

Property protection key to holiday ease

Tips help stave off thefts

BY JAMIE SUHR
Staff Reporter

Before leaving for the holidays, students need to remember a few tips to keep their possessions safe. Despite the holiday spirit, crimes and accidents still happen, and many of these problems can be prevented.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln police Sgt. Mylo Bushing has warnings for students planning to leave for the holidays.

"Don't load items into your car the night before you leave. Students shouldn't leave behind extra checks and credit cards. They'll also want to be careful on leaving televisions and stereos. If you do leave them behind, record the serial number," he said.

If those items are stolen, the police can try to match the serial number with any recovered property, or through pawn shops.

He also said students should be careful about leaving items behind that are easy to walk off with, such as compact discs. Bushing urged people to check their cars as often as possible because of larceny in parking lots.

Bob Stine, coordinator of residence hall administration, said he recommended students leave their bikes in their rooms - not on bike racks - and to lock them to something secure if possible.

To guard against any crimes in the vacant residence halls, the university plans to have building security checks. For those halls that are still open, security officers will make rounds 24 hours a day.

"Don't load items into your car the night before you leave."


MYLO BUSHING
UNL police sergeant

"The only people who will be in the rooms will be the student assistants and maintenance. The (student assistants) will be checking the students' rooms for trash, perishable food, if the refrigerator is defrosted, if the lights are turned off, and if everything is turned off. Maintenance will have to spray for bugs, and depending on the schedule, maintenance may check the heating," Stine said.

Shirley Niemeier, a specialist of housing for the cooperative extension, said students in apartments or houses need to keep an appearance that people are still around.

"Arrange to have someone pick up your mail and snow shovel your driveway. Depending on the security of the housing, leave a light on if it's a grounded outlet," she said.


Students also should remember to lower their thermostats, securely lock all doors and windows and take out all garbage. If possible, they should make sure a neighbor has a house key in case of emergency and knows how to contact them.

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CORRECTION

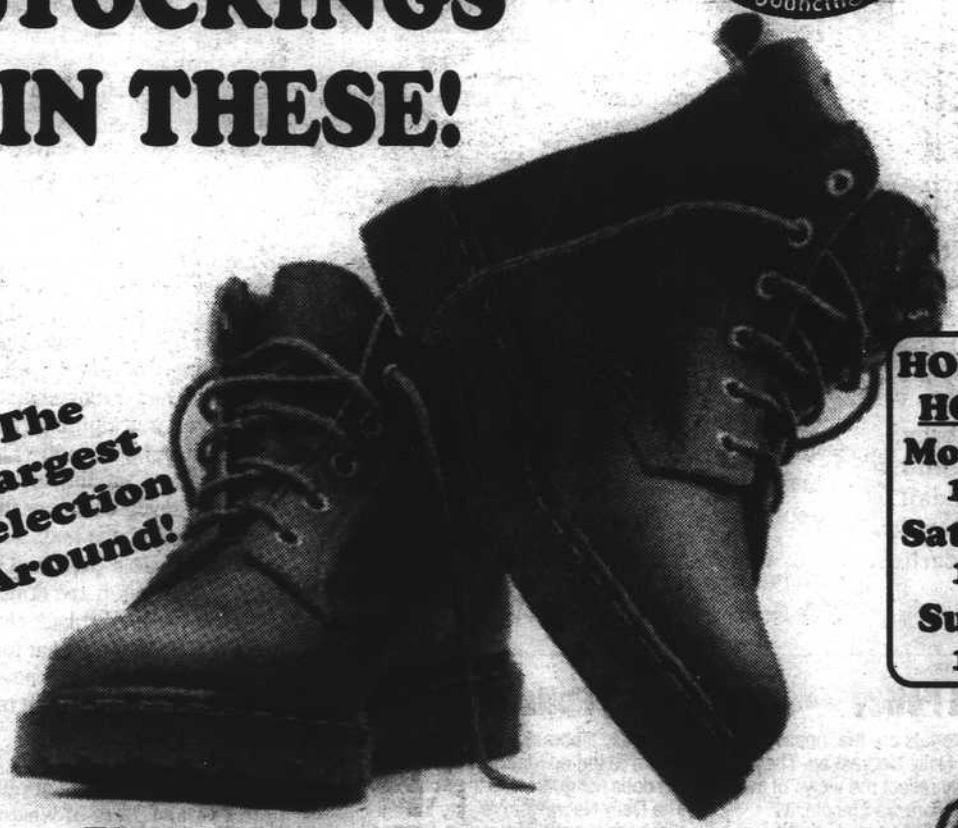
A Page One story about the new observatory on the parking garage in Friday's Daily Nebraskan had paragraphs arranged incorrectly because of an editing error. The story will be presented as intended in today's Daily Nebraskan online edition.

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