

Parking lot protestors question alcohol policy

By Ward W. Triplett III
and Maureen Costello

It was billed as a protest demonstration of the campus' policy on alcohol, and a large turnout was urged in order for it to be effective. Instead, no more than twelve students turned out in the Harper Hall parking lot Saturday afternoon.

The protest failed in its attempt to bring to the NU Board of Regents attention what students called the "double standard" policy it has adapted toward on-campus drinking.

"The alumni are allowed to drink, but we're not," said Keith Grotelvschen, a Harper 6 resident. "It seems the regents believe that it is OK for you to violate a state law if you are an alumni of the university, and you are making contributions to the school. All we ask is that they enforce the policy on them if they are going to enforce it on us."

Craig Priefert, another student, said, "The regents care more about the alumni than they do about the students who pay tuition." He thought the protest was useful because "working through the system, we would only get a minimum done."

No one student in particular came up with the idea or the organization of the protest, said Harper Student Assistant Mike Dempsey, who along with several other SAs had planned to watch over the protest to make sure thing didn't get out of hand.

Confusing policy

"This was all spread on word of mouth," Dempsey said. "There is no telling how things like this will turn out."

Although there were no SAs directly involved, they were also in favor of a change in what Bob Gonderinger of Harper Six called a confusing policy on the alcohol subject.

"If you talked to three different sources, the regents, the police, and housing, you'd get three different interpretations on what the policy is. It's tough to justify some of the things they say is part of our responsibility," Gonderinger said.

He said that the SA staff will be writing letters to housing, in particular to director Doug Zatecha, asking

for a clarification of the rules.

"One of the Smith SAs was telling me how she wrote up a girl on Sunday for having liquor in the room, and the girl said 'well, you saw me in Sellecks's parking lot yesterday with my parents and didn't say anything then, and I was drinking that time'. Really, she's right. It's frustrating. Are you an adult in the parking lot but not in the dorm room?" Gonderinger asked.

But we've been told not to bother someone in another complex by one source, and something else by another. It comes down to the SAs discretion. There's just nothing set."

The SAs were not advocating Saturday's rally and thought it wouldn't change matters anyway.

"Realistically, I doubt the alcohol policy and rules will change before I leave here, unless the board of regents gets people with different attitudes and different ideas real soon," Gonderinger said.

Ineffective turnout

The students also thought their protest, especially with the small turnout, would be ineffective, but said it may start people thinking. The main goal was to include

all people under the same policy, at all places on campus, although interest varied from the student to student.

"I'm 21," a student from Harper said. "And if I had not elected to go to college, I could fill a room up to my chin in beer cans. Why should a desire for higher education curtail my rights? But what I am really opposed to is the regents' discriminatory attitude to students in the alumni situation. Why should they be special?"

The students were disappointed with the small attendance, but thought it will be better next week once students become aware that scare tactics didn't prove to be true.

It was rumored the day before that more than 100 students had planned to join in the beer drinking, but stayed away when trouble was thought to be inevitable.

"Someone told me that the Schramm SA's were going to come down and write up everybody so those people didn't show up," one student said. Dempsey said he received an anonymous phone call that said there would be police intervention and arrests would be made. However, none appeared in the hour the students spent in the lot.

Professor is elected to ACSP committee

Roger M. Massey, professor and chairman of UNL's Department of Community and Regional Planning, has been elected to represent the North Central Region on the executive committee of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Massey will represent 25 of the 95 institutions throughout the United States and Canada in the ACSP.

He also was elected executive director of the American Planning Association's education division.

The APA develops continuing education programs and helps schools establish and strengthen planning programs, Massey said.

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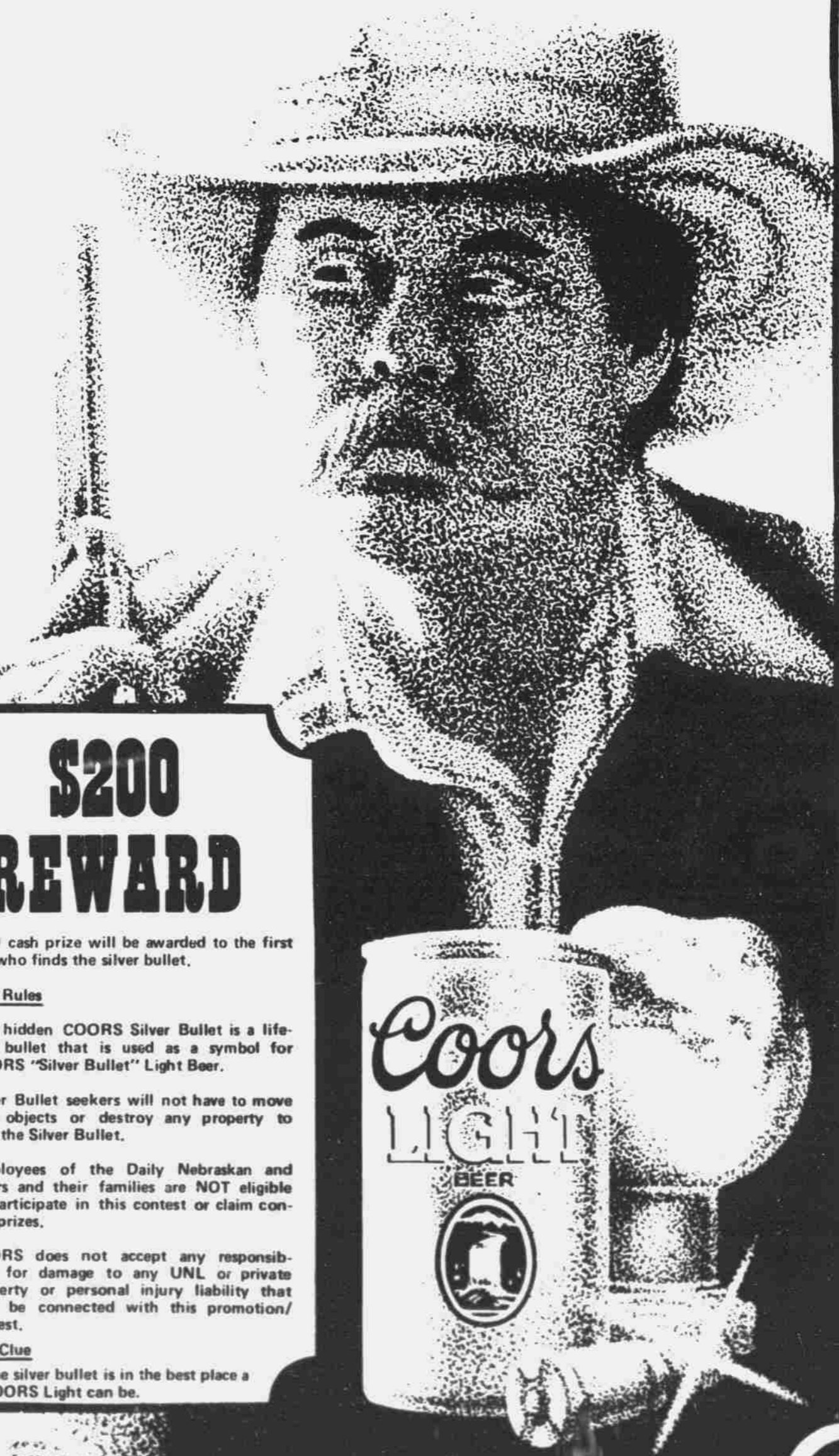
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