

Minors can't drown sorrows if bill passes

By Marjie Lundstrom

Drinking will be more than a minor problem for 19- and 20-year-olds if a bill before the Nebraska Legislature passes.

Grand Island Sen. Ralph Kelly Friday introduced LB369, which would raise the drinking age to 21 in Nebraska. About half

age of 18 or 19, according to the department.

If passed, the bill would go into effect about 90 days after the Legislature adjourns in May.

Kelly said he proposed the bill because of what he called the frequency of alcohol abuse in high school and junior high age groups.

He said he has observed a "close social tie" between the 17- and 19-year-old. The 19-year-old, who can drink legally, has just been graduated from high school and is more likely to attend high school functions, he said.

"Surveys will show that 40 per cent of the alcohol received by these people in junior high school and high school is received from friends," Kelly said.

The 21-year-old, he said, has a "new life that is not connected with the high school."

Kelly said he hoped the bill would "disrupt the flow" of alcohol from the 19-year-old to younger persons.

However, he added that he did not think his bill would stop minors from drinking.

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Bill could hurt bars

Raising the legal drinking age in Nebraska to 21 would seriously hurt at least some downtown bars' business, owners said.

Waterhole owner Robb Cole said the bill was "a step backwards instead of forwards".

"At the Waterhole, I would estimate that two thirds of our customers are under 21," he said.

Cole, who also owns Horsefeathers, said the change would not affect the Horsefeathers business as much. Most Horsefeathers customers are older, he said.

Cole said he thinks the problem of minors drinking would "be magnified about 10 times" because 19- and 20-year-olds would be minors if the bill passed.

He added, however, that minors have not given him the biggest problems in the past.

"The people we have had the most trouble with are the people around 30

that come in after a football game," he said. The older customers have gotten more obnoxious and started more fights, he said.

Dick Laird, owner of the Brass Rail, said a drinking age of 21 would "definitely mean a decrease in business."

"We have had no serious problems with minors," Laird said. "I don't think it (the change) is necessary."

Laird said, however, that in his particular case, the change would not be drastic because many of his customers are over 21.

Herm's Liquor store owner Herm Strackbein said that although he opposed the bill, he did not think it would affect business greatly.

He said that when the drinking age was 21, adults bought liquor for the 19 and under group anyway.

"If someone wants it, somehow they are going to get it," he said.

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the states have a drinking age of 21, he said.

The State Department of Alcoholism said Wednesday 19 states have a drinking age of 21 and 24 states have a drinking age of 18 or 19 for distilled spirits. The department's statistics did not include reports from seven states.

For wine, 17 states have a drinking age of 21 and 26 states have a drinking age of 18 or 19. For beer, 12 states have a drinking age of 21 and 31 states have a drinking



Photo by Ted Kirk

The UNL Yell Squad waved good-bye to their old uniforms Wednesday night, while the Huskers slipped by the University of Kansas Jayhawks 60-57.

Report on discrimination charges late

By Mike Patten

A federal report on alleged sex discrimination in UNL's hiring, firing and pay scale procedures will not be completed in time to meet the expected January deadline.

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare sent two investigators to UNL in November to investigate charges filed in 1974 by the NU ad hoc committee on women's concerns.

Jesse Milan of the Civil Rights Office at the HEW regional headquarters in Kansas City said Wednesday that he was just starting the report and would not say when he expects to finish it.

Milan told the *Daily Nebraskan* in November that the report would be completed by the end of January.

"I don't know where you got that misinformation," Milan said. "That information is obviously false."

Milan said he has to talk to the two investigators before he writes the report. He said he has no idea how the investigation went and will not allow his investigators to talk to the press until the report is filed.

The investigation followed notification by HEW on

April 1, 1976, that NU's Affirmative Action Program was not in compliance with HEW standards. At that time, NU was given 30 days to comply with guidelines or show cause why the university should not comply.

Milan told the *Daily Nebraskan* in November that if anything turned up in the investigation, HEW would advise the federal agencies financing the university that it is not in compliance with the law. This could mean a stop to federal financing.

According to HEW procedures, the next step for the university if the federal agencies are informed of any violations is negotiating with HEW to seek voluntary compliance. If the negotiations fail to bring results, the U.S. Justice Dept. could be asked to take action against the school.

The charges resulted from a 70-page report filed with HEW in October 1974 by the ad hoc committee. In addition to sex discrimination, the report alleges the university did not properly advertise job openings and that many women were denied promotions and tenure.

Search near end; Gierhan may take position if asked

The search for a permanent UNL vice chancellor for student affairs is in the final stages, according to John Goebel, chairman of the search committee.

Neither Goebel nor Richard Fleming, assistant to UNL Chancellor Roy Young, said they knew of any target date to name the new vice chancellor, but "we're always anxious to fill vacant positions as soon as possible," Fleming said.

Goebel, also UNL accounting dept. chairman, said the committee gave a list of six candidates, narrowed from a field of "well over 125 applicants", to Young on Dec. 10.

Goebel said Young did not tell him when a new vice chancellor would be selected but "I've noticed the chancellor does not dilly-dally." Young will interview some of the candidates before he selects a vice chancellor, Goebel said.

Criteria the committee considered in order to narrow the list, Goebel said, included:

- Administrative ability, including experience with budgets, resource management and communication.
- Experience in student affairs. (Goebel said this was important but not essential).
- Personal characteristics.
- Teaching and research experience.

Ron Gierhan has been acting vice chancellor for student affairs since Ken Bader resigned Oct. 1 to become chief executive of the American Soybean Association.

Gierhan said he "would give serious consideration" to an offer to become permanent vice chancellor. "Certainly the vice chancellorship is something I aspire to eventually," he said. Gierhan said he enjoyed his two years as assistant vice chancellor and the opportunity to be acting vice chancellor.

This search committee is a good example of diverse groups in the university working together effectively, Goebel said.

"They worked very hard and well together," he said. "I'm delighted at the great job they've done." The search committee included faculty members, students, staff members and UNL alumni.

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