

OPINION PAGES

OUR VIEW

On guard UNL police presence keeps students safe

UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble and the campus police force are to be commended.

For three years, UNL has seen a steady drop in campus crime — the third largest among U.S. university campuses from 1993 to 1994.

The police force may not be growing in numbers, but it is growing in determination. And its efforts are making a difference.

Despite external reviews that have said the UNL police department is under-staffed, the badge-bearing guardian angels of UNL have become a real presence in campus night life — on the streets and sidewalks, in the dark parking lots and empty buildings.

In 1995, UNL saw decreases in larceny, motor vehicle theft, obscene phone calls and indecent exposure.

In the past two years, violent crimes on campus have been minimal. There have been two felony assaults since the beginning of 1995; and police expect 1996 to end with fewer misdemeanor assaults than the 35 reported in 1995. The count so far this year is at 19.

Larceny — by far the most common campus crime — dropped 27 percent from 1993 to 1994. It then dropped an additional 5 percent from 1994 to 1995. And it is expected to drop even further this year.

There is safety in numbers; and the numbers say UNL is getting safer.

There is safety in the numbers of police officers and community service officers who patrol the University of Nebraska-Lincoln — though having a few more officers out there wouldn't hurt.

There is safety in the numbers of times students look over their shoulders when walking a darkened path.

Safety in the numbers of emergency phones located at all corners of the campus.

Safety in the numbers of times students follow their instincts and report suspicious circumstances.

Safety in the numbers of people that students take with them when they walk outside at night, rather than walking alone.

Safety in the numbers of nights students lock up before going to sleep.

Safety in the numbers of students and faculty members who have participated in crime education programs.

UNL is getting smart. It's getting tough on crime.

“The police force may not be growing in numbers, but it is growing in determination. And its efforts are making a difference.”

MEHSLING'S VIEW



GUEST VIEW

Education plays big role in politics

EDITOR'S NOTE: This guest column was written by Secretary of Education Richard Riley and submitted for publication by the College Democrats of America.

One of the most difficult challenges a presidential administration faces is keeping the public aware of its accomplishments and informed about its proposals. As the secretary of education for President Clinton, I face this challenge almost every day.

That's why I'd like to take a moment of your time to tell you some of the things the Department of Education has done for college students over the last four years, and what we have planned for the future.

In 1993, Clinton signed the Student Loan Reform Act, which created the Direct Student Loan Program. Direct lending has made it possible for students to bypass the maze of big banks and middlemen they normally face and borrow money directly from the federal government through their student aid office.

We're very proud of the Direct Student Loan Program. It uses a one-page application from that reduces paperwork. It transfers funds to colleges and universities electronically, so students don't have to wait in long lines to sign loan checks. And perhaps most significantly, it offers more flexible repayment options, so fewer students go into default.

“We plan on continuing to make college more accessible and more affordable for students in the future.”

Overall, direct lending has increased competition in the student loan field — improving services to all students.

We plan on continuing to make college more accessible and more affordable for students in the future.

Clinton's HOPE Scholarship plan is designed to make two years of higher education as universal as a high school education. To accomplish this, the HOPE Scholarship plan will give students a \$1,500 tax credit they can apply to their first year of college tuition. On their second year, if the students work hard, maintain a "B" average and stay drug free, they can expect another \$1,500 tax credit. \$1,500 is \$300 more than the national average for a community college education and would, therefore, make a community college education free for the majority of students. The \$1,500

tax credit can also be applied to a more expensive four-year institution. Additionally, the HOPE Scholarship tax credit is paid for in Clinton's balanced budget.

Because parents and families of college-age people already face a great challenge in financing a student's education, we want to help them by allowing them to deduct up to \$10,000 from their taxes for college tuition and expenses. Often, parents face the prospect of putting more than one child through college at a time. This tax deduction will help them meet that challenge. Again, this tax deduction is paid for in Clinton's balanced budget.

More and more, students are working during college to finance some or all of their tuition and expenses. We are working to expand the federal work-study program to allow more students to find better-paying jobs. By the year 2000, Clinton expects that this will help more than 1 million students pay their own way through college.

I don't need to tell you that a college degree is more important now than ever before. You wouldn't be in college now if you didn't believe that you need that advantage to face the challenges of the 21st century. I want you to know that, as the secretary of education, I intend to make sure that this administration continues to help you meet those challenges.

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