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License loss possible

Discrimination against minors is obvious

If a bill passes the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee today, state senators will have a chance to vote on a bill which could revoke the driving privileges of teen-agers who violate any drug-related or alcohol-related laws.

Under Sen. Ron Withem's bill, LB248, minors convicted of any alcohol- or drug-related crime could lose their drivers licenses.

According to the bill, a first offense would constitute a 90-day license suspension. The second offense, or any following offense, would result in a one-year suspension.

So hypothetically, if a bunch of high school students were caught passing around a bottle of Mad Dog 20/20 in a parking lot, each of them convicted for minor in possession could lose their driving privileges.

But that's not all. Minors also would lose their licenses if they used a false ID to buy alcohol or to get into a bar.

Withem has kindly included a provision in the bill which would allow minors to surrender their licenses with their parent's permission. If they do, the violation will not go on their driving records or affect their car insurance policies.

The discrimination against minors in this instance is obvious. Minors have no voice in a bill which could be passed by alleged knowing adults.

The philosophy of the bill is narrow-minded.

It's a cheap scare tactic which would only reflect negatively on the deterrence of drug and alcohol use.

The bill only suggests to teens that education on the dangers of overindulgence is ineffective . . . that drugs and alcohol only can be treated by controlling non-related privileges.

Teens drink and drive just as adults do. But their driving privileges should be taken away only if they are caught drinking while driving . . . not if they happened to be in the same car with a bunch of other minors in possession of alcohol.

But this isn't the first time Withem has attempted to pass unfair, discriminatory legislation against teen-agers. Two similar bills have been introduced before.

Let's hope the third time isn't a charm.

-- Diana Johnson
for the Daily Nebraskan

Regents mistaken

Homosexuals visible on today's campus

How does a 45-year-old look at the world? NU Regent John Payne of Kearney said he does not think he would support a change in NU bylaws to include a policy statement prohibiting sexual discrimination against homosexuals.

"Maybe someday you will understand," Payne said. "When you are 45, you look at the world differently."

Now that's logic. Payne is making decisions that affect 24,000 students, mostly age 18 to 24, on the basis of his 45-year-old mindset.

With all due respect, Regent Payne, things have changed since you were in college.

Homosexuals are now, more than ever, a visible part of college life. And because they are visible, homosexuals are an easy target for discrimination.

The regents need to pass a resolution changing the wording of section 18 of the University of Nebraska Charter, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, sex, color or nationality, so that it includes homosexuality.

Regents Donald Fricke of Lincoln and Kermit Hansen of Elkhorn also said they do not think they would support including homosexuals among groups specifically protected in the charter.

Margaret Robinson of Norfolk said she does not know if she would support the change.

"I prefer to think of college students in other terms than sexual preference," she said.

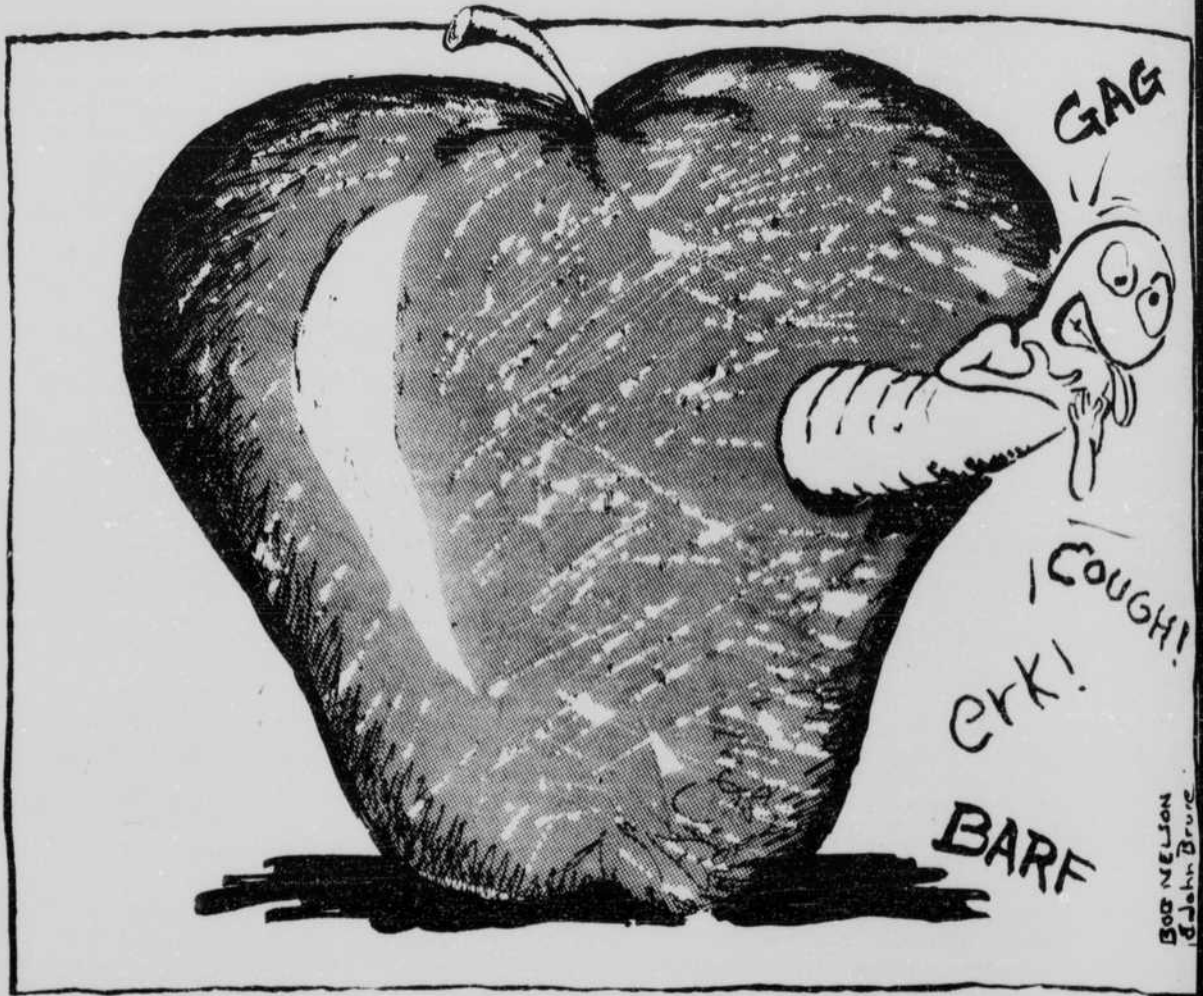
That's nice, but not very realistic. Like everyone else, there are different college students with different sexual orientations, and they need to be protected if they are discriminated against.

