Three Reasons Why You’ll Want to Read this Newsletter!!!

- You’ll learn about what the Public Safety Department is doing to improve auto security at UNLV.
- You’ll find out how the Department of Public Safety is helping our soldiers in Iraq.
- You’ll learn about the best ways to keep your possessions safe during your holiday travels.

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Department of Public Safety “Police Awareness Day” returns to UNLV’s campus community

On Wednesday, November 3rd, 2004 the Department of Public Safety conducted its second annual “Police Awareness Day” event at the Valerie Pida Plaza from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As always, the event was meant to serve as a way for the department to personally meet with the campus community. However, the event was not limited exclusively to college students, faculty and staff. In fact, some of the event’s youngest and most excited attendees came from UNLV’s “on-campus” preschool and elementary school.

All of the elementary school and preschool student’s had a great time meeting with UNLV’s Police Officers, and the department’s mounted patrol horses were a particular favorite with the kids. They also had an opportunity to see the department’s patrol vehicles, enduro motorcycles and police equipment up close. Each of the kids received a bag of toys and prizes, which included an “official” Jr. Officer police badge, yo-yo, whistle, coloring book, fingerprint kit, lollipops and temporary tattoos.

But the kids weren’t the only ones who came away from the event with a fist full of goodies. University students, faculty and staff were also given the opportunity to get useful personal safety items like crime prevention brochures, emergency number contact cards and safety whistles. The Department’s highlighters and post-it notes were a particular hit with busy college students who were preparing to cram for upcoming exams. However, the real “goodies” for both the students and staff came in the form of reduced parking ticket fees because Public Safety’s parking services unit once again sponsored an “amnesty day” during the event.

(“Police Awareness Day” Continued on page 2….)

UNLV Police Lieutenant slated to attend classes at Northwestern University’s prestigious Center for Public Safety

University Police Lieutenant Jeff Green has enrolled in Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command. The program is sponsored by Northwestern’s Center for Public Safety and is considered one of the most prestigious Police Management programs in the country. In the past police officers had to attend the program at the university’s Chicago area campus, but in a rare break from tradition, Northwestern has opted to conduct its intensive ten-week program in the Las Vegas area through the North Las Vegas Police Department from January 10th through May 13th of 2005.

(“Lieutenant Attends Northwestern” Continued on page 3….)
(“Police Awareness Day” continued from page 1)

As with last year’s event, this year’s awareness day festivities were managed by well over a dozen police and civilian volunteers from the Department representing every unit from Parking Services to Police Records. The entire event was managed by Public Safety’s Dispatch Supervisor Yvette Whipple who has served on many of Public Safety’s volunteer efforts in the past including the Department’s annual Christmas charity drives.

Clearly the event was beneficial for those who attended, but it was also beneficial for the police officers because they had an opportunity to directly speak with the campus community about their security concerns. Chief Elique was particularly pleased with the event and noted that it conveyed the department’s level of professionalism and commitment to community policing.

The (Criminal Analysis Unit’s) briefings allowed Public Safety’s police officers to alter their work schedules and modify patrols in a way that helped the Department catch several auto thieves.”

Proactive crime fighting is the name of the game in Public Safety’s Crime Analysis Unit

From the very beginning, Public Safety’s Police Records Unit has been tasked with recording and documenting police investigations on campus. They have tracked and preserved evidence from crime scenes, and they have been the public face of Public Safety when reporters and the public have requested police reports and documents. Throughout the Department’s history this role has always been the same. However, a little over a year ago, the Records Unit’s role dramatically changed when Deputy Chief Michael Murray re-tasked the unit with the job of crime analysis.

Today, the unit is responsible for both collecting campus crime statistics and analyzing these statistics to discover trends in criminal activity. When campus crimes show specific patterns of activity, the Crime Analysis Unit releases internal briefings on their findings that help the department deploy police to areas of the campus that need higher levels of attention. In some instances the findings of the Crime Analysis Unit have been made public through the campus e-mail system, so that students, faculty and staff are able to exercise a higher level of vigilance with regards to their personal safety and property.

