

'Quiet Streets' program will help control noise level

By Eric Gregory
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Noise officials from the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department and Lincoln police officers will team up in September to enforce Lincoln's "Quiet Streets" program. The program is designed to eliminate overly noisy cars,

trucks and motorcycles from the streets, a noise control and occupational specialist said Tuesday.

Robert Rist said the noise problem has grown steadily. He said he thinks the lack of state vehicle inspection is part of the problem.

The health department is try-

ing to tackle the problem with what Rist calls "the educational and big stick approach."

Public information and free noise level checks were offered in the past, he said. The "big stick aspect" will be used in September when sound metering equipment will be set up to catch and cite violators.

Capt. Ed Ragatz of the Lincoln Police Department said most complaints have come from neighborhoods bordering O St. between 40th and 56th streets. Ragatz said the area — the most popular

cruising section of Lincoln — will be the focal point of the enforcement operation.

Health officials will set up sound equipment and will radio to nearby police cruisers when they hear a loud vehicle.

Police officials said they plan to stop the cars and issue citations. No warning or fix-it tickets will be issued.

However, Rist said, citations will be excused with proof that the exhaust system has been fixed. This provision will not apply to offenders who have been ticketed for noise in the last year or

who have had prior offenses such as speeding.

In 1976 the federal government set maximum decibel levels of 76 for cars, 80 for motorcycles and 90 for trucks. A 62-63 decibel level is normal for passing traffic. Rist said anything over 75 decibels is loud. Police will ticket anyone who is three decibels over the government limit.

The noise is mostly a nuisance but also is a health hazard, Rist said. Loud noise has been proven harmful to fetuses and linked to stress and learning disabilities in children, he said.

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RHA...

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Edwards said he hopes to continue the work of former president John Christian in securing cable for the halls, but installation before next spring is unlikely.

Although RHA set improved relations with ASUN as one of its goals, Edwards said much bitterness remains from last spring's polling issue and the lack of cooperation from ASUN president Mark Scudder's administration.

"We're the largest organization

on campus with 4,800 members, but so far Mark and the ASUN leadership haven't shown much response to the needs of residence hall students."

Another issue will be campus security, Edwards said. RHA will try to keep an eye on areas where lighting is a problem and may begin a membership drive to help an ailing student watch program, he said.

Another item to be addressed

at the first RHA meeting is a proposal to change the bylaws regarding presidential succession. Under the current bylaws, the vice president automatically becomes president when the president resigns. Since Edwards was elevated to vice president last April, he was never elected by hall residents. The change in bylaws would allow the entire RHA council to nominate and vote on the president, so hall residents could be represented better.

Dead or alive, UNL mail delivers

Each weekday at 5:30 a.m., one UNL department buzzes with activity, while others remain quiet.

Campus Postal Service manager Dick Schenaman, who has worked at UNL for 17 years, said 10 full-time workers and two work-study students handle 24,000 to 28,000 pieces of mail daily. All incoming mail from the U.S. Postal Service is sorted by routes and departments, Schenaman said. The Campus Postal Service, 171 West Nebraska Hall, has nine delivery

routes.

In addition to the nine campus routes, Schenaman said, a courier carries mail twice a day between the Capitol and the university.

As carriers deliver the mail, they pick up departments' outgoing mail, which will be delivered that afternoon or the next morning, Schenaman said.

Most campus mail consists of requisitions, vouchers, films and

books.

But Schenaman said he has delivered some unusual mail. Mail carriers deliver an annual shipment of live bees to an entomology professor on East Campus. Also, dead animals frequently are delivered to the veterinary diagnostic center for autopsies, he said.

"It's very interesting work," Schenaman said. "We see many different things every day."



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