

GLC predicts LB221 won't pass

By Kent Warneke

LB221, which would raise Nebraska's legal drinking age to 21, will be brought to the legislative floor for the first stage of floor debate Thursday, Mark Hirschfeld, chairman of the ASUN Government Liaison Committee, believes it will not pass.

Hirschfeld said he is convinced the measure will not pass, but if a compromise is needed, he would support an amendment offered last year by Sen. Peter Hoagland of Omaha and Donald Dworak of Columbus.

The amendment proposed that 19-year-olds be allowed to buy liquor in bars, but off-sale would be restricted to 21-year-olds and older. It was defeated last year.

GLC conducted a survey of more than 1,500 high school students, including the cities of Omaha, Lincoln, Fremont, Lexington, Grand Island, McCook, Bellevue and North Platte, to attempt to prove two main hypotheses, Hirschfeld said.

Teen-age drinking

Hirschfeld said the survey was intended to show that raising the legal drinking age will not significantly decrease—and might increase—teen-age drinking, and to answer Grand Island Sen. Ralph Kelly's (the sponsor of LB221) contention that fewer young people will drink with a higher drinking age.

"Over half of the students surveyed said that they have one source 21 or older who will buy for them. This shows that if minors want alcohol, they can get it," Hirschfeld

said. "Over 90 percent of the students said that they would still be able to obtain alcohol even with the higher drinking age," he also said.

Answering Kelly's contention that fewer young people will have access, Hirschfeld said almost 70 percent of those surveyed would go to a state with a lower drinking age to get alcohol.

Every state bordering Nebraska except Missouri would have some form of alcohol available to people younger than 21. This could put many teens on the road and could increase the number of drinking-related traffic accidents, Hirschfeld said.

Percentages are credible

He said the validity of a survey can always be questioned, but the number of students surveyed—almost 3 percent of all high school students in the state—proves that the percentages reached are still conclusive enough for credibility.

Hirschfeld said Thursday's debate is only the first stage in floor debate, and while it is important, approval Thursday does not mean it will not be voted down later.

"A normal bill, if it gets past general file usually passes into law," Hirschfeld said. "But this is a very emotional issue and it will not be regarded lightly."

The survey conducted by GLC has been sent to several state senators and other interested parties, Hirschfeld said.

"All we can do is what we have done, and that is to provide information to the senators and try to do any other jobs that we can," Hirschfeld said.

Group gets a sponsor

UNL Students for Reagan have found a sponsor and filed a letter of intent to form a student organization with the Campus Activities and Programs office.

Susan Welch, professor and chairman of the Political Science Department will sponsor the group.

daily nebraskan

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ACTS WANTED

The Women's Resource Center is seeking acts for the Second Annual GONG SHOW. Deadline for entries is Wed., Jan. 23. Call the Women's Resource Center for more information - 472-2597.



HELP WANTED

The Winterfest needs student volunteers to donate two hours of time in exchange for free passes for the evening. Sign up in the CAP office, 200 NE. Union

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short stuff

Several Lincoln-based public service and government agencies have second semester internship openings for students with writing, research or people-related skills. For more information contact Experiential Education Office, Oldfather 1218, 472-1452.

Alpha Zeta will meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the East Campus Union.

calendar

9 a.m.-3 p.m.—ASUN Book Exchange, The Cellar.
11:45 a.m.—U.A.A.D., Regency Suite.
5:30-6:45 p.m.—Gamma Lambda, Harvest Room A-B.
7-10 p.m.—Nebraska Union Board, Heritage Room.
7-9 p.m.—WRC-Womens Rap Group, 232.
7:30 p.m.—Baptist Student Union, 122.
8 a.m.-4 p.m.—Drop & Add, Centennial Room & Ballroom.
Booths: 1A—Culture Center.

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