

Tata for now

The Nebraska football team received its 21st verbal commitment Wednesday from Tony Tata, a 6-foot-3, 240-pound defensive tackle from Honolulu, Hawaii. PAGE 7



Double duty

Darryl White, a recent addition to UNL's School of Music faculty, is making a habit out of being over-occupied. PAGE 9

January 29, 1998

GLOBAL WARMING ISN'T ALL BAD
Mostly sunny, high 45. Partly cloudy tonight, low 25.

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Numbers show larceny, theft down in 1997

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

While violent crime at UNL hit a six-year low last year, reported drug-related offenses continued to rise, statistics released Wednesday indicated.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department 1997 crime statistics also indicated two of the most common crimes on campus, larceny and theft, reached a six-year low of 574 incidents last year, down from 589 in 1996 and 683 in 1995.

The decrease in property crime on campus is due to the increased vigilance of students and the work of community service officers and university police, said UNL Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing.

Burglaries were up from 53 in 1996 to 75 in 1997. Violent crimes such as murder, robbery and assault also reached six-year lows last year.

Eighty liquor violations were reported last year, up from 11 in 1996 and one in 1995 and drug violations, at 24, continued on their gradual increase since 1992.

Police attribute the jump in these crimes to two factors: the relatively small number of incidents overall and increased student reporting of crimes.

Bushing warned, however, that

statistics of a small number can be easily skewed.

"If you bust one big party on campus, drug and alcohol violations will jump," he said.

Police must rely on reports to detect crime in the residence halls.

"Individuals are taking a more active role in reporting things," Bushing said.

The presence of community service officers, starting in 1992, has become an effective deterrent to crime in the residence halls and around campus, Bushing said.

"The community service officers catch a lot of things during their rounds in the halls and the academic buildings on campus," he said.

CSOs also free police officers to patrol the streets and respond to serious offenses.

"They have been a lifesaver," Bushing said, "especially in the halls."

With the help of CSOs, University Police have been better able to respond to crimes reported on campus.

Police try to prevent crime by making students aware of the risks.

Larceny and theft are big problems because thieves know students have the merchandise they are looking for, and students do not take precautions.

"Getting things out of sight in your car or room makes a big differ-

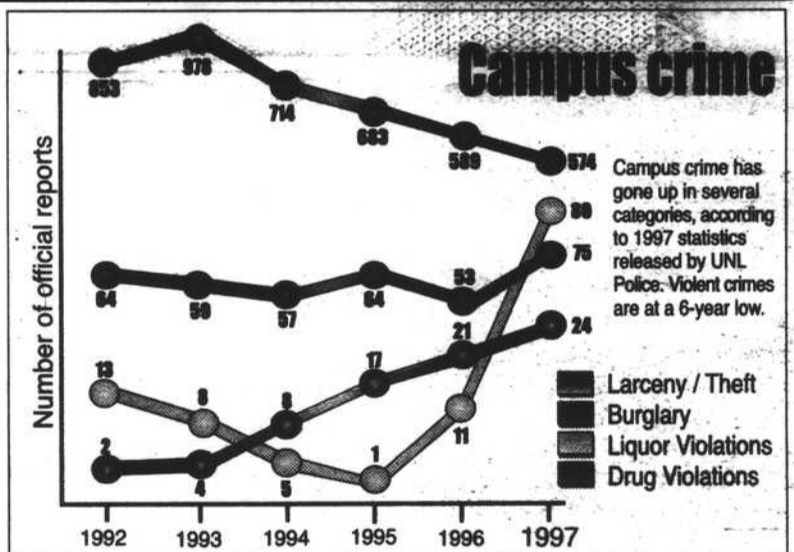


GRAPHIC BY JON FRANK/DN
PHOTO BY MICHAEL WARREN/DN
OFFICER A.J. CLIFTON of the UNL Police Department takes the name of a man walking through a parking lot on campus Wednesday afternoon. Clifton said officers take the names of people they don't usually see on campus as a safety measure for students and faculty.

ence," Bushing said.

Police also encourage students to record serial numbers and model numbers from all of their valuables, so they can easily reclaim any stolen property.

Such measures can help reduce UNL's crime numbers for another year, Bushing said.



Hostess recall affects few Lincoln residents

BY LINDSAY YOUNG
Assignment Reporter

To eat or not to eat?

That is the question many may be asking about Twinkies and other Hostess products after an estimated 1 million individual snacks were recalled this week from 21 states, including Nebraska.

The snacks may have been contaminated with asbestos fibers in a suburban Chicago bakery.

But University Health Center officials said if students have eaten the creme-filled snacks affected by the recall, they need not worry.

According to a statement released by the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department, 13 Hostess products, including Dolly Madison cupcakes, could be affected.

Almost all of the snacks have expiration dates ranging from Jan. 22 through Feb. 6, except HoHo's, which have an expiration date of Feb. 13. All recalled products have the code

number "57" on the package and were manufactured between Jan. 11 and Monday.

Don Harmon, health center occupational health physician assistant, said the ingestion of asbestos in water or food is not considered to be toxic or dangerous.

In some areas of the country, he said, traces of asbestos occur in the drinking water.

"We don't know what the concentration of asbestos fiber in the food product is," Harmon said. "I would be surprised if it was high."

Only some Lincoln convenience stores have been affected by the recall.

The new campus convenience store in the parking garage, QwiKick, is not affected because it does not stock Hostess products.

Scott Morgaridge, the Kwik Shop area adviser in Lincoln, said Kwik Shop stores have had to take the snacks off shelves.

Morgaridge said he had been at a Lincoln Kwik Shop store Wednesday morning and the workers only had to take about 10 packages off

Please see **SNACKS** on 6

New bills would protect rights of unborn children

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Senior Reporter

Legislature

Three minutes after his mother was killed by a drunk driver, Zachary Griesemer was delivered by Caesarean section.

He was baptized. He received a birth certificate. He lived for nine hours and 12 minutes before dying of head injuries sustained in the accident.

But the drunk driver whose car flew out of control across the median and killed Billie Griesemer, Zachary's mother, was never charged in the death of her then-unborn child.

Supporters of LB981 and LB987 told members of the Judiciary Committee Wednesday that unborn children deserve the same protection as everyone else in cases of homicide, manslaughter or other criminal acts by a third party resulting in death. They were careful, however, to explain the law would in no way limit a woman's right to an abortion.

"This bill is designed to close the loophole we believe caused injury, pain and suffering, particularly to a woman who lost an unborn child, as a result of a third party's action," said Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln, sponsor of LB981.

The two bills would change the definition of "person" in the descriptions of homicide, manslaughter and motor vehicle homicide.

Crosby's bill covers unborn children in the uterus beginning with conception. LB987, sponsored by Sen. Jim Jones of Eddyville, would cover "viable" unborn children in the uterus.

Billie Griesemer's mother, Barbara LaTurner, spoke at the hearing.

"Please don't let this continue," she told committee members amid sobs. "Please

Please see **ZACHARY** on 6