

## Legislature *Notework*

### Alcohol sales hours bill postponed indefinitely

A bill that would allow alcohol to be sold until 1:30 a.m. was indefinitely postponed Monday by the General Affairs Committee.

LB912 was introduced Jan. 5 by Sen. John Hilgert of Omaha.

Currently, bars, liquor stores and other retailers must stop serving alcohol at 1 a.m., Hilgert said. The bill is important because retailers say there are some people who go to bars in Omaha and then drive to Iowa after closing time, because Iowa's bars are open until 2 a.m., Hilgert said.

The bill would have allowed local governments to determine what time alcohol should stop being served.

"We need to allow our cities to compete with the neighboring states," Hilgert said.

Committee Chairman Ray Janssen of Nickerson said he understood that some people work late and like to go to the bars afterward.

"If you get off work at midnight, should you have to chug a lot of drinks so you can be done by one?" he said.

Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek said he thought the bill should be amended so alcohol could be sold until 2 a.m., but the senators voted against the amendment.

The bill was indefinitely postponed, and the committee will decide later whether to advance the bill to the General File.

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### Senators debate Sheldon funding bill

Legislators discussed Monday whether the state should give Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery \$3.687 million for renovations.

The bill, which was introduced Jan. 11 by Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln, would appropriate money for renovations to the heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems at Sheldon.

"Remember Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery is a state jewel; it doesn't just belong to UNL," Crosby said.

Sheldon Curator Dan Siedell said the museum has a collection worth more than \$100 million, which could be jeopardized if the current ventilation system isn't improved.

Siedell said it was difficult to get money for repairs from private donors.

"It's hard to put up a plaque and name it the So-and-So Ventilation System," he said.

The committee did not vote on the bill and will decide at a later date whether to advance the bill to the General File or kill it.

Compiled by staff writer Jill Zeman.

## — CITY COUNCIL —

# Council hears nudity debates

■ An ordinance that would ban nudity in public places draws fire.

By Cara Pesek

Staff writer

Exotic dancing in Lincoln could be nearing an end.

If an ordinance discussed at Monday's City Council meeting passes, it would become illegal for a person to appear nude in any public place or for an employee or performer to have any physical contact with a patron.

And although the ordinance would affect all strip clubs in Lincoln, one club in particular would suffer.

Mataya's Babydolls, 5600 Cornhusker Hwy., like many clubs in Lincoln, features exotic dancers. Unlike most clubs, though, it also allows the dancers to touch patrons.

For a price, patrons can lick whipped cream off a dancer's thigh or stomach or eat a cherry off of a dancer's nipple.

This sort of contact between employees and patrons is illegal at clubs with liquor licenses.

But Babydolls, a juice bar, doesn't have a liquor license.

Many Lincoln residents would like to see both the touching and the nudity come to an end, whether alcohol is involved or not.

*"You see more groping and grabbing and licking and slobbering on cable TV than you do in my club."*

John Ways Jr.

Babydolls operations manager

Kit Boesch, human services administrator for the city of Lincoln and for Lancaster County, said the proposed ordinance would be good for Lincoln.

"What happens if we don't allow topless dancers?" Boesch asked the council members. "What do we lose? The answer is nothing."

Boesch said the community of Lincoln needs to set standards for what is morally acceptable.

"I believe Lincoln is a community with a conscience," Boesch said.

But the proposed ordinance met with more opposition than approval.

John Ways Jr., operations manager at Babydolls, doesn't see anything wrong with nudity or contact between dancers and patrons.

"You see more groping and grabbing and licking and slobbering on cable TV than you do in my club," Ways said.

He also said more groping takes place in public places like swimming pools than at clubs like Babydolls.

Shara Lacy, a former exotic dancer, said she also saw no problem with Babydoll's entertainment.

"It's a fancy, nice, classy place," she said. "I wish there had been a Babydolls when I was dancing."

Lacy said there is often more physical contact between patrons and dancers at clubs where touching is off-limits than there is at Babydolls.

Babydolls has more security, she said, and the women who work there know what they can get away with, Lacy said.

"At other bars, the girls do all they can do for a little extra money," Lacy said.

After the public hearing on the proposed ordinance, City Council members voted unanimously to split the ordinance into two parts: one which would prohibit nudity in public places, and another which would prohibit contact between patrons and employees of non-liquor serving establishments.

A few exceptions will be added to the nudity ordinance. Nudity would be excused for breast-feeding, small children and art.

The two ordinances will be up for discussion again at the Feb. 14 City Council meeting.

## — LEGISLATURE —

# Gambling bill fails to advance

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

Gamblers who hoped they could drop their quarters in slot machines on Nebraska American Indian reservations will still have to make the trip to Iowa, where casino gambling is legal.

LR289, which was introduced Jan. 10 by Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, could have changed that.

The bill would have allowed voters to decide whether the state constitution should allow casino-style gambling on federally recognized Indian reservations in Nebraska.

The General Affairs committee discussed the issue Jan. 24 and decided Monday not to advance the bill to the floor.

