



Photo by Steve Boerner
Mayor Helen Boosalis

Grand jury probe requested

A resolution was passed Wednesday by the City-County Common requesting the convening of a grand jury to investigate the shooting of Arvid Sherdell Lewis and the appointment of a special prosecutor to conduct the hearing.

Councilman John Robinson made the motion to recommend the grand jury investigation and Commissioner Bruce Hamilton seconded it.

Max Denney, chairman of the Common, presented the resolution to District Court Judge Samuel Van Pelt.

Denney stated in his request to Van Pelt that "there were statements made by various members of the City-Council Common as to the reasons why they felt the motion should be passed or defeated, but the City-County Common did not have anything in writing other than the newspaper reports."

Denney said that police reports in Mayor Helen Boosalis' possession "have not been made available to the City-County Common, as a whole."

Clear the air

Denney stated the basic reason for the motion was that certain members of the Common "felt this would help clear the air and would indicate that the members... as community leaders, were attempting to do something to quiet the unrest and

fears of the community brought on as a result of the Sherdell Lewis incident."

According to Hamilton, there are too many unanswered questions and discrepancies surrounding the case. He said he wants justice done and the truth out.

"The Common should provide leadership and ask for cooperation from the judicial system," Hamilton said. "We should petition the court as elected leaders of the community to provide the answers."

Members of the two governing boards that voted for the resolution were City Council members Sue Bailey, Bob Jeambey and Robinson, and County Commissioners Jan Gauger and Hamilton. Boosalis also voted for the resolution. Councilmen Bob Sikyta, Steve Cook, Richard Baker and Denney and Commissioner Robert Colin voted against the resolution.

State law

State law provides two ways to call a grand jury—by court action or by petition. The Common's request action exceeds the authority of the Common and is not binding on the judicial branch of the local government, according to state law.

"In essence we're only signing a petition," Gauger said. "We're adding our voice to other citizens' that if evidence warrants it, a grand jury is called."

Denney opposed the resolution, saying that the benefits of calling a grand jury are questionable and that they should wait until after the FBI releases its findings.

"This body has no business and authority to get involved with calling a grand jury," Denney said. "It's never been done before."

The last grand jury investigation in Lancaster County was called for in 1922.

The original purpose of the Common meeting was the scheduled review of a report from Lancaster County Sheriff Merle Karnopp and Lincoln Police Chief George Hansen about police training, procedures and policies. The report was requested Sept. 29 by a resolution supported by Hamilton and Robinson.

Following Tuesday's request by Omaha State Sen. Ernie Chambers for people to register to vote so they could sign a petition calling for a grand jury investigation, the Lancaster County Election Commissioner's office reported that 88 persons did so Tuesday afternoon. Of the 88, 69 registered for the first time and 19 re-registered because of changes in address.

The office had not compiled any breakdowns according to what party was dominant or how many of those registered were students.

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ASUN approves alcohol-on-campus opinion poll

By George Miller

A resolution passed by the ASUN Senate at its Wednesday night meeting marks the beginning of efforts by the student body to obtain approval of the sale and consumption of alcohol on the UNL campus.

The resolution, introduced by Senator Gina Hills, approves the spending of ASUN funds to hire a professional polling service to conduct an opinion survey of UNL students on their thoughts about alcohol on campus.

Hills said that it was time for the senate to begin moving again on the alcohol issue. She said that the senate was actively working on the alcohol issue. She said that the senate was actively working for alcohol on campus two years ago, but that movement "was idle" at the present time.

Senator Frank Thompson said that in the past, most people on campus had been in favor of alcohol in the past, but that the

NU Board of Regents had rejected past proposals.

"Student favor was not a consideration in the past," he said.

Senator Jim Wefso said that a poll would put "the burden of pressure on the Regents" to approve alcohol.

The resolution passed by a vote of 22 in favor, one opposed and one abstention.

Hill's resolution approves spending of \$400 in ASUN funds to hire Selection Research Inc., a professional polling service, to conduct an opinion survey of UNL students to see if they favor the sale and consumption of liquor on campus.

