

# Churches must beware of burglary, police say

From Staff Reports

Lincoln churches increasingly have become targets for burglaries as expensive stereos and electronic equipment disappear from choir lofts and rectories.

Lincoln Police Sgt. Ken Koziol, an investigator in the criminal investigations unit, said it was hard to say if the burglaries were the work of one person or a group.

Those looking at the cases say all churches must beware.

"The trust factor is over," Koziol said.

Nine churches have been broken into in the last four months. The most recent was at Grace Lutheran Church, 2200 Washington St.

Between April 17 and 18, someone got into the church and pried the door to the choir room

open. Once inside, an \$800 stereo was taken.

In other burglaries, Koziol said, perpetrators were going after other expensive equipment or any cash that is available. Structural damage is limited to the pried open doors, he said.

Koziol said churches should record the serial numbers for all their equipment and make sure doors are locked at night. Churches also should make sure the grounds around the church are well lighted, he said.

The police can see no patterns, no similar denominations or locations in the burglaries, he said, but they did have a suspect.

Koziol said they interviewed a man who was spotted at several different churches. The man said he was examining churches for his child, but Koziol said, "We have reason to believe otherwise."

## Law & Order



A look at crime on campus and in the community

### ASSAULT

An exotic dancer at BJ's Hideaway, 5100 N. 48th St., was bending down for a tip Tuesday night when a patron bit her right hip and wouldn't let go.

Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said the woman had to hit the man in the head to get him to release his grip.

The woman was taken to Bryan Memorial Hospital to have her bite wounds, which punctured her skin, treated.

Heermann said because the crime was reported at Bryan, BJ's received a tavern violation for not reporting assaults that occur on the premises.

Lincoln police have a description of the man who bit the dancer and are now looking for him.

the man was not there.

Heermann said a few hours later, between 1 a.m. and 1:30 a.m., the three women burst into the apartment and started assaulting the girl. She was kicked, punched in the face and her head was shoved through an open window, popping out the screen and leaving her dangling from the waist out the second-story window.

Some men who were near the scene pulled the three women off, but not before the victim sustained a hairline fracture in her neck and scrapes on her back, neck, arms and legs.

Police have suspects, but have not contacted them yet, Heermann said.

### RADAR WATCH

Lincoln police radar units will be in the area of Normal Boulevard from 27th to 56th streets and on A Street from 56th to 84th streets today.

On Friday, units will be on 14th Street from Vine to Superior streets and on 16th and 17th streets from K to Holdrege streets.

### ASSAULT

A girl was assaulted in her home by three women looking for a man who wasn't at her apartment Tuesday morning.

The 17-year-old girl told police that the three women had called her earlier that evening looking for a man. She told them that

# Couples aim to dispel homosexual stereotypes

By LINDSAY YOUNG  
Staff Reporter

Dispelling stereotypes is one of the keys to the acceptance of same-gender marriages in Nebraska, a gay-rights advocate said Wednesday following a panel in favor of such marriages.

Karl Skinner, an Indianola, Iowa, resident, said the way to do this was through open forums, such as the one presented to the public Wednesday night in the main lounge of the Nebraska Union.

Three couples were invited by Someone You Know, a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender organization, to present their views on same-gender marriages. The discussion was part of Pride '97 week.

Skinner said presenting couples that looked like everyone else would show people that non-heterosexual pairs are not as unusual as some think.

"It's harder to be hateful when the couple talking looks like the couple next door," he said. "It's harder to point and say 'that's wrong.'"

Skinner and his partner, Larry Pankoke, along with Bridget Pilloud and Angie Esquivel, joined David and Rhonda Schoenmaker to talk about same-gender marriages with a lounge full of people.

The issue of calling the marriage something other than a marriage, such as a domestic partnership, was brought up to the panel, but most of the panelists said they weren't concerned about the name as long as the legal benefits came with it.

"I'm not sure a domestic partnership would grant the same rights a marriage would," David Schoenmaker said.

Esquivel said she didn't think that taking a half step toward state-recognized same-gender marriages would benefit homosexuals. A half step could be the granting of some, but not all rights now reserved for heterosexual couples.

"I don't think I would accept a half step," she said. "It means getting something less. That is separate, which is not equal."

“  
Why on this issue is the Bible being used to club us over the head?”

KARL SKINNER  
panelist

However, some panelists said they thought a half step was a good way to start the trek to the total acceptance of same-gender marriages by the state.

Panelists also discussed how state recognition would affect them personally. Skinner would feel better if he could say he was married to his partner.

"I hate that awkward moment when someone asks me if I am single or married. When I say single, I feel guilt. I feel I have denied Larry (Pankoke)," Skinner said.

Pilloud said it would help her and others with taxes, in cases of medical emergency and with custody of their children.

"Those are big issues in our lives," Pilloud said.

Organized religion also was raised as one of the main issues regarding state recognition of same-gender marriages.

Panelists said the use of the Bible to ban same-gender marriages was not consistent with the separation of church and state.

"They are using a couple passages in the Bible to ban it. It shouldn't be used because it is not the book of faith for all," Pilloud said.

"Why on this issue is the Bible being used to club us over the head?" Skinner said.

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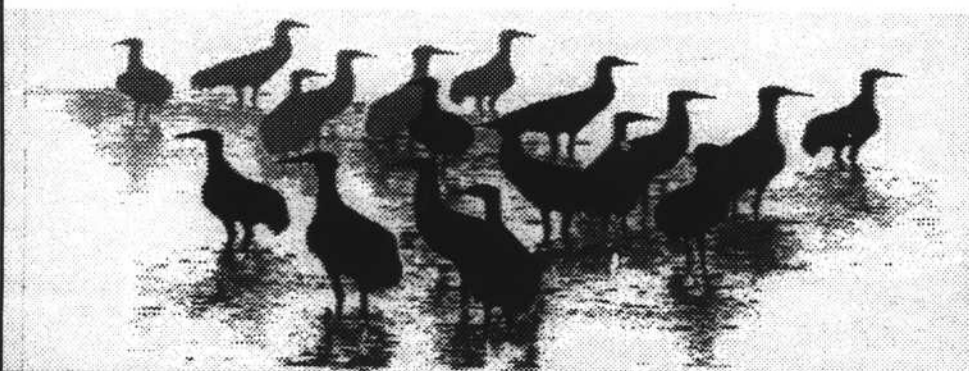
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Session	Call #	Course #	Course Name	Day	Time	Place
1 <sup>st</sup> 5-Wk	5022	COMM398	Communication & Ethnic Groups	M&W	12:45-4:35	B6 M&N
Instructor: Naomi Warren, University of Texas @ Austin						
1 <sup>st</sup> 5-Wk	5001	SOCI398	Contemporary Black Social Movements	M-F	11:00-12:35	209 OldH
Instructor: Ronald J. Stephens, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan						
2 <sup>nd</sup> 5-Wk	4969	ETHN398	Slave Resistance in North America	M-F	11:00-12:35	124 HaH
Instructor: Walter Rucker, University of California @ Riverside						
2 <sup>nd</sup> 5-Wk	4952	HIST355/855	Post WWII America	M-F	12:45-2:20	309 OldH
Instructor: Clarence Taylor, Florida International University, Hollywood, Florida						

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