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Legislation would let restaurants and bars buy hard liquor off-sale

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

After lengthy debate Friday, the Nebraska Legislature advanced a bill that was amended to allow bars and restaurants buy hard alcohol from other liquor establishments.

LB154, which redefines provisions for the sale of wine to allow wine-only liquor licenses, was amended to include LB704 by Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha.

Senators drafted LB704 to allow retailers in the state to purchase hard liquor from other retailers if they run out of alcohol before they can purchase it from a distributor.

Sen. Rod Johnson of Sutton said he was against adding Hall's amendment because such legislation would bypass the current three-tier system of alcohol distribution. Alcohol currently is passed from brewers to dis-

tributors to retailers in the state. Johnson said the current three-tier system is working well and the amendment would possibly be "opening the door" to future legislation that could abolish the current system.

'We're putting into statute something which is already practiced.'

—Hall

Hall said many bars already buy alcohol from non-distributors when they are out of a particular brand and are in an emergency situation.

"We're putting into statute something which is already practiced,"

Hall said. Sen. Jacklyn Smith of Hastings amended Hall's amendment to include a \$300 annual limit on liquor purchases from non-distributors. Smith said the \$300 ceiling is adequate to serve the needs of liquor establishments.

Smith's amendment passed 27-1. After Smith's amendment passed, Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly proposed to expand the hard liquor amendment to include wine.

But Smith, Johnson and others said they opposed the amendment because they didn't want to expand Hall's amendment.

Warner's amendment failed 11-16.

Hall said he added LB704 as an amendment to LB154 because he didn't think LB704 would come before the Legislature before the session ends this year.

police REPORT

Beginning Friday, March 3

3 p.m. — Car reported vandalized in Area 3, near Harper Hall, \$1,000.

3:05 p.m. — Phone reported stolen from Hamilton Hall.

7:12 p.m. — A hit-and-run accident was reported in Area 6, \$700.

Saturday, March 4

9:09 a.m. — Automobile reported damaged in Area 3, near Harper Hall, \$1,000.

11:45 a.m. — Automobile reported damaged in gravel lot north of Bob Devaney Sports Center, \$400.

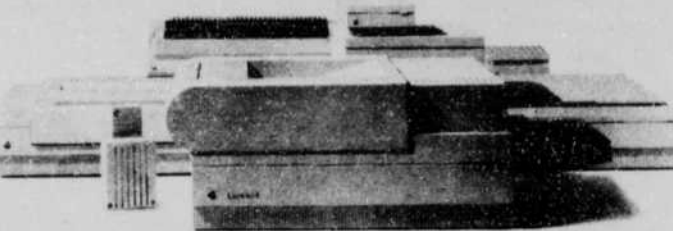
12:22 p.m. — Automobiles reported damaged in gravel lot north of Bob Devaney Sports Center, \$200.

3:11 p.m. — Two-vehicle, non-injury accident reported at 1905 S St., \$1,000.

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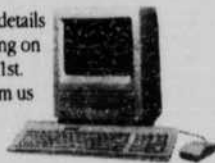
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Discovered twisted roof joist in Coliseum produces no threat

By David G. Young
Staff Reporter

A twisted roof joist discovered Friday at the Coliseum will pose no threat to the building's structure, said Rich McDermott, director of the Physical Plant.

The irregularity was discovered Friday during a structural evaluation being undertaken by Olsson Associates, a Lincoln architecture and engineering company.

"It looks like the problem seems to have been there forever," said Roger Severin, an Olsson Associates engineer.

Severin said the problem involved one of the old trusses that supports the ceiling of the Coliseum, which was constructed in 1926.

McDermott said the roof joist, which is a beam connecting the truss to the ceiling, "doesn't look like what you'd expect to see."

Bob Carpenter, planning and design architect at the Physical Plant, viewed the roof joist with Severin Friday afternoon.

"It's just kind of twisted slightly," said

Carpenter. "It looks like it's been under stress."

Carpenter said the irregular joist is one of "hundreds" supporting the roof of the structure.

Olsson Associates' evaluation of the structure is being executed in conjunction with the remodeling of the Coliseum for the next phase of the campus recreation center. The evaluation should be finished by the end of this week, McDermott said.

"Anytime you go into an old building, you're going to take a look at things," he said. "Looking at the structure, there is certainly no danger."

McDermott said consultants will give the final word on the soundness of the structure when the evaluation is completed.

Though the structural evaluation will continue, the roof joist problem is not a major concern, McDermott said.

"There is no indication that anything will be found wrong at this point," he said.

NU backs aid change bill

AID from Page 1

The student with the lowest income should get aid first, she said, not the student who has a decent income but chooses to attend an expensive school.

Jon Oberg, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska, said public schools don't necessarily have the neediest students, because tuition at public schools is lower.

"No, we (private schools) have the neediest students," Oberg said.

He said the bill eliminates the definition of need as being based on the difference between cost and income, which is the same definition the federal government uses when determining need.

"The current system sets up student aid based on student need," Oberg said.

LB468 would give virtually a free ride to

students going to low-cost schools, while putting a "squeeze" on independent schools, he said.

"The state would help most the student who didn't help himself through outside work," he said.

Donald Lienemann of Papillion testified against LB468, saying financial aid of any kind to students provokes laziness. He said students should work their way through college as he did in the 1940s.

"You should put your shoulder to the wheel and push rather than having the state give it out," he said.

The state should not give handouts, Lienemann said.

"Do you want to strengthen the future citizens of this state, or do you want to weaken them?"

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Meeting April 15
ALUMNI from Page 5

could find out which companies are against discrimination.

UNL needs an alumni association for gays so it can catch up with other universities in the tolerance of homosexuality, he said.

Gay alumni groups are recognized as student groups at Ohio University and Bowdoin College in Maine, as well as other universities, Bell said.

Bell cited Delta Lambda Phi, a national gay fraternity organization, and Lambda Delta Lambda, a lesbian sorority at UCLA as signs of the gay community's progress.

Bell said the possibility that ASUN won't recognize the group doesn't worry him.

"We aren't asking for money," he said. "And there are constitutional cases which protect the recognition of student groups on campus."

The alumni association's first meeting will be April 15, he said.