

Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

ASSAULT

A man who hid in the back of a woman's car, which was stopped at a gas station Saturday morning, left the vehicle after assaulting the woman with a steak knife.

Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said that about 4 a.m. Saturday, a woman stopped at the U-Stop on 27th and E streets for gas.

She went in to pay, left the vehicle running, came back out, entered the vehicle and started driving, Heermann said. A man came up from the back seat and put what appeared to be a steak knife in her face. He cut the left side of her neck several times and slashed both fore-

arms and her upper chest.

The woman stopped for a traffic signal at 21st and E streets and the man left the vehicle.

She described the man as a white male of medium build, wearing a black stocking hat, black shirt and black pants.

BURGLARY

Officers recovered almost \$10,000 worth of goods stolen from Culler Junior High School Sunday morning after an officer saw a vehicle with its lights off enter the west parking lot at a high speed.

Heermann said the officer searched the vehicle and found one of the school's bank bags and a

hacksaw. The officer found the school's southwest door unsecured and discovered audio/visual equipment and computers stacked by the door. The officer also found several classrooms broken into.

Heermann said the three suspects had entered the school through the courtyard where a piece of plywood was covering a broken window. About \$600 in damage was done to the school.

Jacob Nelson, 20, of 209 Dawes St., and two male juveniles were cited and/or arrested for burglary.

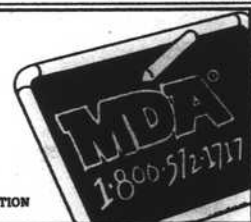
Officers recovered six televisions, one videocassette recorder and several computers and printers.



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NU groups heighten diversity awareness

By ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

A wooden cross and spray-painted racial slur found at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Monday could mean another crushing blow to NU diversity efforts.

University officials reported that a black UNO employee found a wooden cross stuck in the gas tank of his vehicle and a racial epithet spray painted across his windshield.

NU President Dennis Smith quickly condemned the incident as "deplorable."

"I feel compelled to emphasize that overt and implied acts of racial hatred and bigotry will not be tolerated at the University of Nebraska," Smith said, and also used the opportunity to condemn Sigma Chi's cross burning.

The racist nature of the UNO vandalism works against many positive efforts made toward cross-cultural understanding in the past weeks, said other university members Monday.

Many University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus members and student organizations have said they turned their anger over the cross burning into action by holding meetings, as well as prayer vigils.

A workshop to develop solutions to racism is planned for 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Nebraska Union by the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee of the Teachers College, followed by a separate speech on unity by New Jersey pastor Buster Soaries at 7 p.m.

Looking in

Many campus and organization members, including Brent Karstens, president of the UNL Interfraternity Council, said the incident forced them to take a critical look at their own work toward diversity.

"A lot of people knew there was a little barrier on campus, but no one wanted to do anything," he said.

That will change now, he said.

IFC has always supported diversity efforts, Karstens said. But, after the Sigma Chi incident, he said, the IFC

realized a gap remained between the mostly black and mostly white fraternities.

As a result, last Thursday the fraternities came together through IFC to reaffirm their commitment to cross-cultural understanding with a statement.

"This incident really could have turned sour," Karstens said. "It's a start to a new beginning."

The new beginning includes an IFC declaration that it will denounce racism and "emphatically deplore any action which widens the ethnicity gap on campus, in our community and across America."

Under the cross

Brett Yohn, state director of the Christian Challenge and Baptist Student Union, said university church leaders also are finding the incident has spurred more thought and recognition of racism among UNL students.

The Association of Campus Religious Workers at UNL adopted a statement Feb. 6 that condemned the "expression, condoning or minimizing of racism, an insidious disease and violation of persons created in the image of God."

Misunderstandings between the university and black community members were ironed out in a meeting that included university officials, the NAACP, the Afrikan People's Union and Sigma Chi members.

Closed door

But some students, including members of the Mexican American Student Association, said they were upset that off-campus and community members were excluded from the meeting.

Jose Bustamante, vice president of MASA, said no one in the organization was invited to the APU meeting. Many MASA members also were offended by the cross burning and wanted to help with healing in its aftermath, he said.

"That's a sign of hatred, not only against blacks," he said. "We were left out of further discussion."

Bills would toughen policy on alcohol sales in state

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of non-compliance?"

But opponents of the proposal argued that liquor outlets in violation of their licenses were only part of the problem.

Mike Kelley, a private lawyer and a lobbyist for United Retailers Liquor Association of Nebraska, said it was difficult for businesses to ensure their employees would avoid selling to minors in every case.

The General Affairs Committee took no action on LB17. Members also delayed decisions on LB482 and LB249 pending legal consultation.

LB482, sponsored by Sen. Doug Kristensen of Minden, would return the authority of regulating liquor licenses to city councils.

LB249, sponsored by the General Affairs Committee, would officially put into law the Liquor Control Commission's current regulation practices.

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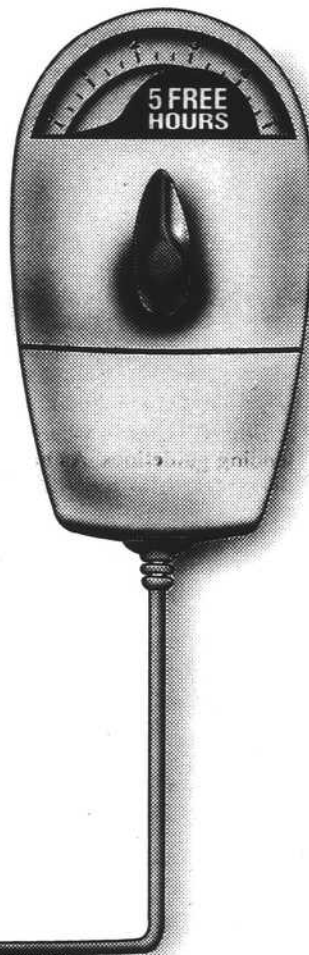
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