During the last academic year, the University suffered from a somewhat prolonged spike in auto burglaries and thefts. The Crime Analysis Unit was the first group within the Public Safety Department to discover the trend and promptly alerted the community to be on their guard. The unit sent out detailed e-mails discussing the best ways to properly secure vehicles on campus, and it sent out detailed briefings to the Department’s personnel. The briefings allowed Public Safety’s police officers to alter their work schedules and modify patrols in a way that helped the Department catch several auto thieves.

One of the greatest challenges for the Crime Analysis Unit has been the fact that virtually all of the work has been done over “virgin territory”. No effort had ever been made to create such a unit, so everyone involved had to educate themselves on every facet of criminal analysis. James Morrow is the head of the Police Records Unit and has managed the crime analysis efforts from the very beginning. James is a long-time department veteran and UNLV alumnus who has worked in Public Safety for over thirteen years. In order to establish the unit, he has developed and applied resources for crime analysis software, and networked with other crime analysis divisions throughout the State of Nevada. He also serves as a liaison with the Southeastern Area Command (SEAC) of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Together, Las Vegas Metro and UNLV’s Public Safety Department have created a complete picture of the criminal activity occurring in and around the University.

(“Crime Analysis Unit” Continued on page 6….)
UNLV’s student population growth is amongst the fastest in the nation, and as always it has taken everything the administration has to keep up with the rising demand for additional facilities. The end result has been an ever-present construction site mentality on campus as the University struggles to build a “critical” laboratory over here and a “necessary” classroom complex over there. However, like the Las Vegas Valley, UNLV is faced with one fundamental constraint. We’re running out of land to build on, and we’re finding we have nowhere to build but up. This isn’t news to students and faculty who have slowly but surely witnessed as their parking spaces are eaten away by progress. At a time when parking is becoming a more and more challenging issue for administration, the Department is fortunate to have recently hired Tad McDowell as its new parking manager. Mr. McDowell is an experienced parking manager with many years of experience dealing with the challenges faced by universities who have to build their parking lots “skyward”.

Tad is a recent transplant to the Las Vegas area, originally coming from the midwestern United States. He has been a resident of the Lincoln, Nebraska area since 1979, and has worked as the Director of Parking and Transit Services for the University of Nebraska, Lincoln for most of the last eleven years. Within the last four years he has led building efforts in Nebraska that have resulted in the building of two new parking structures and one garage addition recently approved for construction beginning in 2005. Tad and the garage design team received the coveted International Parking Institute Award of Excellence for the design of one of the parking structures. During his tenure at Nebraska’s Parking and Transit Services Department he was also tasked with the management of the university’s transit system.

To be sure, his leadership skills and experience will be a perfect fit with UNLV’s master plan. With land on campus becoming more and more of a premium, UNLV has no alternative, but to build more parking garages. Specifically, the University’s master plan calls for five additional parking garages all located near the perimeter of the main campus. In addition, student leaders have demanded and initiated the necessary arrangements to fund a more efficient, large-scale shuttle transportation system that will help ferry students from these distant parking locations to the inner-heart of the campus. As can be seen, Parking Services, UNLV’s Administrative Division and the University’s student government have already taken many of the necessary steps in planning for this “high-rise” future, but the implementation of these plans will be much easier with the guidance of an individual such as Tad McDowell.

("Parking Services’ New Manager” Continued on page 4….)

("The Parking Spot”: Under New Management – Parking Service’s new parking manager takes charge of UNLV’s “high-rise” future

When Northwestern University first created the School of Police Staff and Command it was a first for the law enforcement profession. Prior to its creation, no educational institutions existed which could provide law enforcement supervisors with the range, quality and consistency of instruction that was needed for them to do their job well. Today the center’s level of professional expertise combined with its support from one of the nation’s pre-eminent institutions of higher learning has made it one of the most sought after training experiences in law enforcement. The majority of Police Chief Executives across the nation including our own Chief of Police, Jose Elique, have completed either this coveted course or the F.B.I. National Academy.

