

Bar owners warm up to hot sheets' virtues

By JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

Lincoln bar owners are warming up to the idea of hot sheets, but bar patrons may not notice their effects.

The hot sheets, provided by the Responsible Hospitality Council, list names of people arrested in the past month for alcohol-related offenses and other disturbances downtown.

Bar owners said they are using the hot sheets to keep an eye on patrons.

"If someone is showing irresponsible behavior at other places, I don't want them in my bar," said Jack Gross, owner of Duggan's Pub, 440 S. 11th St.

The first copy of the list was distributed to bars three weeks ago with the help of Lincoln police.

Most bar owners said they posted the list where their employees could see it and gave a copy to door attendants.

When door attendants come across names on the list, they closely examine the customers and their IDs before letting them into the bar, Duffy's Tavern owner Reg McMeen said.

Door attendants look for names that are familiar from the list and then cross-check IDs, McMeen said.

Once such customers are inside, employees can keep an eye on them to watch for problems, McMeen said.

"This is a great tool for us," McMeen said. "And any tool we can get to fight the battle, we'll use."

Bar owners extolled the virtues of the hot sheets, but they could not say there was a direct relationship to fewer problems. Kristina Tiebel, part-owner of Crane River Brewpub and Cafe, 200 N. 11th Street, said her employees pay close attention to those on the list depending on the offense listed.

"We make sure the people checking IDs are aware of who is on the list," Tiebel said.

Barrymore's manager Laird Habertan said he also keeps the list at the door so employees can identify people who might cause problems.

Though they were all using the hot sheets, none of the bar owners contacted said they would ban listed patrons.

But bar owners do take alcohol offenses seriously. They could face stiff fines for thousands of dollars, or they could even be shut down.

"To a minor trying to buy alcohol, it's just a game and maybe a fine," McMeen said. "But for bar owners, it is a threat to their livelihood."

Event targets police

Speakers urge people to take law enforcement brutality seriously

By JOSH FUNK
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Police brutality is a plague on communities, and Lincoln is not immune, protesters said Thursday.

As part of a national protest, about 25 teen-agers gathered on Centennial Mall to discuss issues of police brutality and civil rights, both locally and nationally.

The event, in its third year, attracted a crowd of youth clad in oversized cargo shorts adorned with numerous hand-sewn patches advocating music groups and social issues.

The five speakers shared their experiences with social injustice and advocated community involvement to the crowd of teens.

The rally was sponsored by Food Not Bombs, the Lincoln Justice Committee, the American Civil Liberties Union-Nebraska and Lincoln's chapter of Nebraskans for Peace.

Police brutality is not a popular subject in mainstream America, they said.

"There are very few with the heart to speak their mind, or to come here today and be counted," Frank LaMere, a Winnebago Indian activist, said.

But until mainstream America becomes upset, ACLU-Nebraska Executive Director Matt LeMieux said, nothing will change.

LaMere told the story of a tragedy his Sioux City, Iowa, community faced in 1995 when a 29-year-old woman was gunned down by police as she sat on her front porch.

The unarmed woman bled to death on her front porch while police kept her mother and others from offering aid or comfort, LaMere said.

"And I'll be back when they kill a member of your family ... or when you are killed"

FRANK LAMERE
Winnebago Indian activist

In the aftermath, police reports did not seem to agree with their own dispatch cards, and LaMere said three years later the community is still looking for answers.

But LaMere was quick to remind the crowd that police brutality happens a lot closer to home—in fact, just a few blocks away.

As an activist, LaMere visited Lincoln in 1992 when police shot and killed Seth Whiteface late one night.

Whiteface was inebriated and had pointed a toy gun at police before he was shot.

LaMere also came to Lincoln in September 1994 when Francisco Renteria died of asphyxiation after a struggle with police.

"And I'll be back when they kill a member of your family, when they choke you or when you are killed," LaMere said.

Senior Lisa Sock from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Amnesty International chapter told the

crowd, "America's so-called land of the free and home of the brave is only for certain people."

"People are being abused every day," Sock said. "And we fail to deal effectively with police brutality."

A civil rights advocate for 28 years, Dianne Myers, from the Lincoln Justice Committee, a citizens group, urged the crowd to stand up for the things they are guaranteed as citizens.

"After 28 years, we shouldn't be here still trying to get basic rights," Myers said.

But 30 years after the civil rights movement erupted in the South, people are still fighting for their rights, said Dan Williams, of the Citizens Against Racism and Discrimination.

Williams said citizens must be on alert, so they can respond to police brutality by reporting it and drawing attention to the problem.

"You have to be aware that this sort of thing can happen anywhere," he said, "and students can make a difference."

Law & Order

YMCA lockers burglarized

Someone burglarized the lockers of three women at the YMCA, 1039 P St., while they worked out Wednesday.

The three victims, one 69-year-old and two 70-year-olds, were in a swim class from 12:30 to 1:50 p.m. while someone emptied out their unlocked lockers, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

The thief then put new padlocks on the lockers and locked them before going out to the parking lot to burglarize the victims' cars using their car keys.

The thief took about \$1,000 worth of items from the three women, including orthopedic shoes and bifocals.

Police advise people to make sure to lock up their belongings when they work out.

Pot smokers found in Capitol

Two teen-agers tried to get higher Tuesday evening by smoking marijuana on the 14th floor of the Capitol.

A security guard patrolling the 14th floor around 5 p.m. smelled burning marijuana and looked for the source, Heermann said.

The guard detained the 17- and 18-year-old offenders until police arrived.

They were cited for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Compiled by senior staff writer Josh Funk

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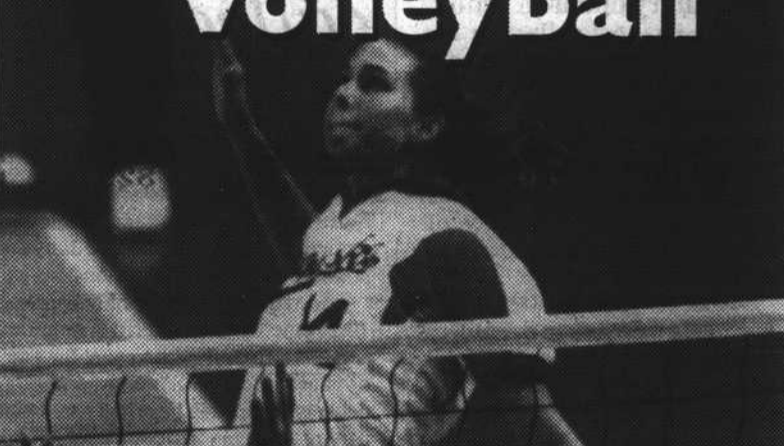
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