

7-2007

## Police Blotter

UNLV Department of Public Safety

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### Repository Citation

UNLV Department of Public Safety (2007). Police Blotter. In H. Fischer (Ed.), , 3(1), 1-4.

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# The Police Blotter

Volume III Issue I

July 2007

### Three Reasons Why You'll Want to Read this Newsletter!!!

- You will learn about a recent visit to UNLV by the Department of Homeland Security.
- You will learn how cultural diversity helps our department better function for the UNLV Community.
- You will gain valuable tips to help protect yourself from sexual assault on campus and in your everyday life.

## UNLV Requests Site Assisted Visits from the Department of Homeland Security



What precisely is a Site Assisted Visit or (S.A.V.)? A Site Assisted Visited is an inspection of a facility to determine the structures' strengths and weaknesses with regards to security and public safety. S.A.V.'s help law enforcement determine what aspects of a public facility require protection in the event of a threat such as an active shooter, bomb threat or even a terrorist attack. In 2007, the Department of Homeland Security conducted two of these reviews for the Thomas and Mack Center and for the Sam Boyd Football Stadium. The reviews were planned to take place prior to the NBA All Star Game at the Thomas & Mack Center to ensure that both UNLV and local law enforcement would be able to anticipate any potential problems related to the game.

The end result has been highly satisfying for the UNLV Department of Police Services. Not only did the site visits strengthen campus ties to local officials of the Department of Homeland Security and help contribute to the successful conducting of one of the world's largest sporting events. It also helped produce comprehensive reviews of the facilities that can be used to improve security at these forums for future events.



### Inside this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Rape Prevention on Campus Starts with Knowledge               | 2 |
| Cultural Diversity & Law Enforcement                          | 2 |
| UNLV Department of Public Safety Promotions : Doris Berry     | 2 |
| UNLV Department of Public Safety New Promotions: Scott Taylor | 3 |
| UNLV Department of Public Safety New Hires                    | 4 |

## 2007 Security Success: NBA All Star Game and Interoperability Drills



In preparation for one of the largest special events held here on campus, police services engaged in a series of planned exercises and evaluations. These drills and tabletop exercises successfully measured and evaluated first responders' ability to coordinate and communicate emergency response efforts in the event of a disaster during the NBA All-Star Game.

*"Protecting and serving the University Community"*

## Rape Prevention on Campus Starts With Knowledge

Rape is not a crime that anyone wants to believe can happen to them. However, it can happen to anyone regardless of their age, race or sex, and it can occur just as easily in a park or alleyway as it can in a car or dormitory room. The most common form of rape is date rape, and some

researchers estimate that date rape accounts for 50-70% of all reported rapes in the United States. Date Rape is also a persistent problem on today's college campuses. It has gotten worse with the introduction of date rape drugs into the college party scene.

Gamma-Hydroxy Buterate or (GHB) is amongst the most well known of these "date rape" drugs. GHB is also known on the street as Liquid X, Easy Lay, Salty Water, or simply "G". GHB is normally found in a liquid form, but it can also come in a powdered form. It is clear, odorless, and can be easily transported in fad-type water bottles. GHB causes the victim to become lethargic and drift into a semi-unconscious state. If a victim has their drink "spiked" with GHB at a party, it is oftentimes the case that the date rape victim will not be immediately aware

that a sexual act occurred while they were under the influence of the drug.

Typically, the victim of this crime is a female that is either alone or out for an evening on the town with several girlfriends. Assailants sometimes approach the victim and claim to be involved in sports nutrition. The assailant then offers the victim a nutritional supplement that will make her feel good. In other instances, the perpetrator will offer to go get drinks, usually very fruity or heavy liqueur types. This is to "mask" the salty or caustic taste that GHB has.

Preventing yourself from becoming a victim of this crime is relatively easy. You should always maintain constant vigilance over your drink, regardless of (*"Rape Prevention" Continued on page 3*)



## Cultural Diversity & Law Enforcement: Two Results of Community-Policing at UNLV

Since 2000, UNLV's Public Safety Department has utilized the community-policing law enforcement strategy. This proactive approach to law enforcement addresses problems before they rise to the level of an arrest. One way to do this is to foster relationships within the community by getting officers out of their cars and into the community. Another way to enhance community-

policing efforts is by hiring a culturally diverse police force that represents the rich diversity of UNLV's campus community.