The ten-week program requires a great deal of study & research time from its students and is expected to be a full-time preoccupation for Lieutenant Green who will be taking a brief leave from his work duties to complete the course. Completion of the course will earn Lieutenant Green eighteen hours of undergraduate semester credits that will be transferable to any college or university. The course curriculum will focus on the four following areas of police management:

1.) Understanding Management (ex. management principles, communication, leadership and behavior)
2.) Law Enforcement & Its Environment (ex. police ethics, traffic management, investigations, media relations, etc.)
3.) Human Resources Administration
4.) Skills for Planning & Analysis (ex. problem solving, budgeting, policy development, etc.)
Will you become a victim of crime during your holiday travels?

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years are amongst the most heavily traveled holidays of the year. As people make plans to spend the holidays with friends and family they often forget that even during their travels they can become victims of crime. Criminals often use airports as their “field of operation” for criminal activities. Usually, criminals will focus their activities in a particular area of the airport; for example, some thieves will work only in the parking lots, some in baggage claim areas, and others near ticket counters or security screening gates. So what can you do to prevent yourself from becoming a crime victim during your next holiday trip?

Parking Your Vehicle – If you’re going to leave your personal vehicle parked at the airport during your trip remember to remove all of your personal items from the vehicle.

- You should remove the vehicle registration slip and any other papers that might have your home address displayed. These documents make you an easy target for a home burglary while you are out of town.
- You should also remove any vehicle repair documents, which may contain your personal credit card numbers and signatures. These documents make you an easy target for credit card fraud.
- Finally, you should remove your remote control garage door opener from your vehicle. The remote control could be used to help a criminal enter your home while you’re away.

Baggage Check-In – Baggage check-in is certainly convenient for the traveler, but it is also convenient for the criminal. If you use this convenience you should watch to see that your luggage actually makes it onto either a conveyor belt or cart that is under the physical and visual control of a “skycap”. Thieves will often use the busy times associated with sidewalk check-in as an opportunity to walk off casually with a piece of luggage.

Carry-On Items – Like purses and wallets, carry-on items present excellent opportunities for thieves.

- You should always maintain physical control of your carry-on items. It’s too easy to become distracted when standing at a ticket, rental car or hotel registration counter.
- You should also remember that carry-on bags are an easy target for thieves when you’re sitting at the gate waiting for your flight. Never leave your bags unattended.
- Don’t allow distractions to separate you from your bags. Occasionally, criminals will operate in teams with one serving as a distraction while the other steals your bags.
- Don’t advertise that you have a laptop computer. Rather than carry it in those common-looking laptop bags, place it in a backpack or other small carry-on bag.

Baggage Claim – Another popular airport area for thieves to operate in is the baggage claim area. You should always try to be one of the first to get to the baggage claim area to recover your luggage. Travelers who linger in the airport, rather than claim their baggage, place themselves at greater risk of baggage theft. Unattended bags can easily be stolen without suspicion.
It's no secret that one of the most dismaying crimes that can happen to anyone is auto theft. The cost of losing your vehicle to theft goes well beyond the issue of replacing your automobile. A stolen vehicle could cost you valuable time needed for preparing for final exams or for going to work. In worst-case scenarios, accidentally leaving a garage door opener in your car along with anything that lists your home address could be a prelude to a future burglary of your residence.

Parking your car in any public parking lot, garage or street can make it a potential target for auto thieves. The bad news is that if your vehicle is left unsecured in one of these areas it may only be safe as long as local police or security are patrolling the lot. While one hundred percent surveillance is not possible under the best of circumstances, at UNLV, the Department of Public Safety is taking a high-tech approach at enhancing campus surveillance.

In March of 2004, the Department of Public Safety engaged in a multi-phase, multi-year partnership with Safeguards International, a security consulting firm, out of Yonkers, New York and (through a bidding process) North American Video of Las Vegas to bring video surveillance to all of the University’s parking lots and garages as well as certain key academic buildings and laboratory facilities. The first phase of the project was completed in July of 2004 and currently allows the Police Department’s Communications & Dispatch Center to monitor all of the floors located in UNLV’s parking garage.

