

# Summer Daily Nebraskan

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# Officials strive to unite NU, city

By Brandon Schulte

Staff writer

It could be said that the UNL campus provides everything a student needs to survive. It offers food, athletic events, plays and concerts, but chances are students will want to get away from the campus once in awhile.

And the city of Lincoln is up to the challenge.

"The campus is an essential part of the community," Lincoln Mayor Don Wesley said. "With the sense of energy the students bring to the community, we need to be hospitable to the university."

The city of Lincoln has taken strides in the past to be friendly to students, faculty and staff. Those gestures are important not only for the enthusiasm that students, faculty and staff bring to the city, but also for the money they bring to the economy.

"Twenty thousand people can amount to a large portion of the economy," Wesley said. "Individually they might not contribute much, but as a whole they are a big part of the city's economy."

It is a winning situation for both parties: Area businesses get much needed revenue while students have an opportunity to get away from the day-to-day rigors of class work.

And the downtown area isn't the only avenue for student

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Mayor Don Wesley

involvement throughout the city.

The Mayor's office along with the Parks and Recreation Department have several plans in the works to enhance community entertainment for students.

One is to use the Pine Wood Bowl, an outdoor amphitheater, for concerts, said Lincoln Recreation Manager Sandy Meyers.

"We are exploring the use of the Pine Wood Bowl at this time," Meyers said. "There have been concerts there in the past, but the city can't put up the tax dollars for a concert on its own. An outside entertainment entity must foot the bill."

The Parks and Recreation Department also maintains Mahoney, Pioneers, Holmes Park and Highlands golf courses. All offer 18 holes and can be played on a sliding fee basis.

On weekends nine holes will cost \$12 all day long, while before 1:30 p.m. 18 holes will cost \$18, while after that time it drops

to \$16 a round.

Weekday peak times are between 6 and 8 a.m. and 3 and 6 p.m. and will run \$15 and \$12 for 18 and nine holes respectively. The rest of the day the fees are \$13.50 and \$9.50.

Meyers said one of the most popular places for students is Holmes Lake. It offers the golf course, sand volleyball, fishing and picnic facilities.

Another of the city's attributes is its 75 miles of trails, which are used for biking, hiking and running.

The vibrancy that the student body brings to the city can't be ignored, therefore the municipality will do its part to enhance student life.

"The city is trying to build a healthy downtown," Wesley said. "We want to make it the entertainment center, and the students make that possible. The city will do more to bring things to campus that will make Lincoln a fun and exciting place for students to be."

# NSE, University Police focus on safety, theft

By Jamie Suhr

Staff writer

For the past 10 years, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police and New Student Enrollment have been working together to make students and family members more aware of campus safety.

Director of NSE Patrick McBride said it was NSE's and the University Police's obligation to help students understand campus safety issues.

"Everyone knows you can't guarantee a perfectly safe campus," McBride said.

While the NSE interest sessions focused on safety, another

area stressed was theft.

"I'd say it's the biggest concern and the statistics would back that up," McBride said.

Alarming, a total of 4,944 acts of larceny was reported between 1992 and 1998 - an average of 706 per year.

But the number of reported thefts dropped to 533 in 1998, by far the lowest amount during the time period.

Mylo Bushing, assistant chief of University Police, said to avoid high risk situations, students must:

- become familiar with their surroundings;
- walk in well-lit areas at night;
- let roommates know exactly where they are and when they will be home;
- protect all personal belongings by locking rooms and bikes.

"We have to reprogram a number of students from small towns to the idea to lock doors, even if they're just going down the hall to see someone," Bushing said.

Bushing added that students needed to report any suspicious activity or crime promptly.

"We'll get calls on a theft two days after the fact," Bushing said. "We can't do much on that."

Bushing and McBride both said they believed UNL was a safe campus, but both still are concerned about students' safety.

From 1992 to 1998, UNL has had 10 first-degree sexual assaults.

But UNL is working toward making a safe haven for all students on campus.

A total of 55 "blue lights," security stations equipped with a telephone directly connected to University Police, can be found on nearly every corner of campus.

"There's always been an issue for women who might not feel like they can walk as confidently as they would like on campus," McBride said.

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