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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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WEATHER: Tuesday, mostly sunny with highs in mid to upper 20s with W winds 10-15 mph. Tuesday night, cloudy, with possible flurries, blowing and drifting snow with low 0-5.
Wednesday, slowly diminishing winds, possible flurries with highs 5-10. Thursday - Saturday, highs in teens Thursday and 20s Saturday.

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Council denies super market liquor licenses

By Natalie Weinstein
Staff Reporter

The Lincoln City Council unanimously denied five applications for liquor licenses to area grocery stores and a convenience store after listening to more than an hour of public testimony Monday afternoon.

The applications for the grocery stores would have been the first to be approved since the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that a Lincoln ordinance prohibiting such sales was unconstitutional.

M.J. Bruckner, an attorney representing B & R Stores, Inc., told council members they had no "legally

justifiable reasons for denying the applications."

In an interview after the council vote, Bruckner said he was not surprised by the council's decision.

"They've just ignored all the facts," he said. "They're operating from their gut feeling."

The Supreme Court has ruled that communities must "allow competition to flow freely" for all products, including alcohol, he said.

"The policy they (city council members) have adopted . . . violates existing precedent," he said. Bruckner said the denial will come under the review of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission within a few weeks.

Seventeen Nebraska cities, in-

cluding Omaha, already allow alcohol sales in grocery stores or convenience stores, Bruckner said.

Currently, no Lincoln grocery stores sell beer, wine or liquor. Gas 'N Shop stores received licenses to sell beer in November after the Supreme Court ruling.

More than 220 establishments currently have active liquor licenses within the city.

The council denied liquor licenses to four grocery stores owned by B & R Stores: Super Saver at 233 N. 48th St.; Russ's Edgewood IGA at 5500 S. 56th St.; Russ's B & R IGA at 66th and O streets; and Russ's Bishop Heights IGA at 4200 S. 27th St.

The council also denied B & R's applications to expand Super Saver

Spirits at 27th Street and Cornhusker Highway, RB's Liquor Store at 1709 Washington St. and a license application for Minute Mart at 2710 S. 70th St.

Before voting on the applications, council member Linda Wilson said that buying alcohol should not be as easy as buying toothpaste.

Council member Colcen Seng said she does not "consider alcohol the same as bread and milk."

J. Michael Rierden, an attorney representing Lincoln Package Beverage Association, opposed the applications. This association is composed of Class D establishments, the off-sale stores that sell beer, wine and liquor. Three of B & R's applications were for stores that would be in direct

competition with these establishments.

Bruckner said the Class D stores are "not entitled to this unfair protection."

Representatives from the Lancaster County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism & Drugs and the Nebraska Council on Alcohol & Drug Education testified against the applications.

Rowland Benedict, administrative assistant for NCADE, said the alcohol retailers do not have public health in mind. If they did, he said, they wouldn't sell alcohol.

"Their primary motive is greed," he said.

Committee advances liquor bill

By Larry Peirce
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska Legislature's General Affairs Committee advanced a bill Monday that would give local governments the option to allow on-sale liquor to be sold by retailers from noon on Sunday until 1 a.m. Monday.

legislature NEBRASKA

Committee members voted 7-0 to advance LB703, introduced by state Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha, to the floor.

Hall said on-sale liquor is available on Sundays until 6 p.m. in Omaha, while beer and wine is sold noon until 1 a.m.

Those who choose to drink liquor should be able to, he said, because one serving of liquor has the same alcohol content as one serving of beer or wine.

Mike Kelley of the License Beverage Association said LB703 "doesn't demand anything" of local governments because they would have the option of allowing or disallowing the sale of liquor during those hours.

Kelley said the bill would have been passed last year, but it ran out of time on the floor.

David Freedland, who represents United Distilleries, also supported the bill. Freedland said not allowing the sale of liquor on Sunday is the "last remnant of Prohibition."

