

President Bush signs bill to publish crime statistics

by Kara Kelley
Staff Reporter

Campus crime rates will no longer be a mystery as a result of a bill President Bush signed last month. The bill requires that all institutions taking part in federal student aid programs publish their crime rates, campus security provisions and graduation rates.

This legislation resulted from the 1986 murder of Lehigh University student Jeanne Clery. After Clery's death, her parents, Howard and Connie Clery, pressured Congress into creating legislation that would require universities to alert students to the level of crime on campus. The law's purpose is to inform students and their parents about the campus they are considering.

This law won't be enacted

soon enough for students at SUNY-Buffalo, where administrators denied existence of a crime wave for three crimes that occurred off-campus. Linda Yalem, a SUNY-Buffalo sophomore, was found gagged and strangled about a quarter of a mile off campus. This is the same area where a female non-student and junior high school girl were assaulted and raped just months before.

"Linda was very meticulous and she would have found out if the information was there for her," said Ann Yalem, the victim's sister. "She didn't know, and would not have gone there if she knew."

David Hollenbeck, director of UNLV's Department of Public Safety, hopes that the published statistics will help students take adequate precautions against crime.

"I see this as an opportunity to keep the community involved with the sorts of crimes on campus," Hollenbeck said.

This legislation requires not only on-campus crime rates to be made public, but also off-campus crimes that involve university students or organizations.

Hollenbeck said he finds the off-campus provision troubling because "the measure will make us (UNLV's campus police) dependent on the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police."

Although the bill doesn't require the published disclosures to begin until Sept. 1, 1991, UNLV may have statistics earlier.

"My goal would be to have some figures for the next school year," Hollenbeck said.

The crimes rates that must be disclosed are for murder, rape,

robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft. Furthermore, statistics on weapons possession, and liquor and drug abuse violations must also be published.

On the average, campus crimes at UNLV campus have been lower in comparison to other urban universities, Hollenbeck said. In 1989, there were 455 total crimes reported on UNLV's campus. In contrast, the Uniform Crime Reports cite Colorado State University and the University of California, San Diego as having 693 and 1,196 total crimes, respectively.

UNLV currently has 17 full-time police officers employed; about one officer per 1,000 students. Even though Hollenbeck would prefer to see a 1/900 ratio, he said he feels his department is taking adequate measures to pro-

tect students.

"We try to take the security decisions out of the students' hands," Hollenbeck said. For example, Hollenbeck cites the magnetic doors in the new residence halls and the monitoring equipment to oversee campus alarm systems.

"We're a full-service police department, so we take more time because we're part of the community," Hollenbeck said.

Campus crimes can be reported by phone or in person to the UNLV police department at 739-3668.

Hall of Fame

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The Hall of Fame selection committee also took into consideration Wegner's numerous scholarly publications, reviews, and journalistic articles, many of which deal with film.

