him. But like the IRA, he blames Major for not moving the peace process quickly enough.

Two killed in jet crash of Navy 'Tomcat' fighter

SAN DIEGO (AP) — An F-14D "Tomcat" fighter jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean during routine flight exercises off the Southern California coast Sunday, killing the two crew members, a Navy official said.

The jet was part of the Fighter Squadron 11, which was taking part in a two-week operation with the USS Carl Vinson, said Doug Sayers, spokesman for Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego.

The crash happened about 120 miles off the coast, he said. The circumstances of the 12:30 p.m. crash were not immediately known.

Sunday's crash was the 31st in-

volving an F-14 jet since 1991.

Last month, a Navy F-14 returning home to Miramar slammed into a Nashville, Tenn., neighborhood shortly after takeoff. Two crew members and three people on the ground were killed in the Jan. 29 crash.

The commander of that squadron, Fred Kilian, has been relieved of his command because of its poor safety record. Fighter Squadron 213 only regained its flight status Wednesday following a safety stand-down.

On Friday, Marine Capt. Ronald C. Walkiewicz was killed in a training accident in eastern North Carolina. The pilot, who was flying an AV-8B Harrier jump-jet, was buried Sunday.

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