The eight-member committee voted 4-4 on the issue, so the bill is not dead, but it won't be addressed on the floor this session, said Sen. Jim Cudaback of Riverdale, committee vice chairman.

Schimek, who has voted against legalizing gambling in the past, explained her 180-degree turn-around by saying this was an issue of sovereignty.

The federal government recognizes American Indian tribes as sovereign entities that can establish their own laws, Schimek said.

The resolution addresses issues of economic development, Schimek said.

The unemployment rate on American-Indian reservations is more than 70 percent, which is partly because reservations are in remote, inconvenient locations, Schimek said.

The resolution would help tribes who are seeking economic self-sufficiency, Schimek said.

Legal casino gambling would only be permissible on Indian lands recognized by the federal government as of 1988, Schimek said.

The Legislature needs to take a strong step on the issue because the state and the tribes are playing a game of tug of war, Schimek said.

"It should be up to the Indian people through their tribal councils to decide if this is what they want on their reservation," she said.

There are four distinct tribes in Nebraska: the Winnebago, Santee Sioux, Omaha and Ponca.

Vincent Bass, vice chairman of the Winnebago tribe in Nebraska, said

casino gambling is needed for the tribes to maintain economic stability.

"We don't see 'the good life' on our reservations," Bass said, referring to the slogan: "Nebraska: The good life."

Bass said he was disappointed the tribes had to resort to gambling for economic development, but they are trying to diversify casino revenue for other business ventures.

Pat Loontger, of the anti-gambling group Gambling with the Good Life, said Nebraskans have consistently voted against the expansion of casino gambling.

"Problem gambling is an addiction that destroys families," Loontger said. "Why would we want that?"

Riverdale Sen. Jim Cudaback said this was an issue Nebraskans should have a say on.

"We're not voting whether we should legalize gambling; we're voting whether this is a ballot issue," he said.

Cudaback said he was disappointed with the results of the committee hearing.

"Such a major issue should be before more than just eight people in a committee," he said.

## Campus groups collaborate to plan Black History events

HISTORY from page 1

Black Graduate Student Association, said the Black Graduate Student Association Winter Ball will bring together the city of Lincoln for Black History Month.

"We are opening the doors to the community in an effort to get the two communities together to share an event like Black History Month," she said.

Anyone is invited to attend the ball, and the dress code is formal or semi-formal.

Tickets will be sold Friday in the Nebraska Union for \$10, Fowler said.

Students of all ethnic backgrounds should attend the programs offered during Black History Month, Patton said.

"For African-American students, this gives them a chance to learn and celebrate their culture," Patton said.

"For students that aren't African-American, they have the chance to learn about another culture on campus."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH	
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Today	Workshop: "How to Make the Most Out of a Recruiter Reception" Culture Center 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Monday	
February 9, 2000	Third Annual Recruiter Reception For Students of Color Nebraska Union 6 - 8 p.m.
February 12, 2000	
February 15, 2000	"Pop Culture Impacting Racial Stereotypes" Video and discussion Nebraska Union 7 - 10 p.m.
February 16, 2000	Nebraska Union
February 18 - 20, 2000	Big XII Conference on Black Student Government Oklahoma State University
February 21, 2000	Nebraska Union
February 27, 2000	"1001 Black Inventions" Nebraska Union Ballroom 7 p.m.
February 28, 2000	Nebraska Union

## ASUN ELECTION

# Campaign fine causes Fishpond to pull out of election

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

One of the most unconventional parties in the ASUN student government election has dissolved for financial reasons.

Members of the Fishpond party violated a rule requiring parties to put the phrase "ASUN Student Government Election" on flyers.

The Fishpond flyer only contained the words "ASUN Election," so the group was fined \$20 by the Electoral Commission, said Josh Hesse, executive director of Fishpond and a senior electrical engineering major.

Members of the Electoral Commission revise the rules for elections every fall, and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska must approve them in the fall and spring, said Chanda Miller, a senior international relations and political science major and member of the commission.

Miller said the first infraction of the rules came from the Impact party who had left the date off campaign material. Impact was also fined \$20.

"We felt Fishpond's violation was the same as Impact's," Miller said.

Miller said campaign guidelines are distributed to each party when they sign

up, and rules are available in the ASUN office.

Hesse said he didn't have a copy of the official rules with him at the time he made the posters, so he had to guess at the wording.

The Fishpond party, which consisted of three members, had planned on spending \$15 on their campaign, Hesse said.

Fishpond didn't have as much money as the other parties in the election, and they had only spent \$1.36 so far in the campaign, Hesse said.

"I'm the first to admit we're kind of cheap, but we weren't going to prostitute for money," Hesse said.

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Fishpond's main platform was to put fish in the Broyhill Fountain, and Hesse said he had planned to run an issue-based campaign.

"We were encouraging candidates to bring up issues that were topical," he said.

Hesse said it seemed to him that no one other than the Impact Party and Empower party could afford to win the election.

"I wish the other parties luck because they're really going to need it," Hesse said.