



Jeff Haller/DN

Nick Reifschneider, a senior construction management major, and Nicole Coffey, a junior environmental studies major, break from late-night studying at Perkins, 48th and O streets.

Perkins' policy limits studying

By Julie Sobczyk
Staff Reporter

When Kendra Kohl went to Perkins last week, she wanted a quiet place to eat and study with her boyfriend.

But as the couple was seated, Kohl was surprised at the comment their server made about the restaurant's policy on studying.

"He told us we had to have a \$5 minimum order and we could only stay an hour," Kohl, a sophomore in general studies, said.

Kohl said the policy shocked her, and she and her boyfriend decided to study elsewhere.

Studying at restaurants was nothing new to Kohl. She said she had been studying at Perkins since she was in high school and was not aware of the policy.

One reason Kohl said she could

not understand the policy was that the restaurant was not busy.

"It was about 8 or 9 p.m.," she said. "It was late — after dinner, so the restaurant was only about a third or half full."

Darren Castados, manager at Perkins at 121 N. 48 St., said the restaurant's policy toward students who study at night had been in effect for about a year.

The policy states that they must spend a minimum of \$4 and can only stay for an hour, he said.

One reason for the policy was to be courteous to other guests at the restaurant, Castados said.

"The policy is mainly for the students who come in during the early evening," he said. "It makes it hard for other guests to find a booth."

Castados said the enforcement of the policy depended on the number of customers in the restaurant and the

management.

"It depends on how busy we are and who's working," he said. "Some managers don't have a problem with it as long as there are booths available."

Castados said that although he was required to enforce the policy, he did not agree with it.

"I don't think it's fair that people can come in and drink coffee for four or five or six hours," he said. "But students can come in and actually do something and can only stay an hour."

Sometimes, conflict over the policy occurs with students.

"We've had people who can't understand why we have it because we have people in here who just sit and drink coffee," he said. "Management says 'It's not a library, it's a restaurant' but what library is open at 1 or 2 in the morning?"

Fake ID crackdown yields mixed results

By Brian Sharp
Senior Reporter

Capt. Jim Peschong says a police crackdown on fake IDs in the downtown-area bar scene is seeing results.

But Troy Way, manager of the Hurricane, says minors have failed to get the message, and the problem continues.

And Art Rigg, general manager of Guitars and Cadillacs, says more minors have been caught trying to enter his south Lincoln bar since the police crackdown began.

Minors with fake IDs are a problem downtown bars have battled for years. Punishment for a mistake is the loss of a liquor license.

The police crackdown is part of a program called "Badges in Bars." The program, which started last fall, puts plainclothed Lincoln police officers in downtown bars, in part to watch for minors.

Peschong said the program had significantly reduced the problem with underage and excess drinking in downtown-area bars.

"Minors were pretty bold in trying to present altered IDs or fake IDs," Peschong said. "That has definitely been reduced."

"We're still catching some, don't get me wrong. Everyone hasn't totally backed off. I doubt we have turned everyone away."

Now, Peschong said he was concerned that minors who had been turned away had simply gone to other bars the program doesn't reach.

Rigg said that held true at his bar, 5400 O St. He said he had confiscated three times the bar's average of fake IDs since the program started.

The increase was first noticed about three months ago, he said. Policy is to take the ID and tell the person they can call the police if they want it back. Most of time, he said, the bar winds up adding another altered license to its collection.

Although Rigg said the influx of minors at his establishment had been substantial, several other managers of bars located throughout Lincoln said they hadn't seen a noticeable increase in fake IDs.

The college crowd doesn't venture much out of downtown, they said, and anyone who looks young really stands out.

Reaction is mixed among bar managers in the downtown scene on whether the program is delivering on its promise.

At Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St., manager Reg McMeen said the program received a lot of hype from police and the media when it first began, and the number of minors at the door had declined.

Now, he said, the minors are coming back and police haven't been in as much as expected.

Way said at least 40 percent more fake IDs had been confiscated at the Hurricane since the program began.

But Iguana's co-owner Becky Smith said the program had been effective, though the number of minors trying to get in fluctuated.

In June, the department will study the positive and negative impacts of the program, Peschong said. Bar owners have to request the officers, he said. While some bar owners have requested officers more often, others haven't requested them at all.

HOW TO SAVE A FEW BUCKS.

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Haggle for slices they'd otherwise just throw away.
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- 💡 **Make friends with a Senior.**
Come June, they'll be more than glad to give you their old Poly Sci books and couches.
- 💡 **Donate blood.**
Save a life and get a free lunch to boot.
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