



# The Police Blotter



Volume I, Issue I

September 2004

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

- You'll learn about what the Public Safety Department is doing to improve emergency preparedness at UNLV.
- You'll find out how "YOUR" Department of Public Safety recently garnered international recognition.
- You'll learn about the best ways to keep yourself safe at night while on the UNLV Campus.

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*"protecting and serving the university community"*

**UNLV's Public Safety Department sponsors "First Responder Training" with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.



Sergeant Richard Dohme with his award from I.A.C.L.E.A.

(*"Richard Dohme receives top award" Continued on page 2....*)

***("First Responder Training" continued from page 1)***

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

***("Richard Dohme receives top award" Continued from page 1....)***

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 should be proud, to be recognized as the winner of such a prestigious international award.... It is 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>.

## **"The Parking Spot" - Your place for questions & answers about parking issues or concerns on UNLV's Campus**

### **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 Services actually provides "Jump Start" and "Slim-Jim" services to motorists stranded on UNLV's Maryland Parkway Campus and Shadow Lane 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. If you need assistance with your vehicle anytime prior to 5:00 p.m. during the week please call the Parking Services Division at 895-1300. Anyone needing assistance after 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday should call Public Safety's main line at 895-3668.

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

- A.) Public Safety's Parking Services 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 operates Monday through Thursday from dusk to midnight and 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.



Sergeant Rick Helm,  
Evening Patrol Supervisor

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.

*"...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."*

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 pre-determined 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.



*The UNLV Lied Library is a popular late-night locale for both students and faculty who need to study or conduct research after a long day of classes.*

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....)*

**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**

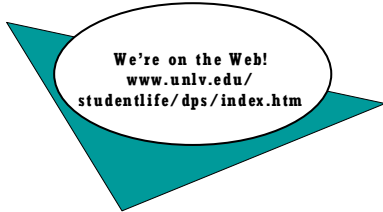
- Police (Non-Emergency Calls): 702-895-3668
- Parking Enforcement: 702-895-1300
- Police Fax Line (Campus Police & Parking Enforcement): 702-895-3600
- Police Fax Line (Office of the Chief, Police Records & Police Administration): 702-895-2685



**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.*



**Comments or Suggestions?** Please e-mail Hobreigh Fischer, Newsletter Editor at [hfisher@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:hfisher@ccmail.nevada.edu)

**("Employee Spotlight" Continued from page 3...)**

Sergeant Helm's career in law enforcement is extensive, and it is clear from talking to him that he loves the job. When asked what accomplishment he is most proud of in his life, he answered without hesitation... "obtaining the rank of supervisor, assuming the responsibilities of maintaining Public Safety's armory, managing two evening patrol shifts and being a (shooting) range master & instructor." Like many local Police Officers, he received his formal law enforcement education from CCSN by earning an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice, but more importantly, he gained his "field" experience and training through many years of hands-on work in law enforcement including 13 years with Las Vegas Metro. During his 13 years in Metro he spent 11 years as a Detective working undercover in narcotics detail, hotel detail and general assignment. After retiring from Metro he became a business owner, managing what is now known as "The Gun Store" located on East Tropicana Avenue.

Sergeant Helm's accomplishments with Public Safety have garnered him several awards including Public Safety's "Police Outstanding Achievement Award" in 2002. However, the award he is most proud of is a medal he received for injuries he sustained while rescuing a suicidal student. The student attempted to set fire to his dorm and during Rick's struggle to prevent this, the student forced Rick's knee out of joint. In the end, the student was saved and his attempt to burn down UNLV's residence hall was thwarted by Helm's efforts.

**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/](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.

**("Campus Safety Late at Night" Continued from page 3...)**

- 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.