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## Commission decides Hurricane's fate today

By Rebecca Oltmans Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Liquor Commission will decide today the fate of the Hurricane's liquor license.

A co-owner of the Hurricane, 1118 O St., pleaded not guilty Wednesday to liquor license violations.

Co-owner Nancy Sevage said the bar had made changes to prevent future violations. Besides eliminating under-21 nights, she said, the former manager was fired, and the

occupancy level had been lowered.

A commissioner told Sevage he did not want to take away the bar owners' livelihood. But if the commission allows the Hurricane to keep its license, commissioner William Skarda said, the bar must continue to make changes.

'You better make some amends to get yourself in shape down there,' Skarda said, "because you're going to lose your license just as sure as God made green apples."

The first violation considered Wednesday was a minor in possession charge, stemming from an April 28 incident at a 19-and-over show. A plain clothes police officer cited a minor who was holding and drinking from a bottle of beer.

Lincoln police Officer Charles Marti said he observed a female with a "M" for minor on her hand and saw her drink from the beer bottle. He said he found out she was 18 and wrote a violation.

"The head doorman seemed sur-prised that I was writing a violation," Marti said. "He thought it was Badges and Bars night.

Badges and Bars had been at the bar earlier that evening, Marti said, but he was not a part of it.

On Badges and Bars night, plain clothes officers check or observe others checking IDs, and look for suspi-cious IDs and people who are very drunk. Police usually wouldn't ticket the bar if someone underage was drinking while police were helping check IDs, Marti said, but it's pos-

Sevage said a "floor rover" look-ing for underage drinkers already had spotted the female and was escorting her from the bar when Marti took over. Employees assumed Marti was with Badges and Bars, she said.

Laurie Camp, who prosecuted the case, said the Hurricane had taken some good precautions, but those precautions were not enough when the club had a large crowd including

Sevage said many national acts required in their contracts that bars have 19-and-over shows. The Hurri-

cane no longer has under-21 nights, Sevage said, a decision that will cause the bar to lose some big entertainment acts. But it was worth it, she said, to keep its liquor license.

The second set of violations stemmed from a June 1 incident. The bar was cited for allowing people to carry alcohol in open containers out of the bar and for carelessly allowing illegal conduct on the premises. Three people in the bar were cited by police for possessing, delivering and dispensing marijuana.

Marti, who is also on the bicycle squad, said he had received information that employees were drinking upstairs after the bar was closed.

He and a trainee waited in the. alley around 1:15 a.m. and then entered the bar, he said. At the time, Marti said, he believed the upstairs was part of the licensed premises, but had since discovered it was not.

Johnson asked Marti if he had been hiding in the alley, near garbage bins, and entered the bar by catching an otherwise locked fire door as an employee was leaving.

Marti said that was true.

Once upstairs, Marti said, he found several bottles of cold beer, an employee carrying a rum and coke and three people smoking marijuana from a marijuana pipe that allowed all three to smoke at once.

Marti said he cited the alleged smokers for possession of marijuana

and using drug paraphernalia.

Johnson said only one person charged that night was found guilty.

"Was it because of the way of entry into the bar?" Johnson asked

Marti.
"Do you think the fact that you are premises had a were on unlicensed premises had a role to play in the dismissal by the state court?" he asked.
"I don't know," Marti replied. "I don't dismiss tickets. I just write

The bar often provides alcohol upstairs for band members as part of a hospitality clause in their contracts, Sevage said. The alcohol, which does not come from the bar's supply, is kept cold upstairs in tubs of ice, she

Johnson told the commission there was no testimony that the alcohol came from the licensed premises. Though a bar can be cited for illegal behavior that occurs "of and about the premises," Johnson said, "going through a closed door up a stairway to a second floor is clearly not about.

Camp said a parking lot adjacent to bars was sometimes considered to be about the premises. In this case, she said, the upstairs room might be considered "about."

## World issues expert speaks today at forum

**Tonya Cross** Staff Reporter

He writes about the world.

Roger Rosenblatt, an award-winning author and journalist, will speak today at 3:30 p.m., opening the 1995-96 E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues at UNL.

Rosenblatt is the editor-in-chief of the Columbian Journalism Review and a contributing editor and essayist for several publications, including The New York Times Magazine. His area of expertise is international af-

"Why Write about the World? The Moral Function of Storytelling as it Brings International Issues Home," will be in the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Charlyne Berens, assistant to the dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, said Rosenblatt was an experienced and well-known journalist.

Berens said she had encouraged her students to attend the forum and would encourage others to do the same.

"It requires a lot of expertise to write about international affairs," she

Rosenblatt is probably best known from his commentaries on the "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour," said Lloyd Ambrosius, history department chairman.

Rosenblatt has a broad knowledge of international affairs, Ambrosius said, and the ability to articulate to an audience.

"This is a real opportunity for students to listen and see someone very prominent," he said.

Barbara Emil, director of conferences and institutes, said there would be an informal discussion before the lecture. Students are welcome.

Other speakers included in this year's series include: author Francis T. Seow on Nov. 15., international affairs scholar Anthony T. Bryan on Jan. 15., author Elizabeth Fernea on March 6, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel on April 16.

The forum is funded through the Cooper Foundation in honor of E. N. Thompson, who founded the lecture

series.

Lectures are free and open to the public. They are also available via satellite across Nebraska in state colleges, community colleges and high schools.