

City noise levels to be tested with new electronic devices

By Kevin Field

Lincoln will be quieter if an ordinance passed by the City Council Monday evening is as effective as intended.

With the new law, electronic monitoring equipment will be used to test noise levels which will make the law easier to enforce, according to Gary Walsh of the City-County Health Department.

The previous noise law relied on subjective judgment to determine if an infraction had occurred, and was difficult to enforce.

When passing the ordinance, the council responded to business and industry

concerns by exempting areas zoned commercial or industrial between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. The motion passed 4-3.

In favor of that amendment were Council Members Leo Scherer, Donna Frohardt, Joe Hampton and John Robinson. Opposed were Margret Ahlschwede, Mike Steinman and Eric Youngberg.

Led by Donna Frohardt, the Council passed an amendment making the law stricter on motorcycle noise. The new noise limits on motorcycles call for a reading of less than 80 decibels for speeds less than 40 mph and less than 80 decibels for more than that speed. The amendment changed the speed for the lower limit from 35 to 40.

The Council defeated an amendment introduced by Scherer to allow for a three-year implementation plan for the motorcycle amendment. Several motorcyclists testified two weeks ago that the law could cause problems for owners of motorcycles built before 1975.

That proposal was rejected 5-2 with Scherer and Hampton in favor.

The ordinance then passed 6-1, with Scherer the only dissenting member.

In other action, the Council passed a new sidewalk policy which calls for developing new priorities when determining where sidewalks are to be built. In the past, the need for sidewalks was based on schools in an area and the number of elementary school students.

The new policy will consider the locations of bus stops, parks, businesses. Requiring property owners to be responsible for sidewalks on their property was discussed but not acted on.

The eventual goal of the city is to have sidewalks on both sides of every street. The new policy will determine who gets a sidewalk first.

The Council also issued a protest against Frontier Airlines discontinuing flights from Lincoln to Chicago.



Photo by Mark Billingsley
City Council member Donna Frohardt

UNL judges take second place

While most UNL students attended the Big Red football game against Colorado last Saturday, several agriculture students were in Ames, Iowa, examining various cuts of meat.

The UNL meat judging team placed second in a contest Oct. 28 at Iowa State University. Teams from several midwestern colleges and universities participated in the competition, which is a preliminary contest leading to a national competition in Kansas City and an international competition in Madison, Wis.

UNL plans to send a team to each of those contests, according to Dwight Loveday, the team's coach and an assistant professor of animal science.

The team consists of seven students, most of whom are animal science majors, Loveday said. The team's objective is to provide an educational activity in a competitive setting he said.

"It is a chance for the kids to get out and apply some of the skills they have

learned in the classroom and to see the meat industry."

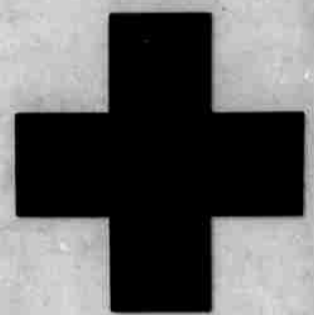
There are six different classes of meat that are judged, Loveday said. The team members look at several pieces of meat within a class and rate them according to quality. Members are awarded points depending on how they classified the meat, he said.

UNL has had a meat judging team since the 1930s, Loveday said. This is his third year as coach.

Loveday said he thinks the contests will get tougher as the season progresses. "The competition will be greater as the number of teams involved in the larger contests increases," he said, adding that the team has "competed quite favorably in the last few years."

In related contests, the livestock judging team has been successful. The five-member team placed seventh out of 34 at a contest in Memphis, Tenn. in September and seventh out of 26 teams at a quarterhorse contest two weeks ago in Columbus, Ohio.

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Regents . . .

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Schwartzkopf said he wore blue to the game. Asked if he wore blue as an effort for student concern, he replied, "Ask anyone what Ed Schwartzkopf usually wears to a Nebraska football game."

Schwartzkopf said he has never turned down a request to speak before student groups, but he felt that the students at Thursday's speech, "didn't want to hear what I wanted to say."

The students at the speech were not interested in the details of the speech because they had already made up their minds, he said.

"It was a nail-him-to-the-barnyard-door thing."

The other incident occurred at the chancellor's reception Saturday morning.

According to ASUN senator Gail Casteel, members of ASUN were handing out blue carnations to the regents and Regent Kermit Wagner of Schuyler said he'd rather double tuition and get rid of student fees.

Casteel said Wagner was "evidently joking." Wagner told the Daily Nebraskan that if he did make such a statement, it would have been a joke.

Wagner said he could not recall making such a statement.

"I may have said it, but if I did, I didn't mean it," he said.

Wagner said he did accept a carnation because he appreciates the student concerns.

"I'm very sincere when I say that I understand the problem and appreciate student concern."

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