

N.C. Reps. support higher drinking ages

By SUSAN SNIPES Staff Writer

The proposed dramshop statute and increased drinking age proposals were the main topics Sunday night in a Hinton James Residence Hall forum.

Reps. Ann Barnes, D-Orange, and Jeff Hackney, D-Orange, explained the provisions of Gov. Jim Hunt's controversial drunken driving legislation to a group of approximately 30 students.

Barnes said she thought raising the drinking age was in order. She said there had been much debate over what age legislators would decide on.

"There is a great deal of debate over having one set age for all alcoholic beverages. If we did adopt one age it would most certainly be 21, not 18 or 19," Barnes said.

The reason for the age increase is to get alcohol away from high school age students, she said.

She added that legislators said older drinkers would handle the responsibility of alcohol with more maturity.

Edwin Calwell Jr., chairman of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Board of Education, said he was in favor of raising the age for beer and wine to 19.

He said peer pressure to drink in the high schools would be lessened.

Mickey Ewell, owner of Spanky's and treasurer of the North Carolina Restaurant Association, said the dramshop proposal and the increase in the drinking age were just window-dressing for the real problem of getting drinkers off the road.

Ewell said a person at 18 could vote, could go to war and could be married and have a family. He said it was ridiculous that 18-year-olds would not be able to order a glass of wine with dinner.

"We are the last to say there is not a problem and something should be done about it," Ewell said. "But we feel what we have here is subtle prohibition."

Ewell said the dramshop proposal - which would make bartenders, bar owners and convenience store operators civilly responsible for damages caused by intoxicated or underage customers - was unfair.

"I feel the restaurant owners and package stores are being singled out as responsible for drinking and driving," Ewell said. "Especially when the state-run ABC stores sell 93 percent of all alcohol."

Governor Hunt says we could tell if someone was drunk before serving them by observing their actions and smelling them. I wonder how we would implement a smell test," Ewell said.

Rep. Hackney said the dramshop proposal and the increase in the drinking age were not window-dressings but got to the heart of the matter. He said people perceived drinking and driving as a serious problem. Hackney said his mail was running in favor of the drunken driving legislation.

"There is a serious problem in Chapel Hill," Hackney said. "I've practiced law here and worked in the district attorney's office. In my opinion of students and towns people, both groups feel they are entitled to drink and drive."

Hackney said restaurant and bar owners would not be affected seriously by dramshop. He said the bartender would literally have to push alcohol on a visibly drunken person before being liable.

Ewell said dramshop may not result in any actual civil suits being won, but he said the proposal would force owners to carry about \$1,000 insurance for every \$100,000 worth of liquor sales. This insurance is required by the bill and would cost the average owner \$3,000 a year. Most do not carry coverage now.

Ewell said the bill shifted the burden of proof from the plaintiff to the defense. He said once the prosecution proved there was a sale, then the licensee had to prove the sale was lawful.

Awards ceremony set for Feb. 23 'Toto' receives nine Grammy nominations

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Were the members of the San Fernando Valley rock band Toto surprised to learn that they had nine Grammy nominations, including seven for their 'Toto IV LP? You bet.

"I wasn't even aware that the Grammys are at this time of year," said Bobby Kimball, the band's lead singer.

It wasn't that the band didn't think the album - which has spawned such hits as "Rosanna" and "Africa" - was any good, Kimball and Mike Porcaro, Toto's newest member, said during a giggled-filled interview at their manager's Hollywood offices.

It was more a case of familiarity breeding few expectations.

"I think the more you listen to something, the more you walk out of the studio saying, 'I want to hear something else right now - I want to listen to Stevie Wonder's album, I want to listen to Michael McDonald's album, I want to hear something else,'" Kimball said.

A stocky 35-year-old who is still nursing a leg he broke during last year's tour, Kimball retains a genteel drawl from his Louisiana youth. But the band's remaining five members all hail from the Valley, and three of them are brothers: Mike Porcaro, drummer

and keyboard player Steve Porcaro. Toto's roots date back to the 1960s, when Jeff Porcaro and keyboard player David Paich met through their fathers, percussionist Joe Porcaro and composer-arranger-conductor Marty Paich.

By the time they were in high school, Jeff Porcaro and David Paich were playing studio sessions with bassist David Hungate. Paich also was developing his conducting and composing skills: At 19, he won an Emmy for an *Inside* score.

Meanwhile, Steve Porcaro brought into the circle his guitar-playing friend, Steve Lukather. During the early 1970s, the five musicians played either individually or together for such well-known acts as Steely Dan, Boz Scaggs, Sonny & Cher and dozens more.

With the addition of Kimball, Toto got going in 1978 with a self-titled debut album that yielded such hits as "Hold the Line" and "I'll Supply the Love." The album has sold in excess of four million copies.