Recognizing that monitoring fifty surveillance cameras in the parking garage is a tough job for any police dispatcher, the Public Safety Department has begun hiring additional police dispatchers. The new dispatchers will assist with the monitoring of current and future surveillance camera systems. In addition to new personnel, the Department has also decided to invest additional funding into a new software monitoring system. The new system will allow police computers to assist the dispatchers by alerting operators to unusual activities as they occur on the camera screens.

These camera systems will serve as additional “eyes” during times when UNLV’s police officers are patrolling other areas of our campus. They will also give UNLV an additional benefit. The very existence of these cameras, all of which will be in plain view, will discourage illegal activities as criminals attempt to avoid detection. Their effect as a visual deterrent will also enhance the Department’s ability to engage in other crime fighting and homeland security activities.

Like most major universities, UNLV has several scientific facilities, which contain chemicals and equipment. In the proper hands these machines and materials provide UNLV with the means to advance technology to everyone’s benefit. However, in the hands of the wrong person they can be used to harm all of us. Surveillance cameras will provide Public Safety with the necessary tools to secure the campus community against potential homeland security threats, and that is why phase II of the surveillance camera project involves installing these overt & external cameras at several academic buildings. Phase II of the surveillance camera installation project is expected to include the following UNLV facilities:

- Juanita Greer White Life Sciences
- Lilly Fong Geosciences
- The Robert L. Bigelow Physics Building
- The Chemistry Building
- The Thomas Beam Engineering Complex
- Alta Ham Fine Arts
- The Radiation Protection Laboratory
- The Thomas & Mack Center

The completion of this ambitious project is anticipated to make our entire University Community safer.
Public Safety’s Dispatchers do their part to support America’s soldiers fighting in Iraq

Public Safety’s Dispatchers are doing their part this year to help our soldiers adjust to life in a war zone. Recently, they set up a ‘donation’ box within the Police Department’s Communications Center where they are collecting donations of everyday items that are being sent to the frontlines as care packages for the troops. The idea was initially started by Dispatch Supervisor Yvette Whipple and police dispatcher Claudine Brown who asked everyone in Public Safety to donate small personal items to the cause. Yvette currently has a nephew serving in Iraq as an army medic, and Claudine also has a son serving as a marine in the conflict.

The small items being accepted as donations by the dispatchers run the gamut from baby wipes and dental floss to cookies and magazines. Even flea collars are being accepted since they have proven to be a highly effective deterrent to sand fleas that like to latch onto soldiers’ legs. The bottom-line goal of the donations is to provide these soldiers with a few creature comforts in a place and at a time where going without is common. As Yvette put it in one of her requests for donations, “As a department, I think it will be great for us to be able to send stuff and let these guys and girls know they are missed and cared for.”

The goal of the effort has been to send a care package to each of the soldier’s units on a routine basis every two to three weeks, and so far these efforts have been quite successful. Since starting the idea in October the dispatchers have been able to send out three care packages to the soldier’s units, and all of them have been well received. Claudine’s son says that the entire unit gets excited now when they see the Las Vegas postmark on a care package, and Yvette’s nephew has said the box he received from Public Safety was by far the largest and best received of anyone in his unit.

Did You Know…. Public Safety provides fingerprinting services to UNLV students, faculty & staff?

The Department’s fingerprinting service is available at Public Safety’s Paradise Campus facilities on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every week except holidays. Currently a fee of $8.00 is charged per card. This fee is expected to increase to $9.00 per card on January 1st, 2005. Anyone wishing to utilize this service should either provide fingerprint cards from the entity requiring them to be fingerprinted or, if acceptable, they may take advantage of available fingerprint cards at the Record’s office. Everyone using the service must have a government issued photo identification card with them for the fingerprint session (ex. driver’s license, state issued photo identification card, etc.) The fingerprinting service is particularly useful for UNLV’s education and nursing students who are required to go through a fingerprinting process prior to being hired within their professions. Special group fingerprint sessions can be arranged for university classes and employees by calling the Records Unit at 895-4747.

