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Bills designed to crack down on alcohol violations

DRIVING from page 1

After three DUI convictions, licenses can be revoked for 15 years. Sen. Eric Will of Omaha's LB377 would allow those whose licenses had been revoked for five to 15 years to appeal to the Department of Motor Vehicles for a new license.

Douglas Hansen of Omaha testified in support of the bill, saying even murderers have the chance for a reprieve through the parole process, something drunken drivers can never have.

Hansen said he was an alcoholic for many years, but after his fourth DUI conviction, he turned his life around through Alcoholics Anonymous.

"I decided living sober was the only way to live," Hansen said. Six years later, he says he is a prisoner in his own home because he has no driver's license. His wife cannot drive because of medical problems.

He said he understood there should be punishments for the serious crime of driving under the influence.

"When a person has done everything they can to redeem themselves, the punishment becomes counterproductive," Hansen said.

Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln proposed a bill that would lower the legal limit of blood-alcohol content from .10 percent to .08 percent. For a person who weighs 150 pounds, the .08 limit would be reached after consuming four drinks in an hour, she said.

States with .08 laws had between 16- and 18-percent fewer fatal traffic accidents than states such as Nebraska, she said.

Crosby said that, in a recent "control drink" conference, attended by

"When a person has done everything they can to redeem themselves, the punishment becomes counterproductive."

DOUGLAS HANSEN
former alcoholic

senators, law enforcement agencies, and other interested groups, people were invited to drink and then use equipment to test their blood-alcohol level.

Crosby said her staff assistant, a thin woman, had to drink two bottles of wine in three hours to reach the .10 limit. Many at the conference were surprised at how much they had to drink to reach the legal limit, she said.

"They felt drunk, they acted drunk, but they weren't even close to being legally drunk," Crosby said.

Mary Campbell, a lobbyist for the city of Lincoln, testified against the bill, saying it was not an effective deterrent to driving drunk.

She cited a recent news article stating that despite the zero-tolerance law, MIP arrests were still rising.

No action was taken on the bills.

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Professors 'reinvent' lectures

WEB from page 1

"It is too hard to have to sit through an hour of class and then have to go look at the web every day," he said.

The web-based lectures tend to run slower than regular lectures because of the dependency on technology.

"We don't do enough practical examples in class. We are always waiting for links on the web," freshman general studies major Dan Tuttle said. "Then it is tough to do the calculations on the test."

With the information being presented to students on the web outside of class, students may be able to get away from the large class meetings in the future, Stezowski said.

Regular use of the web allows students to

become more comfortable with using computers, advocates said, and students also are able to seek out other information on the web when they need it.

Access to the Chemistry 109 web page is currently restricted to students in Stezowski's class, but it may be a useful resource for future chemistry students.

In addition to the new teaching format, Stezowski has reorganized how some of the information is presented.

"Chemistry is controlled by electrons, so I changed the class structure to cover that first," he said. "We'll cover the same things as the other 109 sections, just in a different order."

The future of this course format at UNL is uncertain, he said, but the web page could stretched for use in distance education.

59-year-old union keeps growing

UNION from page 1

beautifully, but was not planned.

"Unknowingly, in our program statement we asked for more space on the second floor than we did on the first," Swanson said. "A solution was then devised by the architect."

Union Plaza will be renovated to create more seating, a permanent stage equipped with ample power for lighting and high-volume performances and a new water feature with a dozen granite boulders weighing between 10 and 20 tons each.

Just within the union's north lobby, a rotunda will wind up to the union's second floor and down to its basement.

The basement will house a new convenience store run by the University Bookstore, and a relocated big-screen television lounge and game room. The renovation will triple the Daily Nebraskan's office space.

The first floor's changes will be even more

drastic.

An art lounge will be added between food court seating, a remodeled computer room will double in size, the copy shop will relocate to the first floor and students will have more dining space in the food court.

In addition, restrooms will be expanded and upgraded and more student lockers will be available to commuter students. There will be a unisex restroom available for students using the 24-hour computer lab.

And on the second floor, the student resource center will be relocated to a roomier northwest corner, a \$500,000 auditorium seating 300 will be built, and the Nebraska Union administrative offices will be remodeled.

Larry Blake, project manager of the union expansion project, said the hopes are that the construction on the union building will be completed by June 1998 and the new union plaza could be almost done by the early summer months of 1998.

Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

BURGLARY

Lincoln Police Officer Paul Aksamit was patrolling South 18th Street Monday night when he saw a boy drop a television and walk away.

Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said that when Aksamit caught up to the 16-year-old at 18th and N streets and stopped him to talk about the television, he discovered the television/videocassette recorder had been stolen from Papa John's, 1601 Q St. The equipment was worth \$300.

The teen had also taken two bottles of Surge, a bottle of Squirt and 200 napkins, totaling \$3.49.

ROBBERY

A 19-year-old woman was assaulted and robbed Sunday night during a domestic incident, Lincoln police said.

Tori Wescling reported that Vernell Cotton, 26, came to her apartment at 1505 Superior St. and demanded money.

When she refused, the two struggled and Cotton bit Wescling several times on the neck and shoulders. She received scratches and a cut on her hand.

Cotton took \$20 from her and left. Police later arrested him at Grandpa's Ribs, 2630 Orchard St. He was cited for assault and robbery.

STATUTORY RAPE

Twenty-two-year-old Jason Schaeffer was arrested and jailed Monday for the statutory rape of a 14-year-old girl Jan. 5.

Schaeffer was kicked out of his trailer home on 2701 Torchlight Ave. the night of the incident. The neighbors, who were parents of the victim, allowed him to sleep in their trailer that night. Heermann said the alleged rape occurred there.