In 2000, the Justice Department released a study of the diversity levels of major police forces from across America. While the UNLV police force is not comparable to

these agencies in size, the differences at the time were stark. Public Safety did not reflect the diversity of other agencies, and African-Americans (*"Diversity" Continued on page 4*)

*"...for the first time in the Department's history, over 50% of all personnel within the Department represent a minority group."*

## UNLV Department of Public Safety Promotion Announcements: Doris Berry



(January 1<sup>st</sup>) Doris has been promoted to the position of Budget Manager for Public Safety's Budget & Business Affairs Unit. Her new responsibilities will include managing the Department's budget as well as supervising the unit's personnel and financial operations (including payroll, travel, leave keeping, accounts payable and accounts receivable). Doris was hired by the Public Safety Department in 1999 after

having worked as a financial fiscal analyst supervisor for the city of Highland Park in Michigan. She is a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy with a Bachelors Degree in Accounting, and she is also a graduate of Walsh College of Accountancy & Business Administration with a Masters Degree in Tax Law. Doris resides in Henderson with her husband Stan and their son & daughter.

*("Rape Prevention" Continued from page 2)*

who pours or buys it. You shouldn't leave your drink behind to go to the restroom or to dance without having a trusted friend watch your glass. Finally, you should never experiment with something that a casual acquaintance wants to add to your drink saying, "it will make you feel good." The Public Safety Department has worked towards preventing date rapes and other sexual assaults from occurring on campus, but as with all crimes, preventive measures won't always guarantee that crimes will not occur. Therefore, it is important that everyone have the necessary knowledge to protect themselves. Listed below are some safety tips that will help reduce your risk of becoming a rape victim.

#### **S.A.F.E.T.Y. Tips for Preventing Rape**

- **Secure** – your car and home. Keep a large flashlight, two quarters, a map of the city you are

*"The most common form of rape is date rape, and some researchers estimate that date rape accounts for 50-70% of all reported rapes in the United States."*

in and five to ten dollars in your car. The flashlight can be used as a light or weapon; the quarters are for the use of a pay phone; and the five dollars is for car emergencies (ex. gas). Always lock your doors and windows, and never open your door to a stranger or tell them you are alone.

- **Avoid** – unsafe situations and strangers. If you are being followed, go to the nearest police or fire department, or any place where people will be. Try to walk in groups at night.
- **Flee** – if you are in a potentially dangerous situation. Yell or scream to attract attention, and carry a loud whistle.
- **Engage** – in passive or active resistance. Passive resistance is thinking and talking your way out of a situation. Active resistance is reacting immediately to startle your attacker. Use any available item (HAIRSPRAY, KEYS, PURSE) as a weapon.
- **Think!** – Keep using your mind to think of alternative courses of action for escape.
- **You** – should always be aware of both your surroundings and the people around you.

Unfortunately, knowing these safety tips sometimes is not enough to prevent the crime from occurring, and in those instances it is critical that you know what to do after becoming a rape victim. Always remember that the police can only arrest a criminal if they are made aware of the offense. Practice being observant so that, if you are sexually assaulted or attacked, you will be able to remember and identify the assailant. If you are sexually assaulted, call the police **IMMEDIATELY**, and if available, call your local sexual assault crisis center. **DON'T CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES OR TAKE A BATH OR SHOWER.** All physical evidence, including seminal fluids, hair, blood types, and scrapings of flesh from the victim's nails can be used in court. The information most needed by police to help the victim of a rape include the following:

- Car license, make or model and color
- Race of assailant
- Approximate age, weight and height
- Hair color and length of hair
- Color of eyes
- Clothing
- Any unusual marks, scars, tattoos, rings, etc.
- Any facial hair or odors

## **UNLV Department of Public Safety Promotions: Scott Taylor**

**(June 1<sup>st</sup>)** The UNLV Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce the promotion of Police Officer **Scott Taylor** to the rank of Police Sergeant. Sergeant Taylor's new job responsibilities will include assisting in both the supervision of general patrol duties and maintenance of the armory for Public Safety. He will also be responsible for assisting in the conducting of defensive tactics training for the Department. Sgt. Taylor was appointed to the Department of Public Safety as a police officer in 2001 after

having worked for seven years as a Deputy Sheriff with the Doña County Sheriff's Department in New Mexico. Prior to working for Doña County he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from New Mexico State University and had received his law enforcement training from the Las Cruces Police Academy. Officer Taylor resides in Las Vegas with his wife Kimberly.



