

Proposed Clean Air Act changes draw comment

By Jim Garrett

The Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, in line with President Reagan's promise to ease and bring about regulatory reform, has released 11 general principles for revision of the 1970 Clean Air Act, an official said.

Gary Walsh, assistant chief of the Environmental Health Division for Lincoln/Lancaster County, told 20 members of the Bluestem Sierra Club Tuesday evening the principles could be supported by almost anybody.

Walsh also said that the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials, of which he is a member, would reserve final judgment on the principles until release of specific details.

Walsh described the 11 principles:

- A national directive to continue to pursue clean air.
- Reasonable statutes and regulations related to their specific areas.
- The establishment of health air standards based on sound scientific data rather than economic cost-benefit analysis.
- Continued setting of secondary air quality standards at the federal level.
- Continued programs for the protection of national state and local parks and recreational areas.

-Full partnership of the states and the federal government in implementing standards.

-A more effective hazardous waste preventative program for air-borne pollutants.

-Acceleration of research on acid "deposition" (acid rain and particulate forms). Walsh noted that ALAPCO would push for immediate implementation of compliance standards along with the increase in data collection.

"What good does it do to just continue to study the problem, one that not only crosses state boundaries, but international ones as well," he said.

-Deadlines for achieving air quality standards adjusted to reflect each area involved.

-Adjustment of "mobile sources," such as vehicles to a more reasonable level of carbon monoxide and nitrous oxides.

Walsh said ALAPCO would oppose this relaxation. He added that the Reagan administration has waived control standards on some engine classes, changing the rule of 3.4 grams per mile of carbon monoxide to 7.0 grams per mile.

He also said the National Commission on Air Quality said "rule relaxation of mobile sources would be acceptable if a five-year air quality evaluation was implemented, along with appropriate correcting measures if air quality deterioration occurred."

-Pollution control standards for new coal-fired power plants based on uniform emission standards.

It should be noted, Walsh said, that the issue with this principle is between high sulfur coal users in the East and the low sulfur coal power plants in the West.

Under this revision, new plants using low sulfur coal would be permitted to operate without stack scrubbers, which remove pollutants from high sulfur coal but aren't necessary for low sulfur coal.

Walsh said that if the Clean Air Act is overhauled rather than just fine-tuned, major areas of the U.S. could suffer dramatic drops in air quality.

He said Lincoln and Lancaster County have been fortunate in that even without the act, pollution control would have probably occurred, only later.

This, he said, is not true nationally.

A case in point, said Walsh, in U.S. Steel in Gary, Ind. It was found that because a U.S. Steel plant was suffering financially, it would cost less to hire legal counsel and tie up a battle with the federal government in the courts than it would be to install pollution control equipment.

The benefits of the Clean Air Act far outweigh the cost to industry, Walsh said. The President's Council on Environmental Quality under the Carter administration showed there was a 24.4 billion benefit to society from clean air versus a \$16.6 billion cost to industry for purchasing pollution equipment.

Auditions for ghost play soon

Auditions for *The Canterville Ghost* will be held Monday, Aug. 31 and Sept 1 at 7 p.m. at the Lincoln Community Playhouse, 2500 S. 56th St. The first Children's Theatre Production of the season is an adaptation by Helen P. Avery of Oscar Wilde's *The Ghost of Canterville Hall* and will be directed by Lenette Nelson Schwinn, children's theatre director.

The story centers around Sir Simon de Canterville a Sixteenth Century ghost that haunts his family mansion. Around 1900, the house is sold to an American business man, Mr. Otis, and his family who refuse to be scared by strange apparitions. The Otis children pester Sir Simon with mischievous

pranks. Only Virginia, the older daughter, attempts to befriend the Ghost.

Call 489-9608 for more information on auditions or if you are interested in working backstage.

Session tops record

Summer session enrollment at UNL broke a six-year record and topped last year's enrollment by 900 students. Total enrollment for the 1981 session was 15,040, 6.4 percent more than the 14,140 students a year ago, and 3.9 percent more than the 14,472 students in the 1975 record year.

Students price their books

The ASUN Book Exchange, in the basement of the Nebraska Union, is a beneficial service for students buying and selling books, said ASUN Senator Russ Oatman.

Because the books at the exchange are priced by the students selling them, the prices for used books may be lower than at bookstores, he said. Students sell books for a higher price than the bookstore would pay for them.

Books are marked for identification and then placed in the exchange. The books are sorted by subject matter for easy access.

The money collected from the sale of

the books is returned to the student minus 5 percent that is kept by ASUN. Unsold books are also returned.