James Hamilton, chairman of the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Education, was the only opponent of LB703, saying the reduction of liquor restrictions leads to the "proliferation of human suffering."

In other action, the committee held over LB704, which would authorize the sale of liquor between retailers. Liquor retailers now are required to buy from wholesale dealers, but LB704 would allow them to buy from other retailers when they run out and can't drive to wholesale outlets.

LB760 could create competition

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Reporter

A proposal in the Nebraska Legislature that would change all four state colleges to universities could pull students away from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NU President Ronald Roskens said.

"It would create, clearly, a second university system that would bring about competition," Roskens said.

The State College Board of Trustees voted Friday to support LB760, which would change the names of the colleges, but would not incorporate them into the University of Nebraska system.

The proposal would change Kearney State College to Central Nebraska University, Wayne State to Northeastern Nebraska University, Peru State to Southeastern Nebraska University and Chadron State to Northwestern Nebraska University.

Jean Lovell, chairperson of the board, said that in November the board gave top priority to getting funding for the state colleges rather than changing the names.

"That was taken out of our hands with the introduction of LB160," she said, which would change Kearney State College to a university and bring it under the University of Nebraska system.

Since then, she said, the board has reconsid-

ered and now supports a change in name, but not in structure.

Members of the board plan to testify against LB160 because not enough is known about how a change in structure would affect the colleges, Lovell said.

"We're going to request that if they're going to change governance . . . a lot more study needs to be done."

Lovell said she does support the name change, however, because the new names would more accurately reflect the regions the colleges serve.

"They aren't just colleges for Wayne, Kearney, Chadron and Peru," she said.

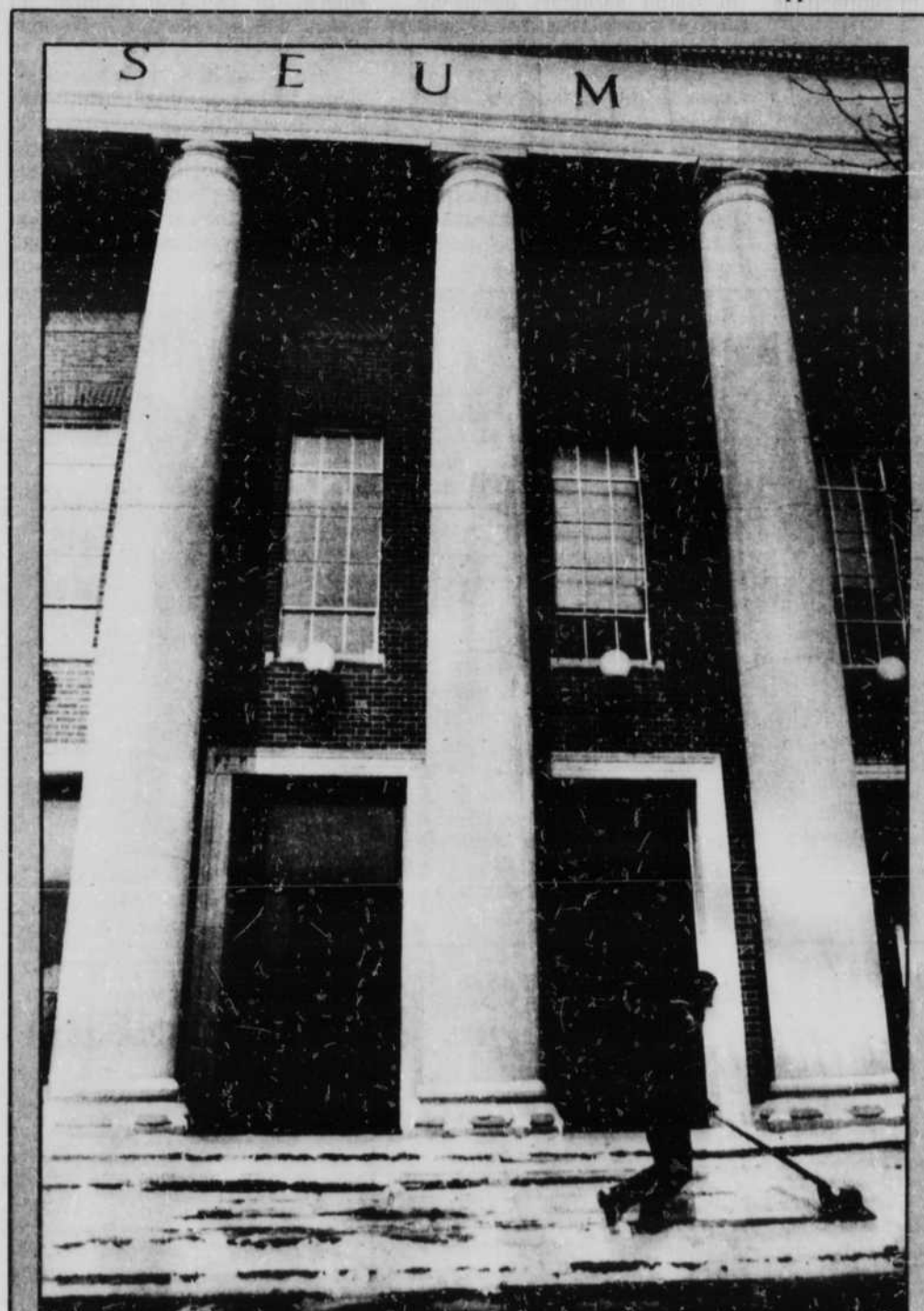
A recent study conducted by Chadron State College showed that of 209 colleges similar to Nebraska's colleges in size and mission, 75 percent are called universities, Lovell said.