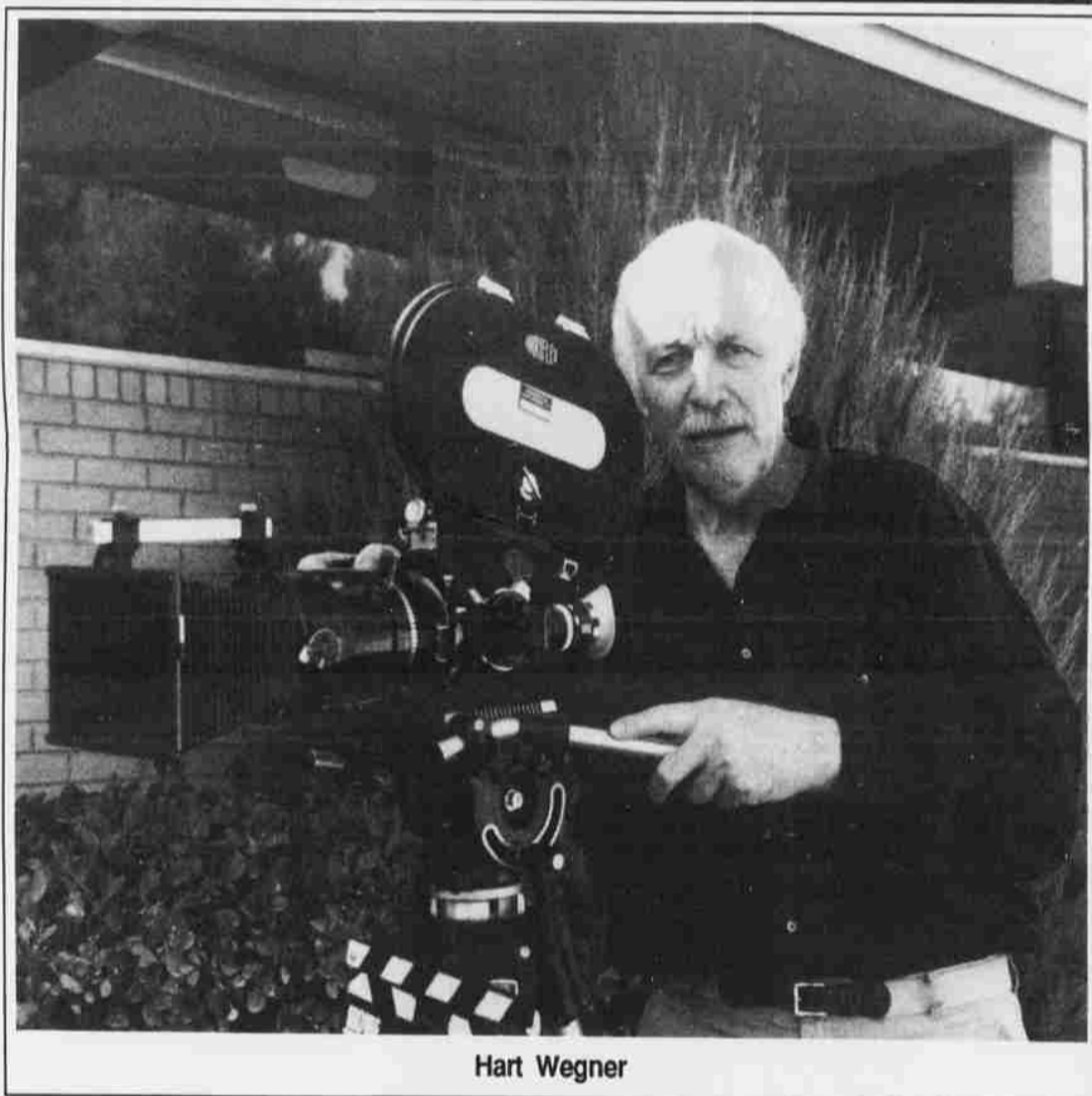
The six-member committee was composed of four academics and two journalists, according to committee chair Michelle Basta, a professor of French language at UNR.

To be selected to the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame, writers must have been published, must be established writers, must demonstrate a Nevada connection either by writing about Nevada or by living in the state at the time the writing was accomplished. Writers must have achieved critical recognition and have produced good-quality work, as judged by the committee.

Noting that the committee members read Wegner's "Houses of Ivory," Basta said, "My personal reaction was that it is a stunning work of fiction. I was delighted to find that the literary quality of the work is so high."

Although the committee was well aware of Wegner's academic writing, it was the depth of his fictional work that most impressed them, Basta said.

"This is a happy occasion in one's life," Wegner said, adding



Hart Wegner

that he feels encouraged by the honor.

Wegner is the first writer from Southern Nevada and the first foreign-born writer inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Explaining that he was born in Silesia and that German is his

first language, Wegner said he feels he is, in a way, too young to receive such recognition.

"I am actually younger than my age would imply," he said. "I came to English in my 20s, and it took some years for me to become

even a beginning writer in this language."

Because Wegner works on his fiction every day, he believes his selection for the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame is not a summing up of his career, but a recognition of his accomplishments so far.

Court sets moratorium on traffic warrants

People who have outstanding traffic warrants can pay up without penalty during two special sessions of the Las Vegas Municipal Court this month.

Judges Seymore Brown and Valerie Vega will hold sessions from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. the next two Saturdays to give people a chance to clear up traffic fines.

"Judge Vega and I will be in court to insure that people who come in to pay their traffic warrants will be eating turkey at

home, not in jail," Brown said.

People who take advantage of the moratorium will be given minimum fines, he added.

Brown said the court issues some 10,000 arrest warrants a month for those who don't pay their traffic tickets and there are currently "thousands upon thousands" of outstanding warrants.

After Dec. 15, court marshals will be out in force arresting those who still have outstanding warrants, the judge warned.

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