

Committee hears debate on alcoholism insurance

Arguments were heard Monday on a bill which would create mandatory group insurance coverage for the treatment of alcoholism.

The Legislature's Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee heard testimony on Lb646 from organizations involved in the treatment of alcoholics and from members of the insurance community.

Omaha Sen. Ray Powers, the bill's sponsor, said between 6 percent and 10 percent of all working-age people are alcoholics and that alcohol-related problems cost the state \$385 million annually.

The percentages and costs could be cut if insurance companies covered the treatment of alcoholism, Powers said.

Jim Bailey, executive director of the Nebraska Alcoholism Foundation, said he was told by a Midwestern Blue Cross and Blue Shield director that if the illness went by any other name, in-

urance companies wouldn't mind treating alcoholism.

However, Don Bosworth, representing Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, opposed the bill.

Bosworth said the legislation would make the coverage mandatory and would not be beneficial to an insurance company's policy holders.

Testimony from alcoholic treatment organizations spokesmen from around the state said a similar pilot program in California was successful and that insurance rates increased only 3.5 cents per individual per month.

LB646 supporters said alcoholism is not being treated adequately because of the high costs involved. They said to get insurance companies to pay for alcoholism treatment, a patient must be admitted to a hospital under the guise of another disease because insurance companies won't pay for outpatient treatment of alcoholics.

Hiring . . .

daily nebraskan

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Even so, the report stated that the department guideline for selecting faculty did not coincide with university by-laws. According to the by-laws each member of the department's faculty should have the opportunity to interview job applicants.

In this instance, the report stated, only Stowers and Duncan were interviewed by department faculty members.

The ombudsman's office recommended that the Department of Architecture revise its guidelines to follow those of the university.

According to the report, the university disagreed with the findings of the ombudsman. The university is under no obligation to change its rules to conform with the ombudsman's recommendations, said Ombudsman Murrell McNeil.

"Neither Mr. Dunn nor the University has entirely agreed with the findings and conclusions that we have reached. It is emphasized, however, that it is not the function of this office to endeavor to reach conclusions that are necessarily satisfactory to either of the parties involved in a dispute," the report stated.

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Chicanos present seminar

A seminar, "La Chicana: Past, Present and Future" will be presented Feb. 4 by the Chicano Graduate Student organization.

At a brown bag lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. five people, three chicanas (women) and two chicanos (men) will give a short presentation to begin discussion, said Dolores Cardona, CGS chairperson.

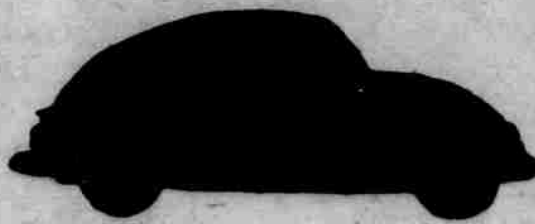
The discussion will be on how men and women relate to each other within the

ethnic group and the repercussions of the women's movement, Cardona said.

The Chicano Graduate Students is a 3-year-old organization which serves as a network for the graduate students' research as well as a support group for the students who sometimes are the only minority in their respective departments.

The Chicano Graduate students also will be sponsoring a conference on bilingual education March 21 with the Nebraska Department of Education, Cardona said.

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The ASUN Committee for Fees Allocation will hold a hearing on the Recreation Dept. budget at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

The Rodeo Club will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the East Union. Room number will be posted. Executives will meet at 6:30 p.m.

The Progressive Student Union will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

short stuff

calendar

12 p.m. U.A.A.D., Regency Suite	Regency Suite A	7:30-10:30 p.m. Math Counselors, 225 B-C
4-5:30 p.m. Student Life Mentoring Project, 232	6 p.m. Multi Cultural Affairs Tutoring, 225	8-9:30 p.m. Students for Responsible Energy Decisions, 402
5-6 p.m. Comcobs, The Rostrum	6-8 p.m. I.E.S. Women Across Cultures, Georgian Suite A	8:30-10 p.m. Navigators, 232
5-7 p.m. Baptist Student Union, 402	6-8:30 p.m. UPC City, Georgian Suite B	9:30-11 p.m. Mortar Board, 401
5:00-6:00 p.m. Tassels, Regency Suite B	7-8 p.m. Ho sing S.A. Applicants, The Rostrum	Booths: 1A - Angel Flight 2A - UPC Foreign Films
6-11 p.m. ASUN Committee for Fees Allocation,	7-8 p.m. Council for Exceptional Children, 401	

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