

Web site to provide campus police statistics

By **MATTHEW WAITE**
Senior Reporter

A bill pending before Congress that would open campus crime logs will have been made moot at UNL before it passes.

Not only are University of Nebraska-Lincoln police records and statistics already open, UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble said, some soon will be in cyberspace.

The bill, called the Open Campus Police Logs Act, is pending before the House of Representatives Education Committee in Washington. It would force universities and colleges receiving federal funds to open campus police and security reports.

But Cauble already opens campus police logs to the public as part of his community policing philosophy.

"The only thing we have ever been reluctant to give out is names of victims of different things," he said.

Cauble said many campuses are fighting the bill for one reason or another. He said some are fighting it to keep crime from deterring students from enrolling.

"A campus that says they have no problems is lying," Cauble said. "It's like a city saying it has no crime."

Campuses are required by federal law to report on campus crime annu-

ally. Cauble said some universities aren't always in compliance because of lax law enforcement.

A university faces the loss of all federal funds if it does not comply with the current law.

Cauble said he wanted to get campus crime information out to more students and turned to the World Wide Web.

By the beginning of October, Cauble and UNL police computer specialist Tony Spulak hope to have a web site up and running that gives campus crime statistics, tips and information.

Cauble said posting the information on the Internet was an extension of his "open records" philosophy. Campuses that suppress crime information, he said, will continue to have problems with crime.

"It's just not my theory on how law enforcement is supposed to be," he said.

The web site, which will be linked to the UNL web site, <http://www.unl.edu>, will be updated either daily or weekly with crime statistics, Cauble said. He said it was unknown how or if daily information could be included — the details are still being worked out.

"Hopefully (the web site) will help people to understand that we're here to give people information as well as protect them," Spulak said.

UNL posts third-largest drop in campus crime

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-munity policing and information sharing — programs started a few years ago — led to the decrease, he said.

And, he said, newer data point to a continued decrease of thefts and assaults.

UNLPD employs 27 full-time, commissioned officers and 15 community service officers who patrol campus but have no arrest powers. The department also employs a full-time crime prevention officer who is responsible for campus crime education.

The community service officers have been given expanded areas of

patrol, Cauble said. The officers now check parking lots around campus as part of their patrol patterns.

Students have been making more calls to UNLPD to report suspicious activity, and thefts around greek houses have been decreasing, Cauble said.

Cauble said straight talk with parents and students helps. He said when he talks with students and parents at New Student Enrollment, he tells them campus crimes exist and he tells them what the crimes are. He also tells them alcohol is present on this dry campus.

"(I say) here are the problems, and if you don't know them, we can't stop them," Cauble said.

CORRECTION

Randy Abel is the manager of an Audio-Visual Video Store, not the manager of a Film Strip video rental store, as was reported in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan.



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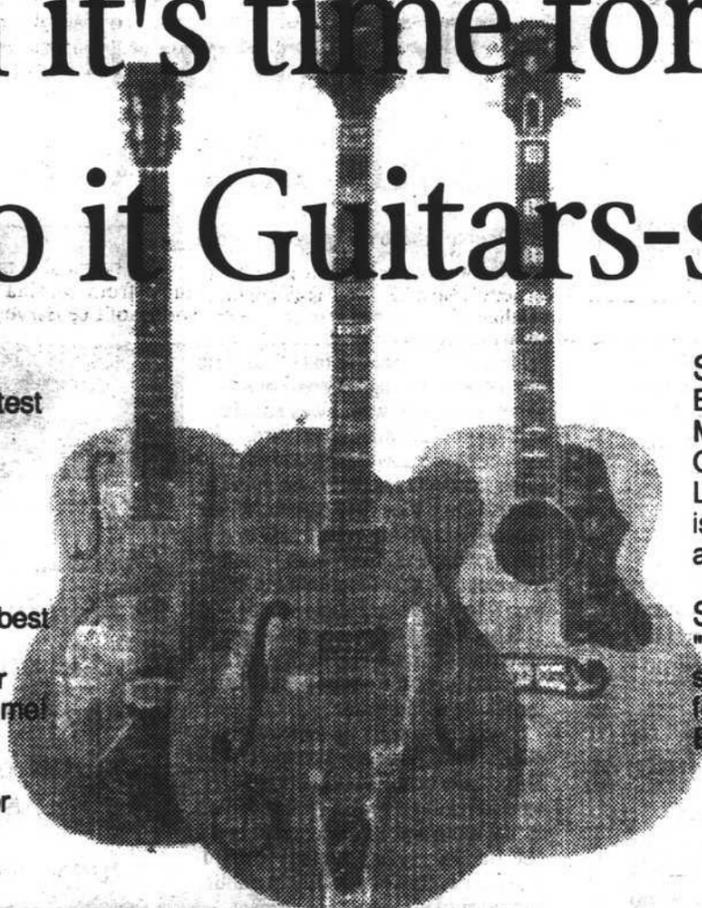
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