

UNL students follow national alcohol trend

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consumption of beer dropped 7 percent, wine decreased 14 percent and "distilled spirits" fell 23 percent, according to Impact, a publication that covers the U.S. liquor industry.

The New York Times recently reported the findings.

Osgood said the national decline could be explained by a growing feeling among Americans that hard drugs

are unhealthy. He said it is conceivable that Americans have the same attitude toward alcohol.

A change in America's demography is another possible explanation for the decline, Osgood said. Today, fewer Americans are in their 20s, he said.

"That's typically the age at which people do heavy drinking," Osgood said.

Monte Steenson, manager at N

Street Liquor Store, 19th and N streets, said every liquor store in Lincoln probably has noticed a decline in sales.

Steenson said he thinks alcohol consumption will increase in a couple of years.

But, Osgood said, calling consumption trends cyclical is too simplistic.

Drinking does not decline and rise after a given amount of time, he said. Experts must weigh many factors and influences to determine the cause of the recent declines, he said.

Officials consider change in dissertations

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dissertation.

Hamilton said the Council of Graduate Schools, composed of graduate officials from universities around the country, is forming a committee to study these alternatives.

The council does not have a consensus on allowing alternatives to traditional dissertations, he said, but is open to looking at possibilities.

Even though "science has dictated change over the last 50 or 100 years," doctoral programs "have not changed the way students prove their mastery."

"The burgeoning of books and articles" in recent years has forced

doctoral candidates to read more in preparation for their own research, he said.

This has caused doctoral candidates in the sciences to narrow the focus of their research, Hamilton said, and may be a reason why students are taking longer to complete their degrees.

According to the National Research Council, the average time candidates take to complete their doctorates has increased from 6.1 years to 6.9 years over the last 12 years.

Most universities have time limits for candidates to finish their degrees, Hamilton said, but are "pretty liberal in granting extensions."

Bruning said UNL has an eight-year time limit.

Students not driving can deny test

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session. All it proves, she said, is that a person has been drinking, and that minors can drink legally in their place of residence.

Assistant Lincoln Police Chief Jim Baird said there is no chieftain against non-drivers who refuse to take breathalyzer tests.

"Only drivers of vehicles have sanctions against them for refusing to take a breath test," Baird said.

If people are not driving, "it's not a crime to refuse," he said.

Stall said drivers give implied consent to take a breath test when they operate a motor vehicle.

Baird said officers are not specifically instructed how to ask someone to take a test, but are told to be "tact-

Beacon says he accepts challenge

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family barely knows what he looks like anymore, he said.

"But I like the challenge, and as long as we're making progress I don't mind," he said.

Beacon replaced former OSFA Director William McFarland, who resigned after saying he faced many roadblocks to progress in the office. Beacon said he has inherited offices with problems at the last four schools he's worked at and in "most cases made them better."

People in such challenging environments need to do their personal best, put their heads together and work as a team, he said.

"We're at the tip of the iceberg," he said. "There's a lot to be done. I don't think we can sit back and relax with what we've done, I think we need to continue at the same pace."

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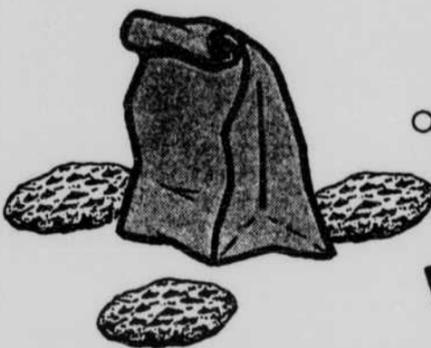
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