

Student arrests draw concern about guns

By Angie Brunkow
Senior Reporter

Although gun control hasn't been a big problem at UNL, officials said they still were worried about students owning them.

UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble said he estimated that several University of Nebraska-Lincoln students owned handguns.

"It's not a healthy situation," he said. "We have far too many instances when we come across people with weapons."

Recently, two UNL students were arrested in incidents involving handguns. UNL football player Tyrone Williams was arrested last month on two weapons charges.

— 66 —
There's not much to hunt with a handgun.

— Cauble
UNL police chief

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Early Monday morning, police alleged, UNL junior engineering major Seth Davis threatened his ex-girlfriend with a 9mm handgun. Cauble said the UNL Police Department didn't keep figures on the number of encounters officers had with students and guns.

"If it's once or twice a year, that's too many in my book," he said.

Doug Zatechka, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs at UNL, said gun use and possession was a nationwide concern.

Many guns are illegally possessed, are used to commit crimes and cause accidents, he said.

"Guns are a big concern everywhere," he said.

Although he couldn't explain the recent rash of gun-related incidents at UNL, Zatechka said the trend of increasing gun use and violence wasn't isolated to UNL.

"It certainly mirrors what is going on in the rest of the country," he said. "More and more people solve more of their problems with violence."

Jason Orth, a UNL senior and assistant manager of the gun store Shooters at 3031 O St., said handguns shouldn't necessarily be associated with violence.

"Its primary use has been a defensive tool," he said. "But most people will never fire a handgun in a malicious manner."

Orth said he enjoyed collecting guns and sometimes used them for sport and hunting.

"A lot of them are nice pieces of engineering," he said. "It's kind of like owning a Rolex watch."

Cauble said he didn't mind students who had firearms for hunting, but those with handguns caused the police department to worry.

"There's not much to hunt with a handgun," Cauble said.

In Nebraska, university codes and state and federal laws regulate student access to and possession of handguns.

The university Student Code of Conduct prohibits students from "possessing or selling firearms, ammunition, or other dangerous weapons (except as expressly authorized by the university) on university-owned or controlled property."

Deb Mullen, Abel-Sandoz residence hall complex director, said if students living in the residence halls wanted to store guns on campus, they could check them in at the



Photo illustration by Jeff Haller/DN

Handguns on campus are becoming more prevalent, and officials are beginning to worry.

hall's front desk.

About 10 weapons are being stored now at the Abel-Sandoz complex, she said, but they are sporting and hunting rifles.

"I've never seen a handgun in there," she said.

Zatechka said the university regulated the presence of handguns on campus because of the danger associated with them.

"Firearms are a very deadly weapon," he said.

Guns not only are potentially

dangerous to others on campus, he said, but also could harm the gun owner by accidental discharge.

Last week, UNL student Ryan Tomaschik accidentally was shot in his apartment while roommate Ryan Crumly, also a UNL student, was cleaning his gun.

Sen. Eric Will of Omaha said students younger than 18 shouldn't have guns. State law prohibits it, and a proposed state law Will is co-sponsoring could increase the age to 21, he said.

Federal law prohibits anyone younger than 21 from buying a handgun, Orth said.

Will said laws aimed at restricting college-age people from getting or having guns were fair.

"I don't think there's any need (for a college student) to have a handgun," he said.

But Orth said if students were responsible with the gun, they should have the right to have it.

"If they're not hurting anybody, I don't see the problem."

Bryant

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"Oh, you make me so proud of my country," Bryant said. After a pause, he added: "I wonder if she's still alive."

There are others about which Bryant wonders.

He mentions four Yugoslavian youth he met at the games. They were enamored with the American, Bryant.

"One of them would holler 'John Wayne' and we'd go for our guns and pretend to have a shootout," Bryant explained.

But the image of the boys holding out their hands and pointing their fingers in the shape of guns is no longer a lighthearted memory for Bryant, who knows the boys probably are holding real guns now.

"Are they shooting at each other? Are they on the same side? Different sides?" Bryant wonders aloud. "It's just a tragedy. Ten years haven't dulled the memory... you don't forget a thing

like that.

"The thing that makes it so unbelievable is that you didn't have a sense of division in the country," Bryant said. "It seems inconceivable to ever think this could happen."

Despite the wondering and worrying about people and the places Bryant left behind, he said he wouldn't trade the memories.

"It was a great experience," he said.

But he wishes there were more than pictures left by which to remember the country.

"I always wanted to go back and take my wife," he said.

Bryant's other memories from his Olympic experiences have been a little lighter.

Before his time in Sarajevo, Bryant worked with the figure skaters and hockey teams at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y.

