

Task force completes alcohol abuse study

By Joe Dejka
Staff Reporter

Health care agencies and law enforcement officials should form a close partnership to combat the problems of alcoholism and alcohol abuse in the community, according to recommenda-

tions drawn from a study by the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs.

Recommendations include establishing more uniform operating procedures for law enforcement agencies in handling intoxicated persons, a more active role for health care agencies based on

the idea of early intervention, and a stronger public education effort aimed at early identification and intervention.

The ten month study by a special LCAD Task Force was requested by Mayor Roland Leudtke to determine the most appropriate way to deal with intoxicated persons who come to the attention of public safety agencies.

Task Force Chairman Captain Jim Baird of the Lincoln police department said the criminal justice system can make contact with the intoxicated persons but cannot address the health care problem.

There are a large number of people who filter through the criminal justice system whose alcohol dependency is never addressed, Baird said.

The study recommends that health care services become involved at the earliest stages of the criminal justice process.

When possible and appropriate, the council recommends that rather than jail intoxicated persons, they should be cited and released to Cornhusker Place Inc. detoxification or protective custody units,

Mary Jo Williams, executive director of the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs, said intervention in the early stages may prevent a serious problem five or ten years down the road.

"We hope people who are taken to a health care facility will realize it is a health care problem," Ms. Williams said.

Captain Baird said Cornhusker Place Inc., an independent non-profit organization, would be the intermediary to inform and educate.

It is better to take persons cited for driving while intoxicated to the detoxi-

fication center than to put them in jail, Baird said.

Though recent legislation requires tougher penalties for DWI, Baird said the chronic alcoholic "would rather pay the fine, get 7 days in jail and walk away from it."

Captain Baird and Ms. Williams are scheduled to present the study to the City-County common today at 7:30 a.m.

Ms. Williams said she hopes the City-County common will pass a resolution in favor of the study and appoint a committee to monitor the progress of its implementation.

Mayor Roland Leudtke said he is happy with the report.

Leudtke said he is not content to "let it sit" and that "we better put the spotlight on it." The key, he said, is to educate the public, and through education raise the necessary funding.

Plant could be donated to NU

(AP) — American Stores has offers for its closed packing plant here, but the facility might be donated to the NU Foundation, a company spokesman said.

"Our primary concern all along has been to find a buyer who would re-open the Lincoln plant, rather than someone who would buy the property but not create jobs," said Michael Miller, a vice president in the company's headquarters in Salt Lake City.

"If none of the offers would result in a reopening, we would look at the possibility of giving the plant to the UNL Foundation," he said.

The plant was closed in December 1982, leaving 650 workers jobless.

American Stores was approached by foundation officers about the possible donation, Miller said.

"It is one option, but there has been no definitive decision either way," he said.

Foundation Vice President Ed Hirsch said he has not been involved in contacts with American Stores. Other foundation officers were not immediately available for comment.

Miller said he hopes the plant's fate can be decided this year.

Police Report

The following incidents were reported to UNL police between 4:39 a.m. Monday and 2 a.m. Wednesday.

Monday
4:39 a.m. — Person arrested on a warrant after being stopped for a traffic violation at 14th and W streets.

12:32 p.m. — Alleged vandalism by juveniles reported at the Livestock Judging Pavillion on East Campus.

3:58 p.m. — Two-car accident reported at 15th and U streets. No injuries were reported.

5:27 p.m. — Bicycle reported stolen from Morrill Hall.

Tuesday

1:15 p.m. — Tape player reported stolen from the Barkley Center on East Campus.

3:51 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident reported in 30-minute parking area near Nebraska Union.

4:25 p.m. — Burglar alarm reported sounding at the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Wednesday

2 a.m. — Person arrested for allegedly driving while intoxicated and possession of a controlled substance near 14th and Court streets.



(Left to right): Larry West, Jann Steel, Scott Lehr, Wendy Martin, Brad Leggett and Jutta Stuart are shown wearing just some of the fashions to be modeled at "A Glimpse at Our Pacesetters," the second annual fashion review sponsored by the Soroptimist International of Lincoln, scheduled for Aug. 22 at the Hillcrest Country Club. The show, co-sponsored by Ben Simons, is scheduled to begin with a cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m. The fashion show is scheduled to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the show will go to Soroptimist service projects including The National Society to Prevent Blindness, Friends of the State Museum (Morrill Hall), local and national scholarships for women, plus many others.

Designer fall fashions ranging from sportswear to office and evening attire, for both men and women will highlight the evening which includes dinner and music.

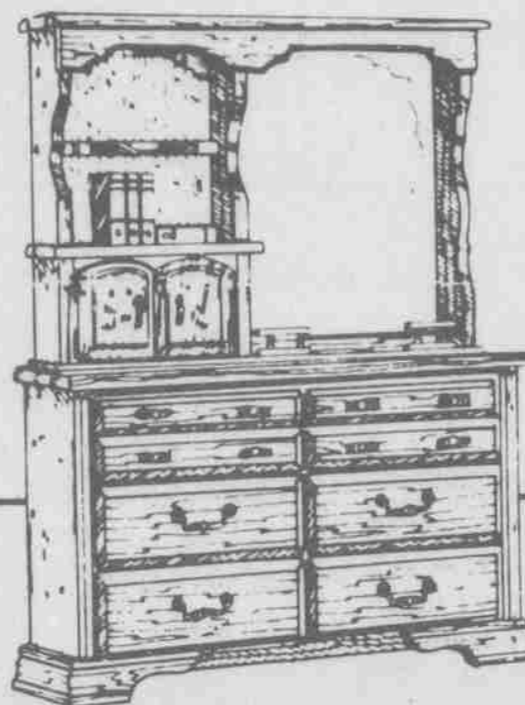
Individual tickets can be purchased for \$15.00 each and are available at Ben Simons downtown and Gateway.

For more information, contact Soroptimist International of Lincoln at 467-6279 or Chairperson Jutta Stuart at 475-6001.

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