

The dispatcher must monitor radio transmissions, answer telephone calls and watch the fire board above him.

## Emphasis on community service

By STEVE IVEY  
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Hidden behind Ritenour Health Center are three small, wood-framed cottages housing the University's security forces. Their role has not always been so solemn — originally they were the homes of Penn State's sororities.

Just as the buildings have changed, so have its inhabitants, the Department of Security.

On April 1, David E. Stormer became the third director of Security since 1970. Hired with a mandate for change, Stormer received Friday the green light from the Board of Trustees to reorganize the department. He started by changing the name to the Department of University Safety.

According to Stormer, "good law enforcement basically boils down to being able to work with people and work with people with problems. When a person has suffered an injury, an assault, or an affront, it requires a person with a wide background to deal with him."

Stormer's background includes an associate of arts degree from Northwestern Michigan College, a bachelor of science degree in police administration and a master of science degree from Michigan State University. From 1961 to 1971 he served with the Department of Public Safety at Michigan State. He rose from patrolman to assistant police commander in those 10 years.

From Michigan Stormer took his wife and three children to Ohio State University, where he was assistant director of the security forces.

Stormer said he renamed Penn State's Security Department the Department of University Safety because safety is the most important reason for the

department's existence.

"When we are talking about safety, it can be taken two ways: protecting someone from the environment and protecting the individual from other individuals or groups," he said.

When the reorganization is fully implemented in two or three years, one of its main features will be professional investigators and personnel.

Entrance requirements will include a bachelor's degree or at least two years of college and two years of practical police work. According to Stormer, officers "should have some knowledge of psychology and sociology which will help them understand individual and group conflicts."

"I consider law enforcement education and exposure in the community a very high priority," Stormer explained.

"Law enforcement is a service to the community, and the officer should reflect the community," he said.

Officers who deal with the University's population "should understand some of the problems, some of the emotions and some of the stress times the population encounters due to its direction — education," Stormer said he sees education as a means of getting officers more in touch with the peculiar realities of the University community.

Another part of the reorganization includes combining Campus Patrol, the Security Division and the Student Division into two line organizations with two supporting divisions.

The line organizations will be Police Services and Safety Services, while Auxiliary Services and the Coordinator of Security at the Commonwealth Campuses will make up the supporting divisions.

"While prevention and investigation of occupational

accidents, fire prevention and the providing of a safe environment are the primary responsibilities of the Safety Division, the Police Division will provide the wide variety of law enforcement services necessary in the University setting," Stormer said.

One vital non-enforcement function to start under Stormer's reorganization is the community relations program. He cited on-going community relations and rapid technological and social change as the Department's major problems. Because of the built-in turnover of the University's population, community relations must constantly tell new people old things, such as protection from thefts.

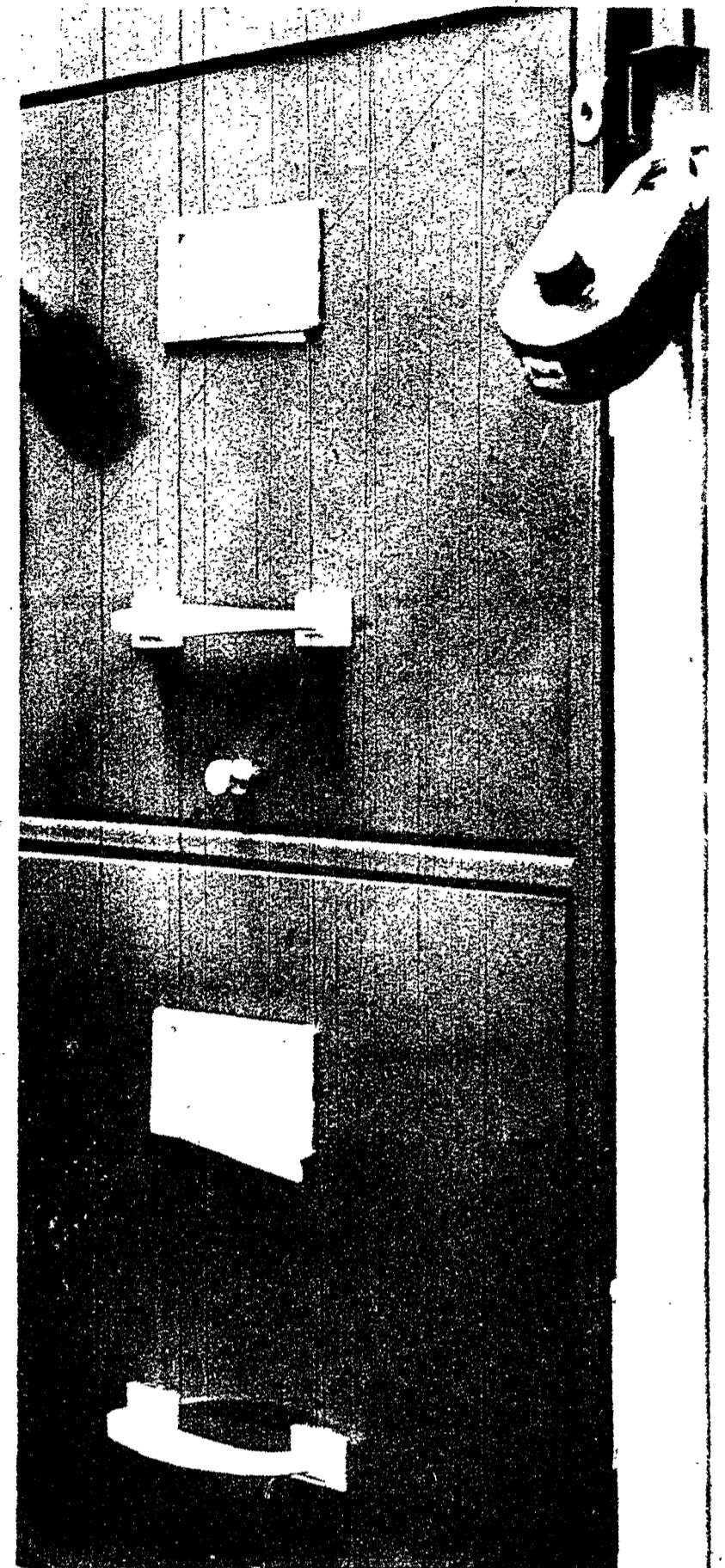
Theft is the violation reported most frequently, but Stormer said the best way to handle thefts is prevention. This can be done by on-going community relations programs to encourage dorm students to challenge strangers walking on their floor.

Above all, Stormer said, "The Department of Safety is a service organization."

The Department has become more open to the community and the press. Asked if he will employ informers or undercover agents, Stormer said that covertly ferreting out information "would generally be viewed as wrong by the community and therefore it would not be done. Nor will I pay a student or someone else for the information they provide. It is a civic duty for people to report violations of the law. To have to pay someone to do his civic duty is repulsive to me."

Asked about files on politically active students, he said "there should not be any such files."

Most of the officers seem pleased with the reorganization and with Stormer's work so far. One officer called Stormer "a hell of a guy. In three months he has accomplished more than any other director."



Files — one of few guarded aspects of the present security system



Narcotics officer Govedich keeps a trophy case of seized drug paraphernalia.



Safety Director David E. Stormer

Photos by Steve Ivey.

Department of  
University Safety