

Nebraska's "mass birthday party" brings problems, profits to Lincoln barkeepers

by John Fryar
 NU School of Journalism
 Nebraskans witnessed a mass birthday party as thousands of the state's young adults reached the age of majority March 13. The bill lowering the drinking and

contractual age to 20 contained the emergency clause. So when Gov. Norbert Tiemann signed it, "birthday" celebrations began. Most of the celebrating in the Lincoln taverns diminished after the first few weeks, but some problems remain.

Jacobson added. They became intoxicated because they did not realize the amounts of liquor they were drinking. This particular problem is leveling off, according to Jacobson and many of the tavern employees.

said, adding that the administration was considering educational programs to decrease the incidence of student violations.

"I'm not sure, however, that there is anything we can do to change matters," Wirtz said. "There is a unique problem with college students in that they assume a right to imbibe alcohol despite any law or authority."

THESE PROBLEMS include the illegalities associated with drinking, particularly intoxication and minors attempting to purchase alcohol.

According to administrator Peter G. Wirtz, the University Office of Student Affairs has been busy with drinking incidents since March. Incidents involving minors in possession has risen considerably, Wirtz said, and he saw no leveling off of the problem in the immediate future.

"We're kind of glad summer school is approaching," Wirtz said. The 19-year-olds "have gotten a little more courageous."

The business of lending identification cards has increased, Wirtz noted. Many more of the University's younger students are attempting to drink illegally in Lincoln taverns. And many more are being caught at it.

LIEUT. PAUL W. JACOBSON, a vice officer with the Lincoln Police Department, said that not only are I.D.'s being loaned, many are being forged — and in a "sloppy" fashion.

"The biggest single problem right now is the forging of I.D.'s," Jacobson said. Youths in the 17-to-19 age group are doing a "bad job" of changing or duplicating draft cards and driver's licenses.

The detective noted that many of these youths have overlooked the fact that retailers are making a special effort to check and verify identification. For instance, he said that laminated driver's licenses "ring a bell" for the bartender and provide immediate cause for suspicion.

Jacobson commended local tavern owners for cooperating with police in holding minors who attempt to drink. He said that beat officers and State Liquor Commission agents have been given special instructions to assist owners in checking identification.

THE TAVERNS stand to lose more than the minors if the law is not enforced by employees. Hearings before the liquor commission for sales to minors can mean a period of being closed down by the law enforcement officials.

However, Jacobson noted that the bad quality of the false I.D.'s was making enforcement easier.

"Before the new law, the 20-year-old was a little more sophisticated and clever about drinking as a minor than his new counterparts," he said.

In some instances, minors have used identification with physical descriptions that did not even resemble them. Some under-six-foot minors tried to pose as being over-six-foot.

"A person may grow after he receives his driver's license, but he doesn't usually shrink," Jacobson chuckled.

HE PERSONALLY would have favored a measure lowering the drinking age along with a change to 3.2 beer. Because of the lower alcohol content, most persons are able to drink this beer all evening without becoming intoxicated, he said.

During the first few weeks after the law was passed, the 20-year-olds themselves caused problems.

The initial boom at the bars is dying also. But business does remain at a greater volume than before the law change, particularly in taverns catering to college drinkers.

One tavern owner recently had to close his establishment for three days because a minor was caught drinking there. The owner said he had been in business for 19 years and this was the first trouble he had ever had.

"IT WAS SIMPLY a case of false I.D.'s. How were we to know?" the owner said. "But the policeman must have scared the kid, because he didn't pull the fake card on him."

William W. Lyons, a University student and waiter at another tavern, commented on the difficulty of determining a customer's age by sight.

"The 21-year-olds were young-looking, but these 20-year-olds look even younger. You've got to be mighty careful," he said.

Some of the taverns have encountered problems in addition to minors attempting to purchase liquor. Bartender William R. Mott said that there has been an increase in the number of fights and more thefts of glasses and pitchers.

MOST, HOWEVER, agree with the opinion of Mrs. Mary Goldstein, a barmaid. She believes that the 20-year-olds are well behaved now and that business has returned to normalcy since the novelty of the law has worn off.

"Most of these young kids use good manners. If they become rowdy they do not remain here very long," Mrs. Goldstein said.

Favorite bars of the college students may have gained a more steady increase of business.

Mott said that the tavern in which he worked no longer needed to have combos to attract customers. Lyons noted that the Friday Afternoon Club with combos at his tavern was "a lot easier to handle." The 20-year-olds no longer have to sneak in.

MANY TAVERNS noticed only negligible increases in their sales. Jacobson compared the early crowds to similar crowds that had flooded the bars when Lincoln initiated liquor-by-the-drink.

The reaction of the 20-year-olds has been overwhelmingly favorable to the change in majority age. Steven J. Henke, 20, pointed out that the law merely legalized a practice that had been illegally performed by 20-year-olds for years.

"It was quite intelligent for the legislators to recognize the maturity of our age group," Henke said.

Pound Hall student assistant Georgia Glass underlined another aspect to the minors drinking problem.

"Just about the only students not covered by the lower age are freshmen and some sophomores. As with every other activity, there will always be the temptation to join their upperclass friends in the bars," she said.