**Mailing Address for the Department of Public Safety**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Department of Public Safety  
4505 South Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89154-2007

**Non-Emergency Contact Telephone Numbers for Police & Parking Services**

- Police (Non-Emergency Calls): 702-895-3668
- Parking Enforcement: 702-895-1300
- Police Fax Line (Campus Police & Parking Enforcement): 702-895-3600



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & POLICE SERVICES**

*Public Safety Mission Statement*

*The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Department of Public Safety is dedicated to providing excellence in protection and service to the University community. As law enforcement officers, we shall continuously endeavor to ensure a safe and secure environment conducive to a positive social and educational process.*

**We're on the Web!**

**[www.unlv.edu/studentlife](http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife)**

**UNLV Department of Public Safety New Hires**

- **(January 22) = James Potter** — Before his appointment to UNLV, Officer Potter was a retired military veteran. During his military career he served 22½ years with the security forces of the United States Air Force in various locations including: Germany, Turkey, Kansas and Nevada. Officer Potter received his law enforcement training from the Southern Desert Regional Police Academy, and he has earned an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from the Community College of the Air Force. James plans to complete his Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice here at UNLV, where he will soon be enrolling as a senior. He resides in Las Vegas with his wife Charlene and his son & daughter.
- **(January 22) = Jonathan Culver** — Prior to Officer Culver's appointment at UNLV, he was working his way through the Emergency Medical Training Certification Program at CCSN, while also working evenings at Kavanaugh's Irish Pub. Officer Culver received his law enforcement training from the Southern Desert Regional Police Academy, and he is currently pursuing his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from CCSN. Jonathan currently resides in Las Vegas and is engaged to his fiancée Heidi.
- **(April 16) = James Rudnik** — Before his appointment to UNLV, Officer Rudnik was a retired war-time military veteran from the first Gulf War. During his military career he served 20 years with the United States Marine Corps ending his service with the military as a marine reservist. Officer Rudnik may be familiar to many members of the UNLV community, since he has previously worked as one of UNLV's Reserve Police Officers. James received his law enforcement training from the Law Enforcement Training Academy of the Community College of Southern Nevada, and he has earned an Associates Degree in Electronics Technology from the Technical Career Institutes of New York. He also spent a lengthy period of time attending Hunter College in New York City where he pursued a degree in cartography. Officer Rudnik left the program as a senior to pursue a career with the United States Census Bureau. He intends to continue his educational career at UNLV by pursuing a Bachelors degree in the sciences. He currently resides in Las Vegas.
- **(May 10) = Bernard Cole** — Prior to Officer Cole's appointment at UNLV, he was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Detective with the New York City Police Department with 20 years of law enforcement experience. His career in the NYPD included an assignment as an undercover officer with the narcotics division, an assignment in the NYPD Intelligence Unit and culminated in his service on Mayor Michael Bloomberg's personal security detail. In addition, Bernard is a United States Air Force Veteran with four years of service to his country. Officer Cole received his law enforcement training from the New York City Police Academy, and he is strongly considering pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice here at UNLV. Bernard currently resides in Las Vegas.

*("Diversity" Continued from page 2)*

and women were particularly underrepresented on our police force.

Community-policing gave Public Safety an opportunity to look more closely at how it matched up to the campus community, and the end result has been gratifying to see. Today, the number of African-American officers has nearly doubled by percentage and quadrupled by actual number. The number of female officers has nearly tripled, and is now at the highest level ever in Department history. Furthermore, for the first time in the Department's history, over 50% of all personnel within the Department represent a minority group. In addition, the Department reflects UNLV's intellectual diversity with over 40% of its personnel holding Associates Degrees and 28% holding at least a Bachelor Degree. Both of these numbers are higher than the national percentage.

