

CSO fired, cited for thefts in halls

Almost \$100 stolen over two years

By JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

A Community Service officer was fired last week after being linked to four residence hall thefts that happened during school breaks.

The almost four-year veteran targeted change jars in the thefts that date back to 1997, University Police Chief Ken Cauble said.

But, Cauble said, this man is not indicative of other CSOs, who, as a group, have contributed to a 30 percent decrease in crime on campus since the program's inception.

"CSOs are a very important part of the department, and they do any excellent job," Cauble said.

Director of Housing Doug Zatechka said security is always a concern, and his department works with University Police to prevent problems.

"I think a lot of the CSO program and what it has done," Zatechka said. "Many times they have been helpful in solving thefts."

A university police officer, who was already investigating the thefts, began to focus on the CSO after he was spotted on the upper levels of a residence hall this spring break, but his logbook reported him elsewhere, Cauble said.

Before that, police had developed a list of 14 possible suspects, and they were looking at the vacation thefts for general ways to improve security procedures, Cauble said.

The investigation generated several suggestions that police and Zatechka implemented before spring break this year.

"The changes definitely took away a lot of opportunities that people had," Cauble said.

High school Web site adds Kosovo coverage

By VERONICA DAEHN
Staff writer

A Web site designed to provide materials for an online high school course has beefed up its coverage.

What was once solely the web address for the interactive course "Global Perspectives: Bosnia" is now also a link to updated information on the crisis in Kosovo.

The link is located at <http://www.CLASS.com>, and provides an in-depth history of the region, its people and the factors behind the current situation.

CLASS.com is a private for-profit entity of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln that started in 1996 with the support of Sen. Bob Kerrey.

Kerrey secured \$2.5 million in federal funding for the Communications, Learning and Assessment in a Student-Centered System project, and continues to support the web-based education.

"Global Perspectives: Bosnia" was the first of 55 web-based CLASS courses developed by UNL's Division of Continuing Studies and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications.

The idea for the course began four years ago when the war in Bosnia continued to claim the lives of innocent people.

Kerrey said the issue would be an ideal initial subject for the multimedia course, and he worked with UNL's Division of Continuing Studies to develop the link as a public service.

Assistant Director for Distance Education and manager of the CLASS project Charlotte Hazzard said the Kosovo link came out late

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director of housing

After the CSO became a definite suspect, police returned to the evidence - four empty change containers - and checked for fingerprints, finding 10 positive matches.

Police contacted all of the theft victims to ensure that there was no legitimate way for the officer's fingerprints to be on the containers before citing him last week.

On April 12, the man was cited for four burglaries - three from spring break 1999 and one from Thanksgiving break 1997 - and suspended. Four days later, he was fired for allegedly stealing almost \$100.

Cauble said the man refused to talk about the incidents at the advice of his lawyer.

All CSOs and university police officers undergo extensive background checks and polygraph examinations before they are hired, Cauble said.

Overall, CSOs are very professional, Cauble said, and it bothers him that this may reflect poorly on other officers.

"The thing that bothers me most is the black mark this gives those guys out there working."

"It will hopefully help us understand why we're in this mess."

CHARLOTTE HAZARD
manager of CLASS project

last week and should help people better understand what is happening.

"It's out there for anybody and everybody to see," Hazzard said. "It will hopefully help us understand why we're in this mess."

"Global Perspective: Bosnia" provides a detailed history of the Balkan conflict, including present-day video interviews with Bosnian refugees and other interactive learning activities.

Icons representing people, events and the world allow readers to explore Bosnia and learn more about the crisis in Kosovo.

The original Web site has been and will continue to be updated with current information.

Hazzard said the average citizen does not know everything about the Balkan situation, and CLASS.com provides an opportunity for them to understand it.

"At least if you have the opportunity to learn more about what their situation is you can have a more educated opinion," she said. "It helps to understand the history and ethnic issues."

Former NU star athlete assaulted in dispute

■ Fiona Nepo was allegedly beaten by her live-in boyfriend.

From Staff Reports

Nebraska Volleyball player Fiona Nepo was allegedly assaulted by her live-in boyfriend Tuesday night.

Nepo told police that her boyfriend, Christopher Fonoti, 21, punched her in the back five times as part of a domestic dispute, Lincoln Police Capt. Al Soukup said.

Nepo called police at 9:25 p.m. after the attack, and officers responded to the couple's apartment on the 1800 block of F Street.

At the start of the dispute, Nepo said Fonoti started throwing magazines at her, Soukup said.

Nepo fled into a bedroom and tried to lock the door, but Fonoti followed, punched her in the back and shoved her down during the struggle, police said.

Nepo did not require medical treatment, but there were signs of swelling on her lower back.

Fonoti was arrested for domestic assault, and he is scheduled to appear in court May 11.


Nepo is Nebraska's all-time assist leader with 4,824.

She finished her career this year after three trips to the NCAA Final Four and one national championship.

The three-time All American and Honolulu native was honored Sunday as Nebraska's female student-athlete of the year.

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