

Officers see other side of nightlife

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such as sexual assault cases or suicide calls were hard to handle.

"When it's over and they've been taken care of, you always wonder if you've done enough," Kalkowski said.

He crosses his fingers, "So far, it always has."

10:17 p.m.

Kalkowski checks a parking lot near Memorial Stadium. Although the University Police usually don't deal with house parties, Kalkowski knows about the animosity from students regarding the police.

"The problem isn't the partying but the alcohol overdose, the date rapes, the violence, the harassment," he said.

Kalkowski remembers a student in the residence halls who, in a drunken oblivion, put her hands through the glass encasing of a fire extinguisher.

"One thing like that it makes you think, 'You know, I'm right in the job I'm doing,'" he said.

11:00 p.m.

The midnight shift, or "C" shift, replaces the "A" shift. There is an upbeat attitude among officers - they joke and tease each other. A Community Service Officer asks "Ski," for a hug, Kalkowski gives in.

Officer Jerry Plessel replaces Kalkowski on the "C" shift.

Plessel said he wanted to be a police officer because he wanted to give back to the community.

"When you are a police officer, you gotta be just about everything - a social worker, a friend, the

whole nine yards," he said.

Taking on all those roles can cause an officer to become emotionally involved - something they try hard not to do.

"Once you cross that line, it can be pretty tough," he said.

11:35 p.m.

Plessel drives by 18th and Vine streets, checks the parking lot and explains what he looks for when searching for DWIs.

"I have zero tolerance for anyone driving after they have drunk."

"You're driving a machine that could kill anyone at any given time," he said.

Plessel turns onto 17th Street and watches a driver make a wide turn from 17th Street east onto Y Street. Plessel quickly moves into the east lane to follow the driver.

After watching the driver cross the center line for several streets, Plessel flips his lights on and watches the car slow down and stop at the curb.

After performing several field sobriety tests, Plessel issues the driver, Angel Laboy, a pre-blood alcohol test which measures .230, .13 over the legal limit.

Plessel makes the decision to arrest Laboy for DWI.

"Oh yeah, he's drunk," he said.

Plessel said Laboy's swerving was probable cause to arrest him.

"Anyone could have been walking on the street," he said.

12:05 a.m.

Plessel punches the second floor button at the building that houses Comhusker Place Detox.

At Detox, Laboy takes a more accurate breath test and measures

.150, still above the limit.

Laboy knows he is caught, but Plessel gives him a piece of paper that allows him to challenge the arrest.

"Man, you got me," Laboy said.

1:33 a.m.

After being radioed back to the station to see an old friend, Plessel returns to the routine circle through campus.

"Right now, I'm just waiting for the CSOs to call with something in the dorms," he said.

Plessel said usually after 12:30 or 1 a.m., things started picking up until about 2 a.m.

"There'll be a rush," he said.

As Plessel turns onto 17th Street near Holdrege Street, a driver swerves into two lanes before turning onto 16th Street. Plessel smiles, reaches over and flips on his lights.

"It's funny when they don't know you're there or think you'll do anything, but you can," he said.

The driver, David Koesters, confesses he was drinking, but says he was just taking his girlfriend home to the residence halls, a mere 200 feet away. That doesn't matter to Plessel and his zero tolerance philosophy.

Again notified by the dispatcher, two CSO officers arrive, as well as another cruiser officer.

Plessel issues field sobriety tests and a pre-blood alcohol test and arrests Koesters for DWI.

Just another part of the "rush," Plessel takes his second DWI for the night to Detox, a familiar drive on any typical Saturday.

Legislature

Licenses get new look

BY GWEN TIETGEN

Legislators decided to give Nebraska driver's licenses a face lift Friday, as they approved the final reading of a bill that will convert the state's driver's licenses to digital images and signatures.

LB574, introduced by Sen. Curt Bromm of Wahoo, will be sent to Gov. Mike Johanns for final approval before being enacted.

The digital driver's license could appear in driver's wallets by 2003-2004.

Many states have switched from Nebraska's laminated paper driver's license to a credit card-like identification card.

Nebraska is one of only five states that still uses laminated paper for driver's licenses, which is easier to imitate as a fake ID.

The digital driver's license would have a bar code containing information about the cardholder, including the driver's age and driving record.

The new technology will bump up the fee for a Nebraska driver's license by \$5.

The price tag on the new digital technology will come to \$215,000 for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and \$675,000 for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

The additional money will help pay for start-up costs of the digital IDs such as computer programming and installing new computers and printers into Nebraska's 100 existing examining sites.

Swimming gets axed

SWIMMING from page 1

been given no assistance by the Athletic Department.

The alleged mask of wrongdoing would give Byrne an ample, but unsubstantiated, reason to cut the program, when in reality it would be a cover for Byrne's budget problems, Bentz alleged.

"It's been a budget problem the whole time," Bentz said, "and that responsibility is Bill Byrne's."

Said Bentz when told of the announcement released about 7 p.m. on Sunday: "I'll guarantee that (Bill Byrne) made that decision some time ago."

Byrne, who was athletic director at the University of Oregon when the swimming program was cut there, said looming NCAA sanctions "accelerated the process" but, "with our continuing budget concerns, we believe discontinuing swimming is the appropriate course of action to take at this time."

Byrne will meet with members of the men's swimming and diving teams today to clarify the decision. Scholarships of swimming and diving athletes will continue to be honored, Byrne said.

Priority one is now helping swimmers find other schools to compete at, Byrne said.

"It was a very difficult decision, and we pledge our support to them in helping them find new schools. And for those student athletes who choose to continue their education at Nebraska, we will honor our current scholarship commitment."

WEDNESDAY March 28, 2001

EAST CAMPUS UNION GREAT PLAINS ROOM

7:30 PM

No ADMISSION

DANIEL TOSH



Daniel Tosh has been described as hilarious, clean and original.

He is currently the host of the USA network produced show "10's" which is a huge hit in South Florida and in the works to be expanded into other markets.

He has also recently completed a pilot for E!, appeared at the prestigious Montreal Comedy festival and on Comedy Central's Premium Blend.



If you have any questions or comments please contact the University Program Council at: 472-8146



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