

Anti-smoking bill gets more amendments

■ **Senators voted to remove the legislation's wording that would have banned smoking in all state-owned buildings, including residence halls.**

BY SHANE ANTHONY
Staff writer

A controversial smoking bill returned to its original form Tuesday amid a cloud of amendments. Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler's amendment to LB211 removed an earlier amendment that would have extended a proposed smoking ban in the State Capitol to all state buildings. Two other amendments were with-

drawn and further action was delayed until Friday.

Most of the debate centered on possible exceptions to the ban, such as veterans homes, dormitories and greek houses, state park cabins and the state fairgrounds. Some senators still support a ban with exceptions. Others worried about how those exceptions would play out.

"We assume too much responsibility for living peoples' lives for them," said Sen. David Landis of Lincoln. He supported Beutler's amendment and an amendment introduced and withdrawn by Grand Island Sen. Chris Peterson.

Peterson's amendment would have banned smoking from state buildings unless the governing body in charge of the building chose to make exceptions. She said her biggest concern was with

Legislature

veterans homes, but she also mentioned university residence halls.

She withdrew the amendment after criticism from senators that it could allow more smoking than the current law does.

Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler was the first to speak in opposition to the amendment.

"My feeling is that the language is so broad that, in fact, we may be taking a step backward," he said.

Beutler later introduced his own amendment - which passed 36-0 - to strike an amendment introduced Feb. 8 during general file debate.

Sen. Jerry Schmitt of Ord originally introduced the bill to prohibit smok-

ing in the State Capitol. During general file debate Feb. 8, an amendment from Norfolk Sen. Gene Tyson passed that would have extended a proposed smoking ban to all state buildings.

By striking down Tyson's amendment, Beutler's amendment returned the bill to its original language, banning smoking only in the State Capitol.

Omaha Sen. Don Preister introduced an amendment based on bills he has introduced in past sessions which would have prohibited smoking in state vehicles, buildings and areas within 10 feet of those buildings' entrances.

The amendment also allowed exceptions for veterans' homes and private residences, as well as residence halls controlled by the NU Board of Regents and the Nebraska State

College Board of Trustees, facilities and institutions controlled by the Department of Health and Human Services, and cabins and buildings managed by the Game and Parks Commission.

But Hastings Sen. Ardyce Bohlke expressed concern about state park cabins. Sens. Floyd Vrtiska of Table Rock and Stan Schellpeper of Stanton said state fair activities were not listed in the amendment.

Both were critical of listing exceptions specifically.

"You're going to leave somebody out," Schellpeper said.

After Preister withdrew his amendment, further action on the bill was delayed until Friday so senators could work out a compromise on whether or not the smoking ban should apply to other state buildings.

APU events bring end to month

BY VERONICA DAEHN
AND SARAH FOX
Staff writers

The conclusion to a month of black history will take place this week as members of the Afrikan People's Union hold the final events.

An open forum was held Tuesday night in Sandoz Residence Hall. The group discussed what it is like to be a minority at UNL. Some said the racism they experienced was unintentional.

"I had somebody tell me I speak really good English," Suzanne Prenger, a senior elementary education major said. "I was like, 'I've lived here all my life! This is the only language I speak.'"

Prenger answered questions about her ethnic background, Asian and white. She said she would rather have people ask, "What is your ethnic background?" than stare at her, or ask her "what" she is.

"People have asked, 'What are you?'"

"I'm a person!" Prenger said she

Black History Month

would answer.

Rachel Gildon, a freshman pre-physical therapy major, said she has learned to have a positive outlook after going through sorority rush last fall. Although the sorority was friendly, she said she hated it.

"Everybody was blonde and I stuck out like a sore thumb," she said.

Gildon, along with other students, said it is important to find friends in people who are unlike them and be friendly to different kinds of people.

"If you're going to hold it in and not talk, you'll have a negative attitude," she said.

Other black history month events include a movie night Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Culture Center, Senior APU delegate N. Omar Valentine said. The night is co-spon-

sored by the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs and is free and open to everyone, although the specific movie has yet to be decided.

On Thursday, a soul-food dinner will be held from 4:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Selleck's dining hall, Valentine said. The dinner is no extra charge for students with meal plans and costs \$6.20 for those who live off-campus or do not have a meal plan.