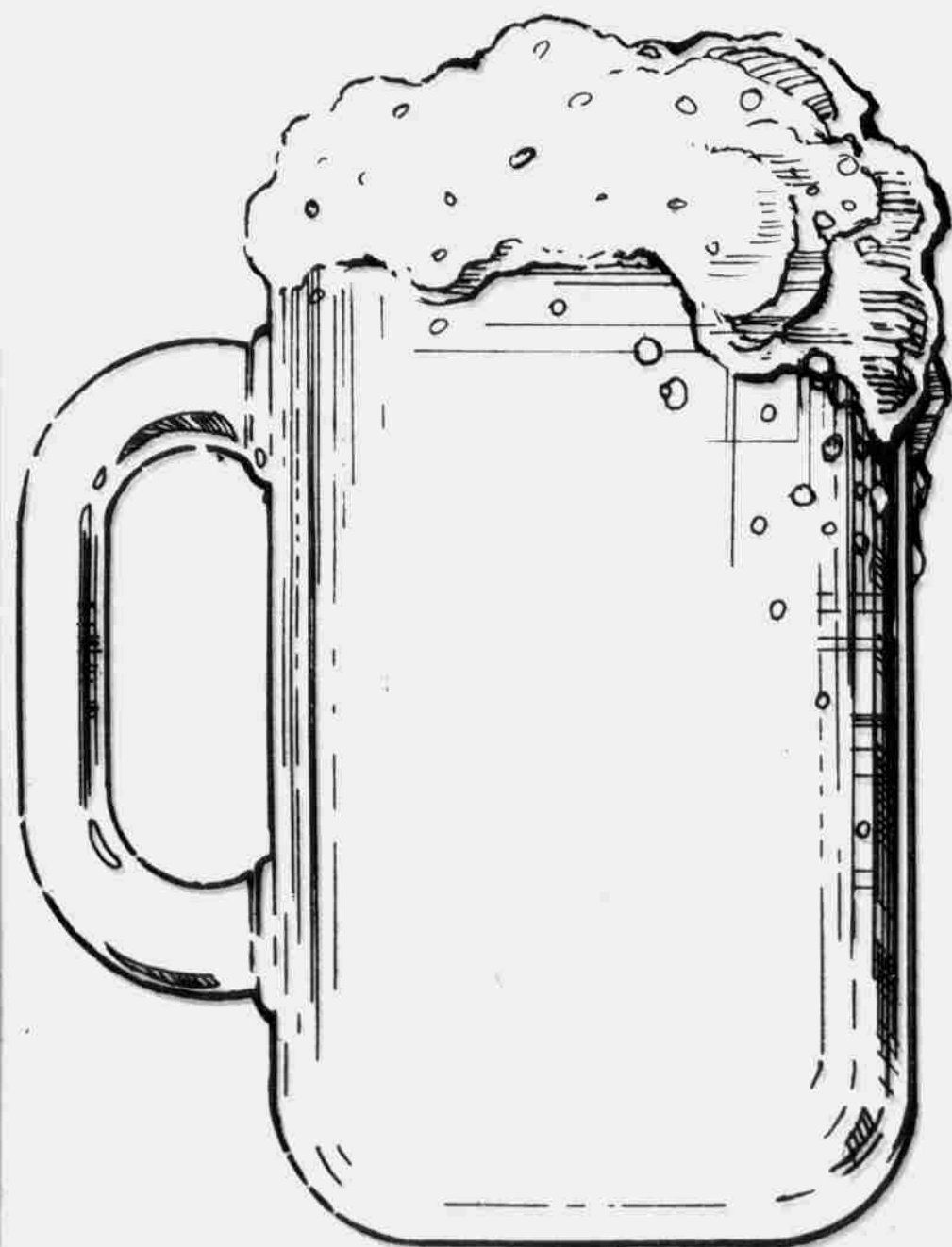
The book exchange has a large number of books from most subject areas for classes.

The exchange has been successful this semester, said Oatman.

The book exchange is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Unclaimed books and cash payments for those selling books can be picked up at the ASUN office Sept. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All books and payments not claimed by 2 p.m. Oct. 1 become the property of ASUN.

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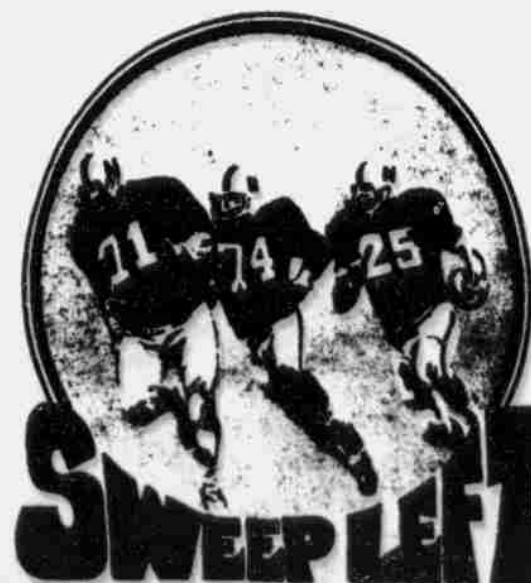
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