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Handgun registration law won't hurt UNL pistol team

By Yvonne Sabatka
Staff Reporter

A new law that will require the registration of handgun owners will not affect a UNL pistol team, one member said.

The law, which was passed by the Nebraska Legislature in the spring and will go into effect Sept. 6, requires handgun buyers to register with their local law enforcement agency. Members of the Navy ROTC pistol team do not own their own guns, said Gunnery Sgt. Noah Byers, head of the pistol team. The guns used by the

team are supplied by the Department of the Navy, he said.

But, Byers said, the new law is "not really restrictive," even to those owning guns. The law does not limit the number of guns that a person can own, but simply requires the registration of owners.

If the state wanted to reduce crime substantially, it would have considered a law like Omaha's gun control law, he said.

Omaha requires the registration of all handguns, as well as personal information and information on the gun.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Tuesday, Aug. 27

1:33 p.m. — Female transported to hospital because of illness, Selleck Food Service.

3:07 p.m. — Male transported to detoxification center, 721 K St.

4:04 p.m. — Purse and contents stolen, Love Library, \$155.

4:38 p.m. — Book stolen, Burnett Hall, \$41.

4:49 p.m. — Two vehicle hit-and-run accident, parking lot west of Harper-Schramm-Smith complex, \$125.

5:49 p.m. — Vehicle roof vandalized, 19th and U streets, \$300.



Pedal power

Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Scott Ronnfeldt, a senior agribusiness major, rides off after a class in the College of Business Administration.

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UNL phones not affected by FCC competition rule

Alternate companies available to students

By Taryn Gilster
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be unaffected by a federal decision requiring universities to allow phone competition, an official said.

A ruling by the Federal Communications Commission could force universities to offer the option of other long-distance telephone services.

But Ruth Michalecki, director of UNL's telecommunication center, said UNL has never blocked access to other long-distance telephone companies.

"It's only logical and fair to offer our students the option to use other phone systems," she said.

Although most UNL students use the university phone network, Michalecki said students can get credit cards from other companies and use

their access numbers. Phone companies conduct their billings separate from UNL.

"However, I do disagree with the FCC ruling," Michalecki said. "Residence halls aren't like hotels, and the phones in the dorms aren't open to the public."

For that reason, she said, she didn't think the decision that recently added universities to the group of "call aggregators" was appropriate. Call aggregators, such as hotels, manage phone services for transient populations and must not block access to competing long-distance companies, according to a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Michalecki said she didn't agree that universities should be classified as operating transient housing because students usually live in their rooms for a year.

"I hope the decision is settled soon," Michalecki said. "It's only a phone issue now, but it could develop further."

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