

## Simon, DeCamp hope to amend paraphernalia bill

By Gordon Johnson

Sens. Neil Simon of Omaha and John DeCamp of Neligh announced Thursday that they will attempt to amend the ban-the-bong bill to make it more workable.

The proposed amendment would strike most of the original bill and allow adults 18 and over to buy paraphernalia.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Patrick Venditte of Omaha, said he is opposed to the proposed amendment. He said he has enough votes to pass the original bill.

"It is the most ludicrous amendment I have ever seen," Venditte said.

Venditte said he has more than 30 votes for his bill and that he may have as many as 35.

"I'll guarantee it's over 30," he said. "I would bet my right arm."

Terry Ford, an administrative aide to Simon, said the original bill was unworkable and would only give police problems with enforcement.

"When 991 came up, we looked at that piece of garbage and said it wasn't workable," Ford said.

According to an opinion prepared by the attorney general's office, the bill might be unconstitutional, Ford said.

However, Venditte disagreed. He said LB991 is the same as a bill prepared by the U.S. Department of Justice. The constitutionality of the bill has been upheld in many states, he added.

"They talk about my bill being unconstitutional. That's a cop out," Venditte said.

Ford said that the new amendment was the result of meetings with parents, law enforcement officials, teachers and people involved in drug education.

Other provisions of the proposed amendment would require stores selling paraphernalia to be at least 100 meters from schools and playgrounds, Ford said.

Anyone selling drug paraphernalia would be required to buy a tobacco license and display drug education material. Money obtained from the sales of tobacco licenses to the shops selling paraphernalia would be earmarked for drug education in Nebraska schools, he said.

Ford said the language of the original bill was too broad. In one instance, a bong might be considered paraphernalia and in another it might not, he said.

"We figured it would drive the cops crazy trying to figure out when something is illegal and when it isn't," he said.

Remaining in the bill is a section that would make illegal possession of paraphernalia a class III misdemeanor.

Venditte said he hopes the bill will come up for floor debate next week.



Photo by Jerry McBride

### Flyin' north

A lone sandhill crane en route to Nebraska is silhouetted against the early morning sun. The cranes, which stand more than three feet high and weigh about eight pounds, fly non-stop from Texas to Nebraska, where they rest before starting another non-stop flight to Canada. The cranes, along with ducks and geese, have been traveling through Nebraska for almost a month.

## Legislature passes drug penalty bill

The Legislature Thursday passed LB696, which would increase penalties for sale and possession of hazardous drugs.

The bill, which was introduced by the Judiciary Committee and passed with a vote of 44-0, added hashish to the list of controlled drugs and redefined exceptionally hazardous drugs.

Defined under the bill as hazardous drugs are any narcotics, PCP or angel dust, amobarbital, scobarbital and pentobarbital.

Anyone caught in possession of hashish or other exceptionally hazardous drugs would be charged with a class II felony compared with a class III felony under the old statutes.

A class II felony sets a maximum sentence of 50 years in prison and a minimum sentence of one year. The maximum sentence under a class III felony twenty years and the minimum is one year in prison.

Also included in LB696 is a section which would allow theft charges to be filed if one fails to return rented property before the rental time has expired.

The bill would require that the rented property be returned within 10 days after the rental contract expires.

However, before charges can be filed, the person renting the property must be notified by certified mail that the lease has expired.

## Five Year Plan outlines Union renovation concept

By Patti Gallagher

The concept of renovating the Nebraska Union has been a chain reaction, which ended Wednesday night at the Nebraska Union Board meeting with the presentation of the Five Year Plan.

Two years ago, the Touche Ross management audit service set the wheels in motion with detailed recommendations for improvements in the unions. Combined with a Student Research Institute survey analyzing specific union facility use, the board concluded that building renovation had become mandatory for its financial life.

In May of 1979, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Richard Armstrong requested that the Nebraska Union Planning Committee undertake the task of completing a long term improvement plan.

After more than 10 months of work and several drafts, the Five Year Plan was produced.

### 70-page plan

The nearly 70-page plan, written by planning committee chairman and past union board president John Kreuscher, outlines suggestions for major physical renovation of the city union.

It was submitted to the union board Wednesday night, and the board will evaluate it before forwarding recommendations to Armstrong and Union Director Daryl Swanson.

The major points of the Five Year Plan include converting the North Crib into a fast food operation, consolidating the University Bookstore into one unit and trans-

ferring its ownership to the unions, eliminating the bowling alley and expanding the Daily Nebraskan office.

With money from revenue bonds and earned income the unions will finance the project over a five year span at an estimated cost of \$1,979,100. Kreuscher said he used conservative figures in compiling the report, and included a 10 percent inflation rate.

"Without such a plan it would be inevitable that the building would fall into further disrepair," Kreuscher said.

### "Two million project"

"It is a \$2 million project," he said, "but I think it will be \$2 million well spent."

Kreuscher said the renovations would not incur any additional costs to students, the long range goal of the plan being to decrease fees with a more efficient facility.

"Student fees would not go up under the implementations of the Five Year Plan," he said. The plan will "increase income producing area, (of the unions), directly affecting students by reducing fees."

The union board will be considering the plan over the next two weeks and continue discussions on it during their next meeting April 9.

The board received a financial summary of the unions from July 1 to December 31 of 1979. The report included increase and decrease percentages, comparing the period to the same time of 1978.

### Sales increase

A summation of all union departments, including food

services, recreation, Campus Activities and Programs, North and South desk sales, house operations and administrative costs, produced an increase in Gross Product Sales of 6 percent.

The all-department figure for Other Income Sources (excluding University Program and Facilities Fees) increased by 35 percent. According to Nebraska Union Board President Maynard Krantz, this large increase is due to a change in accounting procedures. In dealing with a smaller base figure, any increase will be represented by higher percentages, he added.

The total labor and employee benefit expense increased by 9 percent, total operating expenses were reported up 3 percent, and adjusted net income increased 36 percent according to the report.

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