According to affirmative action officers, several state universities already prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Among those are Iowa State University, Rutgers, the University of California at Los Angeles and Stanford University.

The University of Nebraska needs to follow suit to make sure all forms of discrimination are stamped out.

-- Amy Edwards
for the Daily Nebraskan



Reserved concert seating vital

Bands must make a decision between chaotic or calm seating

Concerts are so fun.

The lights went down and the Bics and joints lit up. The crowd roared in anticipation, as the moving outline of the bodies mounted the stage. The fans on the floor went insane, wanting a chance to touch the larger-than-life performer.

For those who attended the R.E.M. concert last Friday, this scene may describe some of the things that happened, but it was a new and enlightening experience for me.

Reserved seating. No pushing, no shoving and no one seriously injured. What a novel idea . . . I thought they only did that at fancy restaurants.

Although there's nothing better than spending four hours in line to see a band play for a little over two hours, I was relieved to know that I had a guaranteed seat.

An official at the Omaha Civic Auditorium said the band promoter usually decides the seating arrangement.

Apparently, R.E.M. is one of the few bands left that truly cares about the people who come to its concerts. After all, it is up to the band's promoter to decide what type of seating will be provided.

Despite what many think, it is not up to the concert hall people, the police or anyone else -- the band decides whether they want carnival or reserved seating.

Carnival seating does not begin with the excitement of the artists arrival on stage, it starts with the early arrival of concert-goers who want the best first come, first serve seating.

I remember in high school arriving at the arena three hours ahead of time in order to get a good seat. People drank and toked up and mentally

prepared themselves for an evening of chaos.

The doors usually would open at about 6:30 or 7 p.m. for an 8 p.m. performance. But at about 6 p.m., people became ornery and excited. Folks would stand and shout at the officers or security guards to open up the place.

And when the doors finally did open, it seemed like a dam had broken. Like bats out of hell. To the turnstyle . . . to the concession, to the bathroom . . . to the T-shirt stand . . . and to the closest place in front of the stage -- a flood of humanity.

Concerts are so fun.

trampled when the doors opened.

In the March 20, 1980 issue of Rolling Stone, police reports cited that crowd environment was normal.

Normal? Normal for 11 people to die of asphyxiation after being trampled on? Something's wrong with that assessment.

Personally, I have never had problems getting into a concert. But once inside the arena, the riot-minded concert goers forgot about common decency. Or something like that.

Even the reserved seating concerts are being infected by riotous behavior.

In August 1985, I went to a concert where the seating was reserved. But once the artist hit the stage -- it was utter mayhem. I was in the second row, minding my own business, when suddenly I felt like I was being transformed into an Orange Julius.

After I screamed that I was going to vomit, a small path was made so that I could get out of there, and breathe normally again.

Concerts have destroyed 10 percent of my hearing, and I wasn't about to let them destroy my life.

Concerts are so fun -- they really are fun.

Bravo, R.E.M. Hopefully bands will fashion themselves after you.

If not, it may take another Who-concert incident to get someone to outlaw carnival seating. And that would be a shame.

For those of you attending the Duran Duran concert on Monday, good luck, it promises to be a great concert.

Donovan is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan Arts and Entertainment senior reporter and editorial columnist.

by Brian Shellito



Lisa
Donovan

It's all so ridiculous and when I think about it, it's a lot more reasonable for the band to request reserved seating. First, it gives the band more time to do the sound check -- which in turn gives the band extra time to clear out of the place before the crowd begins arriving.

And, the crowd won't arrive until an hour, or even a half-hour before the concert, because there's no need to fight for a seat if a "safe" seat is insured.

Apparently everyone has forgotten Dec. 3, 1979. About 8,000 fans waited for the doors at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium to open. At 8 p.m., The Who took the stage to perform -- while police counted the 11 dead bodies of those who were

Campus Notes

