

Shannon Jacobs, the advance coordinator for MTV's "Choose or Lose" tour, is a 1994 graduate of the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications. She travels several days ahead of the bus to make preparations at each site.

Bus

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of "Choose or Lose" and "Rock the Vote.

"We hope '96's numbers will be higher," said Jacobs, a 1994 graduate of UNL's College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Having made 43 stops already this year around the country, Jacobs said students so far had a great response to the campaign.

"It's the type of event that ev-eryone wins with," she said. "It's very positive. Students know it's a good cause, and it's fun at the same time.

Jacobs tours with Jaime Ernesto Uzeta, field coordinator for "Rock the Vote.'

He said even though his organization was founded on climinating

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SHANNON JACOBS

tour advance coordinator

censorship, "Rock the Vote" works to speak for students on all issues. Generally, students are interested in things that are closest to them," he said. "Education, personal security and the environment

usually come up." He said "Rock the Vote" relied on its celebrity support, but its main

focus was to provide materials and know-how to local community groups.

He said "Rock the Vote" brought a lot of white voters to the polls in 1992, but the focus this year was on Latino and black voters.

He said the organization was creating a hip-hop coalition to bring more young people to the polls.

"Rock the Vote" also is working on setting up a voter system that uses tollfree numbers and World Wide Web sites to register voters more quickly and easily, he said.

The event also included visits from Gov. Ben Nelson, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, and Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg, who is seeking the GOP Senate nomina-

Jacobs and Uzeta will continue on the "Choose or Lose" trail this week, with Wichita, Kan., the next stop on the list.

Neighborhood watches keep an eye on crime

By Chad Lorenz Senior Reporter

Lincoln Police Officer Russ Fosler said he wished people would get involved in neighborhood watch to prevent crime before it happens - not after.

"It's sad but true. People don't join neighborhood watch unless something happens in their area," Fosler said.

Studies have shown that neighborhood watch prevents crime, Fosler said. In a study done on the East Coast, 90 percent of the burglaries occurred in areas where there were no neighborhood watch groups, he said.

About 15,000 Lincoln citizens are neighborhood watch members, Fosler said. Since the program started in Lincoln in 1983, 1,600 neighborhood watch groups have organized.

Neighborhood watch groups start with a block security coordinator, Fosler said. Those coordinators structure their watch groups to fit their needs, he said.

Some organize foot patrols, and some pass on information on crime awareness, such as information they receive in "The Eye," the bimonthly neighborhood watch newsletter from Lincoln police, he said.

"If they just watch for their neigh-bors — that's what it's all about," Fosler said.

Nancy Vallis said she set up a neighborhood watch program in her area in 1981, when the groups were first organizing.

Through annual events, such as the group's spring coffee meeting and said. "Once people join, they stay in summer picnic, the neighborhood has it."

"If they just watch for their neighbors — that's what it's all about."

RUSS FOSLER

Lincoln police officer

developed tight relations, she said. When a house a few blocks away was burglarized, Vallis' neighborhood watch had warned all of its neighbors within two hours, she said.

"I guess you could say we have a hot line for neighbors to inform neighbors.

The group monitors potential crime in the area and keeps members and the police informed, she said. In the past neighbors have reported suspicious people and evidence of marijuana use. "I think it's given an opportunity for

neighbors to be a little more watchful."

Every two months, the neighborhood watch has a citywide meeting where Fosler has someone give presentations on crime or police topics, such as drugs, gangs or K-9 units. Last month's meeting featured Ken

Cauble, chief of police at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Once neighborhood watch programs start, volunteers and police are good at keeping them going, Fosler said

Out of almost 50 block coordinators that have left since January, Fosler said he had replaced all but one.

"It's a very strong program," Fosler





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a Big 12 university. Clear copies of identification-one verifying enrollment in school and a photo ID that shows date of birth-must be brought to the interview. All photos