Marijuana penalty lowered for first offense charge

The Nebraska Legislature has given unanimous approval to a bill lowering the penalty for a first offense on a charge of possession of marijuana from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Governor Norbert Tiemann has since signed LB2 into law, and three Nebraska Wesleyan University students have already been arraigned in Lancaster County Court on the lessened charge.

The law distinguishes between possessors and sellers of marijuana but provides that an amount of more than 25 cigarets or more than half, a pound merits a felony charge.

Second or subsequent charges of possession of marijuana are also telony offenses.

SEN. TERRY CARPENTER, who co-sponsored LB2 with Sen. Henry Pedersen, explained his logic behind the bill. He said that the old law was simply not being enforced because county attorneys and district courts thought the penalty too

"Something has to be done to keep people from smoking that stuff," he commented. "Kids just don't have the right to accept one law to obey and reject the rest." Carpenter also denounced those University professors who would repeal drug laws and thus add to the excessive permissiveness in American society.

Lincoln Police Chief Joseph Carroll said that many law enforcement ofticers thought the old law was too severe regarding the first offense.

"We feel that in some instances it is certainly not the intention of the individual to partake in illegal acts. At a party somone may go along with smoking marijuana as a lark without realizing that the seriousness might result in a penitentiary sentence, Carroll said. "A misdemeanor charge might be adequate to bring these individuals to their senses."

Carroll said that there was a problem in enforcing the law as a formerly read because "if we followed the letter of the law, the result would give a convicted individual a record

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which places upon him a handicap for life."

HE OBSERVED that the objective of such legislation was to influence people to see the dangers in using marijuana and other injurious drugs. 'We have no intentions of trying to blemish an individual's future record with felony convictions," Carrol

The gap between the first charge of a misdemeanor and the second charge of a felony is just, according to Carroll, because a second offense would give every indication that they have disregarded the principles on which the lesser first charge penalty

"It would indicate, in our terminology, that these persons are 'hooked', and more drastic steps would be required," he explained.

Campus alendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Rehearsal-Senior Soloist Concert 3 p.m. Union Contemporary Arts

Cutco Division of Alcoa-Interviews 3:30 p.m. Career Scholars, "Dr. Helmut

Render" Builders-Liaison Hyde Park

4:30 p.m. Career Scholars

6 p.m. Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia 6:30 p.m. Christian Science Organization

7 p.m. Spanish-Portuguese Club History Graduate Assts. Baptist Student Union Quiz Bowl Isolation

7:30 p.m. Builders-Culture Committee Senior Soloists Concert

AWS, KK may merge skit shows next year

The joining of two traditional University entertainment events is in the offing for next year, according to members of Kosmet Klub and AWS. The Kosmet Klub Fall Show and AWS Coed Follies, male and female skit presentations, are under consideration for merger, under Kosmet Klub, according to Walt Wood, Kosmet Klub fall show chairman.

"Merger of the shows could create more interest," Wood said. "More living units would want to try out if the production was co-educational."

Wood said that questionnaires regarding the merger have been sent to living units to gauge the reaction of participants in the programs. The questionnaires will be validated by Electoral Commissioner John McCollister, also Kosmet Klub spring show chairman.

There was no special reason we considered taking on a coed produc-tion," Wood said. "It wouldn't be of particular financial benefit, since we have always had a full house.

"With men and women participating in the same skits, the singing and dancing would be better," he said. Jan McGill, AWS Board member and 1969 Coed Follies chairman, said

Fedra is

Other activities planned for the games include bale stacking, piggy back relay tug of war, egg toss and

The games are open to both men and women students teams. On city campus, each dorm floor is considered a living unit. However, all greek houses, co-ops and East Campus dorms are considered as one living unit. Units may enter

In the opinion of this reporter, the greased pig contest is the most interesting contest. The object is to catch a pig. tie a diaper on him (her) and pull the pig through a ring in the center of the arena. Diapers are furnished by the East Union, according to Brent Skinner. games spokesman.

she thought that a merger of the shows would create more interest in that type of entertainment.

"As we see audiences declining and becoming more sophisticated, we seem to see a greater lack of interest in this area, while cost and time involved increase," she said.

She noted that with the imminent changes being discussed for AWS, putting women's skits under the care of Kosmet Klub would insure at least

"Since it seems to be the trend to phase out AWS, and the financial gains from the show won't be needed by the organization, Kosmet Klub will have the best facilities to provide for the show," she said.

The decision to merge will be made later this spring, Wood said. The 1969 Kosmet Klub show is now scheduled for November 1, at which time, if accepted, women's living units would also participate in the skits.

Problem of reapportionment

Continued From Page 1

The proposed amendments in reapportionment remain substantially the same as those proposed by the constitutional convention. . . .

ASUN SENATE would consist of no more than 38 senators elected from districts, advisory boards, off-campus, and at large constituencies.

The at-large constituency of all University students would elect eight senators. One senator would be elected from each of the five undergraduate college alvisory boards by the members of the board. Three senators would be elected to represent the three professional colleges.

The representative of the College of Dentistry would be chosen by the college's advisory board. The senators from the Colleges of Law and Pharmacy would be elected from the entire college.

GREEKS would select one senator for every 750 members of the Greek system. In a change from earlier proposals, all Greeks, regardless of their place of residence, would vote in the Greek constitutency.

Residence halls would elect one senator for every 750 students and are grouped into the following districts: Abel-Sandoz district, two s e n ators; Harper-Schramm-Smith district, two Senators; Cather-Pound-Women's Residence district, two senators; Selleck Quadrangle district, one senator; Burr-Fedde-Married Students Housing district, one senator.

The combination of Furr-Fedde halls and the married students complex is another departure from proposals made by the constitutional convention.

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vention, Burr-Fedde indicated that the they did not want to be placed in a district with the co-ops," Cochrane said. "The co-ops, therefore, have been placed in the off-campus constit-

The off-campus non-affiliated students would elect one senator for every 2,000 students. This is a change from the 1,500 suggested by the con-

"In altering the number of off-campus students per district, we looked at the voting record of off-campus students," Cochrane added, "and also that those students who move offcampus have expressed a dissatisfaction with the dormitories, Greeks, or University on the whole."

THE PROPOSED amendments also provide for two faculty representatives to ASUN Senate who will be appointed for staggered two-year

Cochrane's proposed amendments also include the method by which delegates to the NSA Convention and

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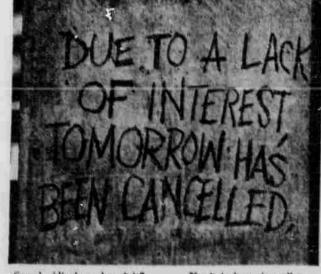
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