

Colors of history



Lydia S. Gonzales/DN
LINDA EVANS of Pin Points Production stars in "1001 Black Inventions" held at the Nebraska Union on Sunday. The play, which recognizes several of America's historical black figures and their contributions, was held in honor of Black History month, said Benita Douglas, education specialist in the office of Multicultural Affairs. Speaking to the audience, Evans said, "The purpose of this play is that everybody has their heroes."

Candidates, officials examine alcohol

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family of alcoholics, it's not something you mess with."

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen wanted to dispel any myths surrounding the policy. In particular, he wants to dispel the myth that UNL's campus is "dry."

Consumption of alcohol is allowed on campus through a permit process in controlled circumstances, he said.

The policy also does not favor alumni over students, Griesen said.

Implemented in the early 1990s, the policy states that any alcohol served on campus must be approved in advance for a specific event.

It can be provided by either a hosted bar and served by the Nebraska Union service staff, or a cash or hosted bar by a third-party vendor, Griesen said.

The point of the specifications is to have someone serving the alcohol who is not an attendee of the event or associated with the group holding the event, he said.

Also, whoever is sponsoring the event must be able to prove that 75 percent of those in attendance will be 21 years old or older, he said.

It is too hard to control underage drinking if a high percentage of the attendees are under the legal drinking age, Griesen said.

Linda Major, project director of NU Directions, said anyone of vice-chancellor status or above can approve the proposal for an alcohol permit.

Conley, who doesn't have any problems with the current policy, doesn't think a change would be good.

"If you have a situation where alcohol is free-flowing, problems abound," Conley said.

A-Team candidate Schafer agreed.

He thinks there would be an increase in the freshman dropout rate and higher student fees and residence hall rates to provide more protection

against alcohol-related incidents and higher insurance.

He said changing the policy is unrealistic, and he has been told that it would require a change in state law.

Major said the policy follows a state law prohibiting the consumption of alcohol on state property.

The Board of Regents, because it is a governing body of the university, decided that under certain circumstances alcohol consumption was permitted, Major said.

Griesen said the reason for the policy is not for the university to act as a baby-sitter but to create a safe learning environment for students.

"Our mission is to get them educated," Griesen said. "High-risk drinking is not compatible for that mission."

Major said if a student body president, who also served as a student

1993, could sue the university for negligence.

Knoll suffered severe head injuries from the fall. He was trying to avoid a hazing incident.

The case was sent back to Lancaster District Court last fall.

In the 14 years he's worked at UNL, about 85 to 90 percent of violence on campus was alcohol-related, Griesen said.

Mello agreed and said from what he has seen, alcohol contributed not only to violence but also to poor class attendance and high freshman dropout rates.

As for gameday policing, Griesen said it was difficult to control all tailgate activity, but it was something the university was hoping to improve.

The objective of the enforcement is not to police students harder than alumni, Griesen said.

Though Empower, Impact and A-Team don't list alcohol on their platforms, the three parties' members agreed that alcohol education and expanding NU on Wheels would benefit the students.

Mello said he wanted to assist NU Directions and Party Smart to promote education, especially to freshmen.

Kidd, along with increasing the alcohol on campus, wants to implement a required alcohol class for all freshmen, something similar to Library 110. Kidd said Wake Forest University has implemented a similar program that he admired.

He also said high-profile students on campus should speak to freshmen to let them know they don't have to drink.

Schafer said UNL should follow the example of the University of New York at Buffalo, which saved utility expenses totaling \$3 million through an organized effort, he said.

If UNL followed its example, it could use the saved money from utility costs of the student unions, recreational center and the health center to make NU on Wheels available for more days each week.

Conley said he wanted policy to focus on creating a way for students to ask for help in serious alcohol situations.

Many times students are preoccupied with staying out of trouble and, consequently, are not responsible, he said.

Hands down, everyone agreed that the key to preventing alcohol accidents was to be responsible.

"We're not opposed to legal, responsible drinking on- or off-campus," Griesen said.

"Our mission is to get them educated. High risk drinking is not compatible for that mission."

James Griesen

vice chancellor for student affairs

regent, wanted to expand the alcohol policy, he probably could submit a proposal.

But she suggested the president would want to examine two things before trying to change the policy.

First, the president should understand all the legal steps in changing the policy and whether he or she has the power to make it happen. Second, the president should provide evidence that the campus would benefit from the alcohol-policy change.

Griesen said the university is concerned about high-risk drinking among college students nationwide, especially because the upper Midwest, including Nebraska, has the most high-risk drinking, according to national studies.

The university also could be liable in an alcohol-related accident, he said.

Such was the case when the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled on Oct. 29, 1999, that Jeffery Knoll, who fell from the third-floor of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity in November

THE A-TEAM WISHES TO PRESENT AN ISSUE OF HEARTFELT CONCERN...

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ASUN Student Government Elections, March 1, 2000.
 A paid political advertisement for the A-Team, Christina Riesselman, Treasurer.

Attorney general bill vetoed

From staff and wire reports

Gov. Mike Johanns vetoed a bill Friday that would allow Nebraska to elect its attorney on a nonpartisan ballot.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, promised to seek an override.

The bill, LB510, failed to pass the final round of debate last week, but a motion to reconsider the vote succeeded, and the bill passed 28-19 - two votes short of the 30 needed to override a veto.

Any veto-override vote would be close, said Speaker of the Legislature Doug Kristensen, a supporter of the bill.

"I would hope there's 30 votes, but I know it's very close."

In his veto message, Johanns said the measure was unnecessary and would interfere with Nebraska's balance of elected representatives for the nonpartisan Legislature and constitutional officers who are elected on the

basis of party affiliation.

"Our democratic republic was designed in a very deliberate manner," Johanns said. "Even when Nebraskans voted to change from a bicameral to a unicameral Legislature ... the election of statewide constitutional officers under a party system was left intact."

Including Nebraska, 43 states elect their attorney generals on a partisan ballot.

Sen. DiAnna Schimek of Lincoln, chairwoman of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee - from where LB510 came - said she planned to oppose the bill during the override vote.

"I understand the reason that a lot of people voted that way," Schimek said. "They want the office to be less politicized."

"(But) I happen to agree with the governor on this."

Staff writer Tony Moses contributed to this report.

Kappa Delta

\$4 in advance, \$5 at the door, Kids 5 & under eat free. Proceeds go to the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Sunday
 March 5
 4-8