Jeff Search, chairman of ASUN's Government Liaison Committee said the committee decided to hire a professional polling service in order to provide the committee with reliable data on student opinion.

Searcy said Selection Research Inc. has done research for the State Legislature and

the Governor and that they were "highly recommended" to the committee.

The total cost of the poll will be \$700, Searcy said. The committee hopes to make up the remaining \$300 with funds from other campus organizations, but that if necessary, the committee will pay the remaining \$300 itself.

Search said the pollsters will survey from 300-500 students sometime in the next month. The students will be divided into categories such as their year in school, their sex and whether or not they live off-campus.

The pollsters will "try to solicit the general feeling of students on the issue of alcohol on campus," Searcy said.

He said the results of the poll should be ready for the committee three weeks after the poll is completed.

Searcy said the Residence Hall Association, the Interfraternity Council and the

Alumni Association have expressed support for the Committee in lobbying with the Legislature. Search also said he hopes to coordinate lobbying action with the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the four state colleges.

"The Regents can allow consumption of alcohol, but permission for sale will definitely have to come from the Legislature," Searcy said.

He said his committee is presently trying to "scope over" the Legislature to find Senators willing to introduce a bill legalizing sale of liquor on University property. He said he hoped to get the bill passed in the next Legislative session.

"Some schools take in profits of around \$20,000 annually from the sale of liquor," Searcy said. "It's not a matter of morals and ethics, it's good business," he said.

He said over 120 universities around the country allow the sale of liquor on their campuses.

ASUN plans Friday meet for info on Lewis shooting

By George Miller

The ASUN Senate Wednesday night called for an "open campus meeting" to inform UNL students about the Arvid Sherdell Lewis shooting.

A resolution introduced by Sen. Tony Williams, calls for students not to attend classes on Friday, Oct. 17 between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and asks teachers to support and attend the meeting.

After a lengthy debate on the resolution and the addition of four amendments, it passed 23-1-1.

A seven-person committee, formed to organize the meeting, spent several hours Wednesday night attempting to contact speakers for the gathering.

State Sen. Ernest Chambers, Lancaster County Sheriff Merle Karnopp, Lincoln City Councilman John Robinson, County Attorney Ron Lahners, County Commissioner Bruce Hamilton and Mayor Helen Boosalis have been invited to attend the meeting which is scheduled to be held on the north side of the Nebraska Union.

Chambers was contacted late Wednesday night and expressed interest in attending, but could not make a firm commitment until this evening.

Mayor Boosalis said she was interested in being a spectator, but would not speak unless formally addressed at the meeting.

In addition, Karnopp told the commit-

tee that he will probably be at the meeting, but like Chambers was unable to make a definite commitment Wednesday night.

The other possible speakers were not yet contacted at press time.

Williams' resolution also calls for a grand jury investigation into the Lewis shooting and that a copy of the resolution be sent to every state senator.

Although the resolution originally called for the grand jury investigation, the idea for a public meeting originated with Ron Sindelar who addressed the senate during the open forum part of the meeting.

Sindelar told the senators that they should support a "moratorium" on classes Friday, with speakers present to inform students about the shooting.

"Any one of us at the present time could be shot at if the police think we pose a threat to them," Sindelar said. "We have to show support to the black community and make sure justice is being done. Now is the time to show what ASUN can do," he said.

Senator Dan Roh amended Williams' resolution to include the call for a moratorium.

Sen. Scott Cook said a moratorium might cause violence on campus.

"If people are willing to disrupt it (the public meeting) then we're just causing

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Photo by Ted Kirk

Ship Smith, a UNL student, explains what he saw during the arrest by Campus Police of a black woman student in the Nebraska Union north lobby about 4:15 Wednesday. Gathered around Smith are Ken Bader, vice chancellor for student affairs, Ely Meyerson, dean of student development, and Gail Gade, chief of Campus Police.

Gade said Wednesday evening that the woman was being held in the Lincoln city jail until County Atty. Ron Lahners decides whether or not to file charges.

The arrest followed a scuffle involving a white male and a black female in front of the Union North Desk. Gade said no information on the case would be released until Lahners acts.