To conclude the activities for Black History Month, a social night will be held Saturday from 6 p.m. to midnight in the Culture Center. Titled "Keeping it Real," the event will focus on promoting open dialogue between male and female black students.

"Hopefully, there will be some dialogue about African-American relationships," Valentine said.

After the discussion, there will be entertainment, including movies, music, cards and games.

APU adviser Venetria Patton said her group planned all of the events.

"I hope students will think of these events as a reminder of the contributions of African Americans in the formation of our country."

Bad weather moves Everclear ceremony

BY DANE STICKNEY
Staff writer

Pop-rock group Everclear was supposed to be welcomed to Lincoln with a ceremony on UNL's campus.

Instead, they were welcomed by 4 inches of blowing snow and bus troubles.

The University Program Council and Mayor Dale Young decided to make Everclear's stop in Lincoln even more memorable by presenting band members with a ceremonial key to the city at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on Monday afternoon.

Because of poor weather and Everclear's bus problems, the key was instead presented to the pop-rock band at the Levi's Sno-Core Tour '99 on Monday night at Pershing Auditorium.

UPC promoter Nick Bandemer said there were many reasons for presenting Everclear with a key to the city.

"They've done a lot of work with anti-drug activities," Bandemer said. "They really portray a positive message to our generation. It makes a difference when a Grammy-nominated band like Everclear shows they can be a success without drugs."

Bandemer, a freshman business administration major, also said the ceremony carried a public relations aspect.

"We wanted to draw media and public attention to the event," he said. "Giving them a key to the city kind of sets the event apart."

Organizers of the Sno-Core Tour wanted to pick a Midwestern location, and when they picked Lincoln, Bandemer said both UPC and the mayor wanted to make an impres-

“The key to the city? I wouldn't give us a key to my mom's house.”

ART ALEXAKIS
Everclear singer/guitarist

sion.

"We went to the mayor and he said this is something he wanted to do," Bandemer said. "We wanted to show the music industry that they are welcome, so in the future we can draw more concerts of this scale to Lincoln."

After two hours of bass-filled opening acts, Everclear took the stage to the delight of many sweaty, screaming fans. Bandemer then read a welcoming proclamation from the mayor and presented the band with the ceremonial pewter key.

After receiving the key, Everclear lead-singer Art Alexakis thanked the city, and said: "The key to the city? I wouldn't give us a key to my mom's house."

Peace Corps seeks new recruits

BY JOSH KNAUB
Staff writer

Eight years ago, Danyl Cook trained coconut growers in a Dominican Republic village to prepare their produce for export.

Today, because of an increase in funding for the Peace Corps, more students have the opportunity to work on similar projects throughout the world.

Thursday and Friday, UNL students can apply join the ranks of the Corps.

The recent boost in funding for the national service program means Cook and other recruiters will admit a larger number of volunteers than ever before.

The volunteer force will increase from 6,500 to 7,000 next year, according to the Peace Corps Web site.

Cook said Peace Corps volunteers today have a variety of service opportunities. Volunteers may teach basic skills or work with well-educated people.

"We have university English teachers. We also have people building latrines," he said.

Program volunteers currently serve in 82 countries, according to the Peace Corps Web site and 38 percent of volunteers serve as educators.

Cook said volunteers equip the people they serve with the skills necessary to continue without further assistance.

Volunteers go through a rigorous

selection process for two-year service assignments.

Cook said he did not anticipate having a problem with filling openings. He said recruiters turn away more qualified candidates than they accept.

"We always have a great pool to pull from," he said.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is an important part of that pool, Cook said. He said UNL is one of the top 100 schools, nationwide in terms of Peace Corps recruitment.

Cook said he would have a booth at the career fair in the Nebraska Union on Thursday and Friday to answer questions and pass out information to those interested in the Corps.

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by David Mamet
Directed by Patrick Lambrecht

"Oleanna," named one of 1992's "ten best plays" by Time, is a searing exploration of sexual harassment in America.

NOTE: Before you make plans to attend "Oleanna," please understand that this play deals with sexual situations and language in a very frank manner.

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Humanities in Medicine

There will be an informational meeting for all pre-medical students interested in starting a Humanities in Medicine organization.

- Nebraska Student Union
- Thursday, Feb 25th • 4:30 p.m.
- Room to be posted

All interested students are welcome. Please bring ideas and suggestions.

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