

# Bicycle wheel tax discussed by advisory council

By Eric Peterson

A wheel tax on bicycles was one of several alternative sources of bicycle project funding discussed at a public meeting of the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council Tuesday night.

The wheel tax would be an annual fee to each person registering and licensing a bicycle. Currently, \$1 is charged for a permanent license, said Veryl Herr, Bicycle Advisory Council chairperson.

Other possibilities for funding include continuing to use general revenues, using state gasoline revenues and sponsoring a bicycle raffle or bike-a-thon, said Rick Haden, a member of the bicycle council and employee of the Lincoln Traffic Department.

Funds will be used for bicycle safety improvements, and for accommodating and encouraging bicycle traffic, Haden said. The most extensive of these improvements will be bicycle curb ramps and bikeways on Lincoln's busiest streets, including Vine, Holdrege and Y streets, Haden said.

"We're going to need something more, because federal dollars are becoming tighter," Haden said. The U.S. Department of Energy has granted Lincoln \$112,000 for bike programs to improve downtown bicycle access and to encourage alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle, he said.

Federal government grants will be harder for the city to come by in the future, Haden said. He suggested all possible funding and bikeway route ideas be explored. "Public input is very welcome," he said. "Some of the routes built in the past were vastly improved because of bicyclist input."

Safety for bicyclists is the council's main concern, Herr said.

"The Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council was started about 10 years ago during the bike boom, because the city felt bike safety needed to be better protected," Herr said. One major safety problem is that some bicyclists don't view themselves as part of the traffic, Herr said.

"A lot of people don't remember that they have to obey all the laws pertaining to motorists," Herr said. The

most frequent violation called to the council's attention is bicyclists going through red lights and stop signs because they don't know they must obey them, Herr said.

Sgt. Gary Hoffman of the Lincoln Police Department, a member of the advisory council, showed slides of simulated bike accidents on Lincoln streets and stressed the importance of safety education, especially for children.

"Half of the bicycle accidents involve children 15 years of age or under," Hoffman said. In terms of accident statistics, Hoffman said, "In general, the older you get, the safer you are."

Hoffman said bicycle theft is a major problem at UNL. "A lot of students aren't familiar with how to safeguard their bicycles because they come from smaller communities where theft is not a problem," he said. Students should lock their bikes with more than just the frame to the bike rack, and buy the \$1 license to register the bike, he added.

Hoffman said that of the 776 bicycles stolen so far this year, 249 were returned to the owners.

"All of those 249 were registered with the city," Hoffman said. Recovered bikes with no license or other identifying information are sold at police auction, Hoffman said.

# Change your major to Old Milwaukee



And we'll kick in with a little student aid. Just buy a case of Old Milwaukee or Old Milwaukee Light and send us the proof(s) of purchase with this coupon. We'll send you back a buck. Meanwhile, take a refresher course with two of the best-tasting beers around, Old Milwaukee and Old Milwaukee Light.

Get \$1.00 back when you buy one case of Old Milwaukee or Old Milwaukee Light.

# \$1.00

To receive your \$1.00 rebate, send this coupon with proofs of purchase from the Old Milwaukee Beer and/or Old Milwaukee Light 24 can loose pack, two 12 packs, or four 6 packs to:

College Refund Offer  
Post Office Box NB-959  
El Paso, Texas 79977

Proof of purchase on the 24 can loose pack and the 12 pack is the Universal Product Code (UPC) on the plastic h/ cone carrier. Offer void where taxed or prohibited by law. You must be of legal drinking age in your state of residence at the time of submission. And this coupon must accompany proof of purchase and will not be honored if duplicated or reproduced. Limit \$1.00 per family. Offer expires December 31, 1981.

Please Print Name

Address

City

State

Zip

©1981 Univ. Schlotz Brewing Company. Milwaukee® and other Great Cities. Printed in U.S.A.

## Thief taps vending machine

UNL police reported the theft of \$666.55 in change from vending machines in the Administration Building over the weekend.

Police said the theft occurred sometime Friday or Saturday when coin-operated vending machines and a change machine were raided. The machines are in the building's basement.

Believe us:  
it's  
better to  
give blood-  
than  
receive.

# 20% OFF ALL BOOTS



Good thru Saturday

# Barkers

1211 "O" Street  
475-5722

"Just a few blocks from campus"

MONDAY - SATURDAY  
9:30-5:30  
Thursday 'til 9