THERE HAS BEEN no appreciable increase or decrease in on-campus drinking because of the law, Wirtz



Id opens for summer

Lights. Camera. Action. A crew from Nebraska's educational television network will be on hand to videotape the summer opening Thursday evening at the Hungry Id, a coffeehouse located at 640 No. 16th Street.

The videotapes of the poetry reading and folk singing will be used with a college freshman English course that the ETV station is preparing.

During the rest of the summer the orange-and-brown Hungry Id sign will be hung and the red carpet will be rolled out every Tuesday and Friday evenings from 8:30 to 12 p.m.

The purpose of the coffeehouse is

not to make a profit but to provide a place for students to come and do their thing — whether that is strumming the guitar, singing folk songs, performing drama, playing chess or cards, or just talking.

The coffeehouse is built as a theater-in-the-round. Wooden telephone cable drums are used as tables and throwing your peanut shells on the floor is encouraged — it adds to the decor.

The Hungry Id is a popular place during the regular school year and student enthusiasm was a factor in keeping it open during the summer sessions.

Democratic Coalition

continued from page 2

poping up here and there."

He defended party regularity, saying "without it, you would have political chaos. Of course I wouldn't endorse somebody like George Wallace if he ran in the state, but we have always had responsible candidates here and I haven't had any trouble backing them."

The Coalition thus far is too young to have any effect on the party. The extent of its influence is yet to be seen.

Campbell's main trouble will be in keeping Coalition members within the party should the 1970 nominees turn out to be conventional Democrats.

"I can see situations where our members would work against regular Democrats in general elections," he said, "although that wouldn't be with Coalition backing."

A liberal wing

But for the first time, the Nebraska Democratic Party has an identifiable liberal wing. The Coalition is gambling that the surge started by McCarthy, Kennedy and McGovern in 1968 will continue through 1972, and that Nebraska can be a part of it.

As Exon pointed out, Nebraska's famous bedrock Republicanism does not preclude producing a liberal Democratic senator from this state.

"South Dakota and Maine are even more Republican than Nebraska," Exon said. "And yet they produced Sens. George McGovern and Edmund Muskie, so I don't see why we couldn't."

If they do, chances are that the Coalition will have had a hand in it.

when
 you are
 out of beer,
 you are
 out of beer!

Book exhibit is at Selleck for teachers

What will Johnny be reading this fall?

Teachers and others who are interested in teaching within a public school system will be able to find out by going to the textbookmen's exhibit at Selleck Quadrangle.

On display are hundreds of text-

books, paperbacks, film strips, maps, charts and other teaching aides.

At the exhibit which began Monday, bookmen representing more than 30 publishing companies are showing their wares. The exhibit continues today and Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m.

The bookmen may be able to help solve problems with curricular materials. Orders to be shipped will be taken and gift materials are available to persons evaluating a particular area.

The annual event is sponsored by the Nebraska Professional Bookmen of America.

Josh White, Jr.

IN CONCERT
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18
8:00 P.M.
NEBRASKA UNION BALLROOM
FREE ADMISSION

CHelsea \$200 ALSO FROM \$90
 WEDDING RING 75
 MAN'S RING 100

VenTura \$200
 ALSO \$150 TO \$175
 WOMEN'S RING 100

REGISTERED
Keepsake
 DIAMOND RING

KAUFMAN
Jewelers
 1332 "O" ST.

A diamond ring to treasure forever

Each Keepsake engagement ring is a masterpiece of styling and design, reflecting the full brilliance and beauty of the perfect center diamond.

Tuesday, June 17, 2:30, 7:30, 9:30, Sheldon Gallery,
 Adults \$1.00 Children \$.50

PROGRAM 2
THE KINETIC ART
 Day / Date / Time / Place / Ticket Info.

More brilliant, new short film imports from this unique three-part international festival of creative and provocative cinema achievements from 9 nations....

....among them....

French Student Revolt "Paris Mai 1968." • Julie Christie and Michael Caine in "Tonight Let's All Make Love in London." • Collage Graphics from Czechoslovakia • Wild Japanese Dada Comedy.

STILL TO COME...
PROGRAM THREE DAY/DATE/TIME
 Tuesday, June 24, 2:30, 7:30, 9:30

Ring is found

SUMMER NEBRASKAN

A man's gold ring with stone setting was found last week on the playing field behind the Women's Physical Education Building. On the ring are the words "Severn School—1968." Inquiries can be made at room 232 in the Women's P.E. building.

Editor Joanel Ackerman
 Business Manager Mike Raglin

Information for publication may be brought to 319 Nebraska Hall or called in to 472-3048. The SUMMER NEBRASKAN is published eight times during the summer session—five times in the first and three in the second.

"HUNGRY?"
EAT AT THE UNION

Lunch 11:00-1:30
 Dinner 5:00-6:30

Crib hours
 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.
 Monday—Saturday
 2:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
 Sunday

Colonial Dining Room
 Waiter service
 11:45 to 1:30
 Monday—Friday

Cafeteria
 same as Colonial Dining Room

Anything from soup and sandwich to full-course hot meals, you'll find it at the Union Student Union Food Service

A Linde Star ring from Zales puts you in a select circle.

Linde star and single diamond in 14K. \$99.95

Linde star and four diamonds in 14K. \$89.95

Linde star, two diamonds in 14K. \$125

This is where you come

ZALES JEWELERS

when you're through playing games.

Convenient Terms

8235-12