(“Crime Analysis Unit” Continued from page 2….)

The goal of the Crime Analysis Unit is not only to aid the Department of Public Safety in deploying police resources to catch criminals and prevent crime but also to help the UNLV Community protect itself from property loss. Every three months, a thorough crime analysis document detailing trends of crime on campus is shared with the Vice Presidents of Administration and Student Life as well as various University personnel responsible for facilities management. These reports allow UNLV personnel to deploy their own resources (resident hall assistants, building managers, etc.) in an effort to look for crime in their respective areas. In the future, James hopes that more departments on campus will become involved in the program and make our campus community even safer than it is today.

Public Notice: You have a right to know about UNLV’s crime statistics

University crime statistics are available to the public through the UNLV Annual Campus Safety and Security Report. There are several ways to obtain a copy of the report. The report is available on the Internet at http://www.unlv.edu/studentserv/Public_Safety/. It is also available in person at both the Department of Public Safety Dispatch Office located inside the Claude I. Howard Public Safety building on the main campus and at the Department of Public Safety Records Office located on UNLV’s Paradise Campus. A copy of the report can also be obtained through the mail, free of charge, by calling the UNLV Department of Public Safety Records and Administration Office at 895-4747.
Public Safety New Hires

- **(August 10th)** = **William “Willie” Newman** – Was recently hired as a Police Officer. Prior to his appointment, he worked with Donald Trump as the Director of Security for the Miss Universe organization. He was also previously the Vice President of Corporate Security for ETM Entertainment Network and is a 15-year veteran of the Denver Metropolitan Police Department. He has a Bachelors Degree in Management in Human Resources from Colorado Christian University and received an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Arapahoe Community College. Officer Newman currently resides in Las Vegas with his wife Carol.

- **(August 10th)** = **William M. Queen** – Was recently hired as a Police Officer. Before his appointment, he worked as a Police Officer for the City of Covington Police Department in Tennessee. He is a retired member of the United States Navy with 20 years military service, and he received his law enforcement training from the Shelby County Sheriff’s Academy of Tennessee. He intends to enroll in classes at UNLV, and is hoping to pursue a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Queen resides in Las Vegas with his wife Pamela and their son.

- **(August 30th)** = **Rolando Villareal** – Was recently hired as a Parking Enforcement Officer. Rolando will be handling parking concerns on the Shadow Lane Campus. Rolando previously worked for two years as a public safety officer for the Mount Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon. He is currently a senior at UNLV pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice, and he resides in Las Vegas with his son.

- **(November 1st)** = **Tad McDowell** – Is UNLV’s new Parking Manager. Prior to his appointment at UNLV, Tad worked as the Director for the University of Nebraska, Lincoln’s Parking and Transit Services Department. Mr. McDowell earned both his Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and his Masters Degree in Community & Regional Planning from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He has over eleven years of experience in the parking and transit management field and is a Certified Administrator of Public Parking through the International Parking Institute. Tad resides in Henderson with his wife Donna and their daughter.

**Police Chief Jose Elique receives major award from national police conference**

During Chief Jose Elique’s recent attendance at the 31st annual National Latino Peace Officers Association’s (NLPOA) Conference in Miami, Florida he was awarded the 2004 Leadership Award. The award was bestowed upon the Chief on October 16th by the new United States Attorney General designate, Mr. Alberto Gonzalez, at the conference’s formal awards gala. The award was given in recognition and appreciation for the Chief’s career in law enforcement and his “commitment to excellence and outstanding law enforcement leadership”. The organization is considered one of the premier law enforcement associations in the United States. NLPOA’s mission as an organization is to promote professionalism in law enforcement and create an association that provides its members with career training, conferences and workshops to promote education, career advancement and a strong commitment to community service.