— 66 —
I hear they're digging graves to bury people near the Zetra (ice skating rink and soccer stadium).

— Bryant
NU associate athletic director

Having been chief U.S. press officer for the World Cup games in Montreal and a member of the media committee for the NCAA Final Four in previous years, Bryant was recruited for the press job.

He set up press conferences for Tai Babalonia and Randy Gardner after Gardner's tragic warm-up injury that

left the two unable to compete. And he was there to witness the U.S. hockey team beat the Soviet Union and go on to win the gold medal.

"The great hockey win over the Soviet Union was the best thrill I've ever had," Bryant said.

Bryant also worked with the bobsled and luge teams — and did a little skiing on the side — in Calgary, Alberta, in 1988.

His stint with the Olympic Committee may not be over.

"But who knows, that's two years from now," Bryant said.

Bryant said he was not sad to be missing directing the media this year at the Olympics, in light of the controversy surrounding figure skater Tonya Harding.

"I feel for the figure skaters and the officials. I know the agony they're going through," Bryant said. "It's really too bad."

Moore

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duck, but if I'm a duck I intend to be a fighting duck."

No other candidates have yet filed for the office as of Monday, but Moore said a race of this stature would probably attract additional candidates.

The filing deadline for incumbents is Feb. 24, and March 11 is the deadline for nonincumbents.

State Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, a Democrat, expressed interest in the position early last week, but Friday she announced she would not be a candidate.

Beermann said it was unethical for him to endorse any candidate. But, he said, Moore has a grasp of state government and is well-prepared and well-qualified for the office.

"Let me tell you it's easy to win," Beermann joked. "All you have to do is have one more vote than the other person."

Insuring athletes to be easier

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature voted to make it easier for the University of Nebraska to insure student-athletes by unanimously passing a bill Monday.

LB381, introduced by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha during last spring's legislative session, empowers the NU Board of Regents to coordinate policies for student-athletes by the university and the NCAA.

Carl Finn, NU assistant vice president of business and finance and director of risk management, said the current program ran on a two-level system.

The NCAA has a catastrophic insurance policy that covers student-athletes' medical bills of more than \$25,000, Finn said. The university insures the student-athlete for the first \$25,000, where most of the costs occur.

Under the national system, Finn

said, all universities are required to buy insurance for athletes, have the athletes insure themselves or coordinate between the two.

In Nebraska, the university and students can't coordinate policies. Finn said the university covered all of the \$25,000 for UNL athletes.

Finn said last year, LB381 would eliminate duplication in the case of a student who already owned insurance.

"The bill would allow the university to coordinate coverage with the NCAA policy and other coverages which may be in effect, and thus eliminate the need to buy duplicate coverage," he said last March.

Finn said Monday the university was looking into other insurance options, including the possibility of having students pay for some of their own insurance.

"We're looking into self-insuring some of (the \$25,000)," Finn said. He said the same coverage would be provided no matter what.

Finn said with the existing system, it was hard for the university to do what it wanted.

"We want to be able to coordinate existing coverage... with the student-athletes," he said. "It limits the university."

People who are involved in helping injured student-athletes can feel more comfortable with the new system, Finn said.

"The people who are (helping athletes) now will have more freedom to coordinate expenses with existing coverage," he said.

When the state law was written, Finn said, no one considered coordinating policies.

"The statute shouldn't have been so restricting when it was written," he said.

Finn said the law did nothing to hurt students.

"It's not taking anything away from... the students," he said. "It's giving more freedom to those involved."

Parts of UNL lose electricity

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska State Capitol and parts of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln were in the dark for about an hour Monday afternoon after an accident at a university substation.

Gary Thalken, utility manager for UNL facilities management, said independent contractors installing new air conditioning equipment at the uni-

versity substation at 14th Street and Avery Avenue cut through an underground high-voltage cable, causing the electrical system to 13 campus buildings to shut down at about 4:30 p.m.

Thalken said the problem was temporarily settled by rerouting power around the troubled cable.

The system should be back in full working order today, Thalken said.

Threat

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said, when Davis screamed at her: "I'm going to blow your f—ing head off!"

Davis then got the gun out of his closet and began loading it. The woman ran from the room and met another fraternity member in the hall.

The member was able to talk with Davis, and he turned over the gun.

UNL police arrested Davis without incident and recovered the weap-

on.

Davis was arrested and jailed early Monday. A \$10,000 bail was set Monday afternoon. Davis was ordered to appear in court Feb. 28 and to have no contact with his ex-girlfriend.

The terroristic threat charge is a Class IV felony and carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison or a \$10,000 fine or both.

Davis had not posted bail as of late Monday night, a spokesman said, and remained in the Lancaster County Jail.