

Alcohol...

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Flack said 500 names will be randomly chosen from a list of residents representing about 10 percent of the residence halls' population.

Committee member Kathy Mach said that right now, partially because plans are still in the preliminary stages, its proposals will be directed primarily at changing the policy in residence halls only.

Travis said he thinks there would be a problem getting the policy changed because of a state law prohibiting consumption of alcohol on state property.

That law, however, contains a provision granting the governing bodies having jurisdiction on these properties the authorization to make exceptions to the law. This means the Regents have the power to allow consumption of alcohol on campus, according to Mach.

Flack said there are complications involved in legalizing the sale of alcohol in public places, such as the Nebraska Union, which may be dealt with later.

Greek houses separate

Greek houses, too, are under separate jurisdiction, he said, so any change there also will have to be dealt with separately.

State splits on food-tax policy

Nebraskans are almost evenly divided on the state's food-tax policy, according to the UNL Bureau of Sociological Research.

The survey showed that 49 percent of Nebraskans interviewed favored continuation of the tax, while 51 percent wanted it dropped.

Susan Welch, UNL professor of political science and author of the report, said low-income persons were more likely than high-income persons to favor a reduction in the tax.

Other than some inconsistencies Flack said, the committee has additional reasons for seeking a policy change.

"It's not a sour-grapes types of thing," he said. "It goes much deeper than that."

"Primarily, the policy is seriously flawed, because it encourages drinking in an irresponsible manner."

Even if alcohol was allowed, Flack said, there still would be guidelines.

Tentatively, alcohol would be discouraged in public areas, like lounges, he explained, and kegs would not be allowed.

Vandalism, excessive drinking and noise still would be subject to disciplinary action, he said, and probably would be easier to control.

Easier to enforce

A new policy, (containing some guidelines) would apply to fewer people."

Flack said, thus making it easier to enforce.

"The current policy is, practically speaking, unenforceable."

Dave Chester, a student assistant in Neihardt Residence Center, said he saw no difficulty in dealing with problems that might result if alcohol were allowed, and he agreed that not allowing it already presents problems.

"If you treat college students like children," he said, "that's how they're going to act."

Jim Reilly, another Neihardt student assistant, also said he would like to see a policy change.

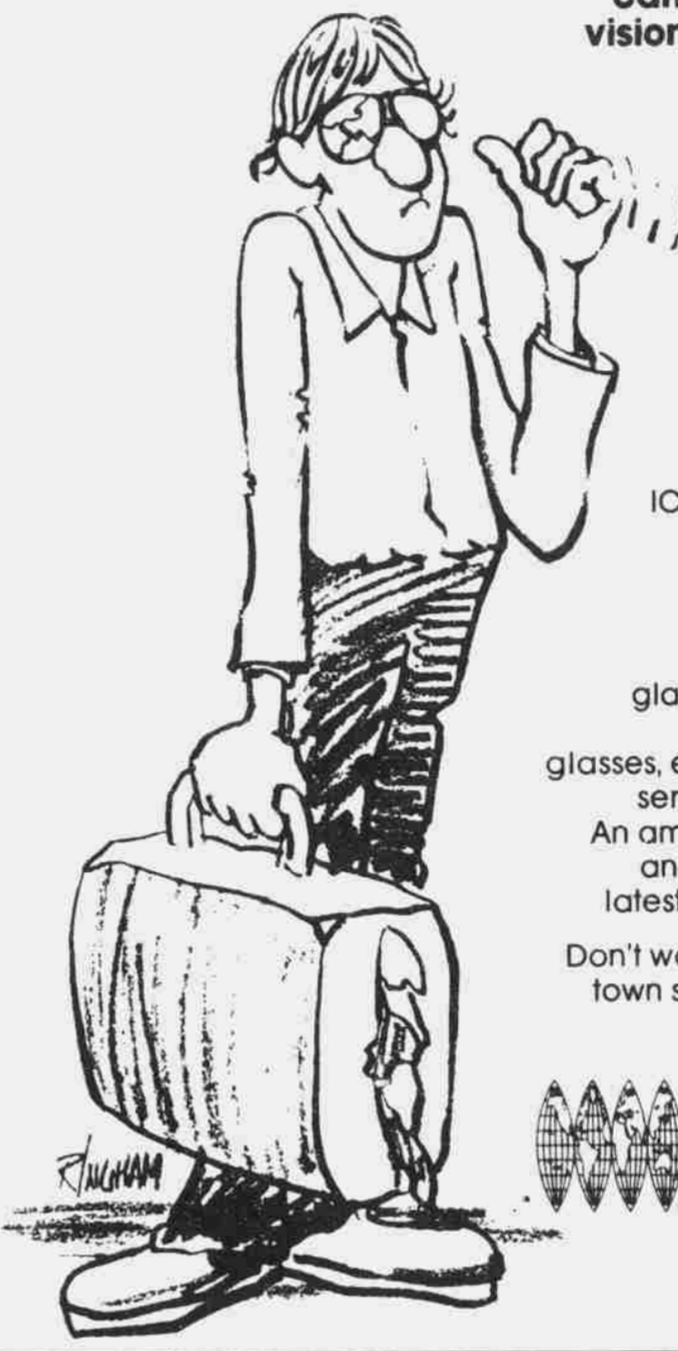
"If they want to abolish it, they should abolish it completely," he said. "Then the time spent enforcing it can be spent on other problems."

However, not all students would like to see alcohol allowed on campus.

"Most of the students are too irresponsible," said freshman Chuck Vaughn. "Just from what I've seen, too many people drink around here just to get bombed."

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