The Police Blotter

UNLV’s Public Safety Department sponsors “First Responder Training” with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

On February 24th, 2004, UNLV’s Department of Public Safety took a major step towards both improving the department’s understanding of emergency preparedness and enhancing the university’s reputation as a center for learning in the field of Homeland Security. Specifically, February 24th was the kick-off of the Department of Homeland Security’s “First Responder Training Program” at UNLV. The three-day seminar was co-sponsored by the Department of Public Safety at the University’s Paradise Campus and drew police and security officials from all across the country. Chief José Elique has said that he intends this professional training to be the first of many held at the University. According to Elique, “This truly is a great opportunity for us to learn about the latest advances in Homeland Security, and the sponsorship of events like this can only enhance the University’s reputation as a center for learning in the security field.”

The “First Responder Training Program” was conducted in cooperation with the Executive Director of UNLV’s Institute for Security Studies, Lee Van Arsdale. The program was designed to address the first response of law enforcement and emergency personnel to major incidents. The incident responses covered by the program ranged from criminal acts to natural disasters, and the seminar utilized lessons learned from previous major incidents that occurred nationally. It is the goal of the program to provide guidelines and identify resources that can be considered in the future for responses to major incidents. (“First Responder Training” Continued on page 2....)

Police Officer Richard Dohme receives top award from one of the largest police associations in North America

Congratulations to Police Officer Richard Dohme who was recently selected by I.A.C.L.E.A.’s Awards and Recognition Committee to receive the 2004 I.A.C.L.E.A. Award for Merit at this year’s Annual Conference in Ottawa, Canada. The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (I.A.C.L.E.A.) is an international organization representing campus law enforcement agencies from all across North America and the world. (“Richard Dohme receives top award” Continued on page 2....)
All of the students who attended the seminar were law enforcement officers who came from all over the country to attend this unique learning opportunity. In fact, some of the students came from places as far away as New York and South Carolina. The program included discussions of the following topics:

- Past Responses to Major Incidents
- Response to an Active Shooter
- Workplace Violence/Safety Plan
- Media Relations
- Incident Command Systems/Emergency Operation Centers (E.O.C.)
- Critical Incident Response
- Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Award for Merit is an annual award which is presented to an employee of an I.A.C.L.E.A. affiliated institution’s campus police department who each day displays professionalism and excellence in performing his or her duties or whose actions and attitude brings credit to the entire campus law enforcement community. After recommending Officer Dohme for this award, and learning that he received it, Chief José Elique stated that, “Officer Dohme should be proud to be recognized as the winner of such a prestigious international award. Receiving this award from a prominent law enforcement organization like I.A.C.L.E.A. is something very few Police Officers ever have the opportunity to experience. It is both a credit to Officer Dohme’s hard work and dedication and a tribute to the professionalism of UNLV’s Public Safety Department Police Officers.”

Officer Dohme received a commemorative gift from I.A.C.L.E.A. and payment for his travel expenses while attending the Annual Conference where he was recognized for his accomplishments. His photograph and the details of his award will be published in the July/August edition of the *Campus Law Enforcement Journal* and will be posted on I.A.C.L.E.A.’s web site @ http://www.iaclea.org.

**Q.) Can Parking Services help me if I’m stranded on campus because of my car’s inoperability?**

**A.)** Most people don’t know it, but UNLV’s Parking Enforcement actually provides “Jump Start” and “Slim-Jim” services to motorists stranded on UNLV’s Maryland Parkway Campus. These services are available to motorists Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. throughout the year (excluding summer). During the summer Parking Services provides these services Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you need assistance with your vehicle please call the Parking Services Division at 895-1300.

**Q.) How can I get to my car late at night without worrying about my own personal safety?**

**A.)** Public Safety’s Parking Enforcement Unit offers a late night shuttle service on UNLV’s Maryland Parkway Campus to all students and employees of the University to help promote campus safety. The shuttle service takes people on pre-determined routes from various inner-campus shuttle stop locations to UNLV’s parking lots. For further details please call the Parking Services Division at 895-1300.
Employee Spotlight: Sergeant Rick Helm (with UNLV Police since 1989)

If there is one constant that most Las Vegans can assume about other Las Vegans, it is that none of them were born in Las Vegas! So it’s pretty unusual when you get the chance to meet a native, and it’s even more unusual when that native can tell you what Las Vegas was like back before Las Vegas was a “big” city. Rick Helm is one of those natives. In fact, one of the more interesting stories of Rick’s life is that Public Safety’s current location on the Paradise Campus, across from the Thomas & Mack, used to be the elementary school of his childhood. Over the years, Paradise Elementary and Rick Helm moved on, but not too far. In the end, Paradise Elementary moved to the UNLV Campus and so did Rick.

Rick Helm is currently a Police Sergeant with the UNLV Department of Public Safety and, with the exception of some time spent traveling as part of the U.S. Army in Colorado, Texas and Korea, has lived his entire life in the Las Vegas Valley. Sergeant Helm was raised by his father, a mechanic with the Ford Motor Company, and by his mother, a PBX supervisor at the Tropicana Hotel. Rick is the youngest of three siblings, all of whom have had careers in law enforcement. His brother is a retired Sergeant with Las Vegas Metro, and his sister is a Correction’s Officer with the State of Texas.

(“Employee Spotlight” Continued on page 4….)

Protecting Yourself: How to Stay Safe When You’re on Campus Late at Night

You’re working late through the night, and your co-workers have left the campus for the day. You’ve finally finished your work, and now it’s time for you to walk to your car. For many people this scenario is not the kind of situation they want to find themselves in. The imagination runs wild with the possibilities of stalkers, robbers or “worse” lurking in the darkness. The reality is that in most cases, particularly here on campus, these dangers are really nothing more than a figment of the imagination.

However, even in a reasonably safe place like UNLV, criminal activity can and does occur. That’s why the Department of Public Safety provides law enforcement services on campus, which are meant to assure the public’s security. For example, Public Safety offers a late night shuttle service to all students and employees of the university.

The primary goal of the campus shuttle service has always been to provide members of the campus community with an additional sense of security and safety at night. The shuttle service takes people on predetermined routes from various inner-campus shuttle stop locations to UNLV’s parking lots. Anyone interested in information regarding shuttle stop locations, shuttle routes and hours of operation can call Parking Services at 895-1300.

Shuttle services are not the only option available on campus to employees and students late at night. Public Safety’s student security program provides escort services for individuals to any campus area during the evening hours. The service is based on availability, and anyone interested in using the service should call 895-1845 (during the day) or 895-3668 (during the evening) for further details.

For those members of the campus community who are unable to easily access any of these services it is important to know that anyone can personally take steps to protect themselves on campus and virtually anywhere else.

(“Campus Safety Late at Night” Continued on page 4….)
When possible, avoid walking alone. Walk with someone, or walk in areas where other people are near.

Stay in well-lighted areas, away from alleys, bushes and entryways.

Avoid shortcuts through parks, vacant lots and other deserted places.

Don’t hitchhike or accept rides from strangers.

If a driver stops to ask you directions, avoid getting near the car.

If you are being followed, go to the nearest business or residence for help.

If you are harassed by the occupants of a car, simply turn and walk in the other direction. The driver will have to turn around to follow you.

Hold your purse close, not dangling, and avoid carrying extra money or valuables on your person.

When you return home, have your door key ready so that you can enter without delay.

Above all. Be aware of the people around you, and always try to be cognizant of your surroundings and the total environment.