

# Sunday beer sales illegal

SUNDAY from page 1

rants and bars to sell liquor on Sundays after noon.

Even with that provision, and with a six-pack just minutes away, some Lincoln residents still hit the road to buy beer on Sunday.

Ralph Tomonelli, a senior mechanical engineering major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said that when he and his friends would get off work on Sunday, they wanted to have a couple of beers. But the law put them on the road to find a cold one.

"It was kind of a nuisance that you would have to drive out of town," he said. "It was a pain in the ass, now that I think about it."

He said he still doesn't understand. "Sunday's just like any other day."

Proponents of Sunday sales argue that Lincoln residents leaving the city limits to buy beer turns into lost business and tax revenue for the city.

Opponents say more sales mean more chances for people driving while intoxicated and more police work.

Jerry Shoecraft, a Lincoln City councilman and owner of Shoe's Bar in the Haymarket, said revenue loss was a major concern.

"Everything is about competition and revenue generation, trying to pay your own bills," he said. "These people who have been doing business in Lincoln for 15 or 20 years deserve the right to compete."

The last attempt to pass an ordinance came in 1993, Shoecraft said, and that caused division in the community and on the council.

He said there have been rumblings in the community signaling to him there may be another attempt to pass an ordinance.

"There will come a time again ...

they will come forward with this idea," he said. "One day, the pressure will come."

Shoecraft's bar is not open on Sundays — he calls it his day of rest. But he said he sympathizes with liquor store owners and off-sale outlets.

"I do understand their position," he said. "We need a consensus on this ... before we go forward on this."

Jim Mumgaard, the owner of Mum's Liquor, 841 N. 27th St., guessed that if they could sell packaged liquor on Sundays, they would do as much business as a Monday or a Tuesday and boost their yearly total.

For now, Lincoln's no-sale Sundays are the law, Pedersen said. And preventing the sale of packaged liquor on Sunday is not a hard law to enforce.

"Sunday sales of package liquor are illegal and if you do it, you are going to get a ticket for it," Pedersen said.

Stores with large liquor aisles, such as Super Saver at 48th and O streets, don't chance anything when it comes to Sunday liquor sales, said Rod Weckman, assistant grocery manager.

Weckman said technology allows the stores to stop liquor sales at the checkout counter. With computerized scanning of bar codes, managers can lock out the codes for alcohol on Sundays, not allowing the checker to even scan them, he said.

Signs are put on all the alcohol displays around the store, he said, and a chain is stretched across the large open-faced refrigerator.

Even with all the signs and barriers, Weckman said one or two people a week ask why they can't get beer on Sunday.

"But that's not that many when you think that we sell (groceries) to 5,000 people a day," he said. "Most of the time, people are aware of it."

# Room, board rates to rise

BY ERIN GIBSON  
Senior Reporter

Room and board rates for the University of Nebraska residence halls will increase by about 5 percent next year, the NU Board of Regents decided Saturday.

By unanimous vote, the regents approved proposals to raise room and board rates at the University of Nebraska's Lincoln, Kearney and Medical Center campuses. The Omaha campus has no residence halls.

In Lincoln, the cost of a double-occupancy room and 19 meals per week for the 1997-98 academic year will rise to \$3,700 from this year's cost of \$3,525.

A double room and 14 meals per week will cost \$175 more, up from \$3,440. The same room with 10 meals per week will cost an extra \$190, up from \$3,370.

Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Walthill asked the board why proposed rates would rise faster than the overall cost of inflation in Nebraska.

The board cited a significant rise in the cost of wages that resulted from an increase in the federal minimum wage last year.

In other action:

■ The board approved a three-year contract with the Lotus Development Corp. to purchase Lotus Notes software and hardware necessary to bring the entire NU system online with a single e-mail system.

Two UNL chemistry professors objected to the board's approval and testified against the Lotus proposal. Lotus Notes does not keep up with the future of the Internet, they said.

Lotus Notes will now replace about 30 separate e-mail systems at the university, many of which are incompatible and prevent the trans-

# Board backs renovations

REGENTS from page 1

to happen again, Blank said.

Van Horn said, at its current pace, the university would never eliminate its maintenance backlog. The \$95 million in planned renovations would allow NU to catch up with needed maintenance in 20 years, he said.

Van Horn said total renovations planned will include about 10 percent of total NU building space, or 1.5 million square feet of NU structures.

"The impact is tremendous," he said.

The project's financial impact would be shared equally by the state of Nebraska and the university.

NU President Dennis Smith said the university would issue bonds to help cover the cost, and could raise tuition about 1.5 percent over a four-year period. The tuition increase would generate about \$1.3 million, he said.

Reallocation of internal funds also would help cover costs, Smith said.

fer of documents and applications among campuses.

Implementation of the new system will cost about \$312,000 over the next three years.

■ The board approved a plan to build Husker Authentic, a new store to showcase NU athletic merchandise on the UNL campus. The store will be built facing Memorial Stadium in the parking garage planned for the west side of Stadium Drive.

The store will sell exclusive Husker Authentic merchandise, and include displays featuring 25 television sets and a Husker athletics hall of fame.

Melvin Jones, UNL vice chancellor of business and finance, said the \$587,000 required for the store would come from extra Athletic Department operating funds.

The store will join a new athletic ticket office in 5,500 square feet of the first floor of the parking structure, he said.

The Athletic Department previ-

ously contributed to parking structure costs, Jones said. The rest of the structure will hold 600 parking spaces, he said.


■ The board approved a 3-percent pay raise for faculty and staff of the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The 3-percent raise will take effect in each of the following two years. Union members of each campus had already approved the negotiated raise with the NU Board of Regents.

■ The board approved the establishment of a NU Center for Environmental Toxicology to study the effects of chemicals on the environment, including agricultural chemicals.

The center will involve faculty from both UNL and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, which have jointly developed a graduate program in environmental toxicology over the past seven years.

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