NU Regent Margaret Robinson of Norfolk said she has not yet formed an opinion about LB760, but the role and mission of the college system should be considered before its name.

"The name is not the crux of the matter," she said.

As a small state, Nebraska cannot afford to have two or more institutions with the same mission, Robinson said.

"The Lincoln campus must remain as the state's flagship institution with a research mandate."



Wrong camouflage, pal!

Junior Curtis Abendroth clears away the remnants of Sunday's snow showers, which were left on the steps of Morrill Hall.

Health Center requests slight increase

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

While medical costs have gone up 10 percent in the past year, the University Health Center has requested less than a 1 percent increase in student fees, according to Kunle Ojikutu, director of the center.

Ojikutu said the slight increase is needed so the health center can continue to provide quality health care to University of Nebraska-Lincoln stu-

dents. "The budget request is in order," Ojikutu said. "We will continue to be prudent without taking anything away from service."



But, Ojikutu said, the budget proposal doesn't allow for an increase in

staff salaries. The increase in salaries will be decided by the NU Board of Regents and Nebraska Legislature.

The University Health Center will be submitting its budget request to the Committee for Fees Allocation during a 6:30 p.m. meeting tonight.

Ojikutu said the health center has been able to hold down costs by purchasing generic drugs and passing the savings on to students.

"That's one way we've been able to hold the line (on costs)," Ojikutu

said. "How long we'll be able to hold the costs -- I don't know."

The budget request reflects an increase of 10 cents per student per semester, to \$55.03 for 1989-90, Ojikutu said. The increase would boost the Health Center's funding to \$783,854 -- \$19,420 above the 1988-89 budget.

The biggest increase in the budget proposal comes with a request to increase the funding for small equipment from \$6,000 to \$20,000 -- a more than 233 percent increase.

and supplies, almost an 11 percent increase over last year's \$135,150 budget allocation.

Ojikutu said the increase is necessary to allow the health center more flexibility to purchase such items as typewriters and small medical equipment.

The other most substantial increase comes in materials and supplies. Ojikutu said the health center has requested \$150,000 for material

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