Michael Porcaro replaced Hungate on bass last year, in time to play on the *Toto IV* tour. The LP was nominated as album of the year and best engineered recording, and the single "Rosanna" is up for song and record of the year, best pop duo or group vocal

performance and two arranging awards, one of which pits David Paich against his father.

In the instrumental arrangement accompanying vocals category, Marty Paich was nominated for his work on Kenny Loggins' "Only a Miracle."

The eighth nomination went to the group as producer of the year; the ninth was garnered by Steve Lukather as co-composer of a best rhythm and blues song nominee, "Turn Your Love Around."

Lukather is not the only group member who has continued moonlighting. Toto members contributed to 19 other Grammy-nominated recordings this year, including Donald Fagen's *The Nightfly* and Paul McCartney's *Tug of War*.

Band members apparently don't find it difficult to fit the outside work into their schedules.

"In fact, it's harder not to - idle hands make work for the Devil," says Kimball.

Whether or not Toto members win any Grammys when the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences hands out its yearly honors Feb. 23, Kimball says the band feels like "a dead winner."

"It doesn't matter to me if we take one home, it feels like we won already," he says. "I don't know if nine nominations might not be better than winning one."

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BRIEFLY

RALEIGH — Hundreds of customers have returned boxes of Equal brand artificial sweetener after last week's announcement that someone had tampered with two packages of the product. Raleigh supermarkets removed the low-calorie sweetener from store shelves at the request of its distributor, G.D. Searle & Co. of Chicago, after four packages of Equal were found to contain poisonous sodium fluoride.

WASHINGTON — Presidential assailant John W. Hinckley Jr. survived a life-threatening crisis Monday, but authorities refused to say what substance he swallowed in his third apparent attempt at suicide since he has been in federal custody.

JERUSALEM — Moshe Arens, Israel's hawkish ambassador to Washington, accepted the post of defense minister Monday in place of the ousted Ariel Sharon, who quit the ministry saying "I am not leaving a beaten man."

DURHAM — The man accused of killing one person in a shooting spree at the IBM facility in Research Triangle Park has a lobotomy and is not competent to stand trial, a psychiatrist testified Monday.

LEONARD AVERY underwent a lobotomy after he shot himself in the head Aug. 30 just before his arrest in the shootings, Dr. Selwyn Rose of Winston-Salem testified in Avery's arraignment hearing in Durham County Superior Court.

Avery is accused of bursting into the IBM complex, firing a semi-automatic weapon at several people and throwing fire bombs, killing one man and seriously wounding another.

Democrats try to add to relief package

WASHINGTON — House Democratic leaders decided Monday to add about \$1 billion to their quickly, and then follow up with additional legislation of their own.

"We have sympathy in our hearts for those in the soup lines," Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., declared as he announced his hope of passing a bipartisan bill through the House by next week.

"This is not the best bill we Democrats could write, but it may be the best bill we can enact into law," O'Neill said of the package approved by Reagan.

Democrats might try to add \$1 billion to Reagan's package for summer jobs, nutrition programs for mothers and children and weather-proofing low-income housing, O'Neill said.

Reagan refused all last year and early this year to consider any type of anti-recession jobs legislation. He finally succumbed to congressional sentiment last week, dispatching top aides to the Capitol to present a plan that includes \$250 million for food and shelter for the homeless, \$1 billion in grants to local governments and the balance in expedited federal purchases and construction projects.

In addition to the \$4.3 billion, another proposed bill includes \$3 billion to pay unemployment benefits through the end of the year. Unemployment is running at 10.2 percent of the work force and is expected to decline only slowly.

Half of the \$4.3 billion — \$2.16 billion — would be spent on programs contained in a House-passed jobs bill that Democrats drafted last

December but Reagan vowed to veto as 'pork barrel.'

Under the proposal, money would be spread through several federal agencies. It would provide, for example, \$300 million for military housing, \$100 million for repair of Veterans Administration facilities and \$400 million for mass transit.

Democrats have said that they also hope to approve legislation to provide health insurance coverage for those who are unemployed and have lost their protection. They also have discussed providing protection against mortgage foreclosures to homeowners and farmers.

"We agreed that this proposal represents phase one in meeting our country's economic emergency," O'Neill said after a closed door meeting of the party's Steering and Policy Committee.

"We also agreed that it was necessary to move the measure quickly in order to bring relief to those millions of Americans who must suffer through this winter without the basics of food and shelter."

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., who heads a Senate party task force on jobs legislation, termed the administration's proposal "inadequate." But, Levin said, "It's at least a beginning. I'll give them credit for that."

O'Neill made it clear he had no intention of provoking a veto confrontation with Reagan. "We're going to be in the ballpark of what the president would sign," he said.

The speed with which the administration produced its proposal appeared to surprise many Republicans in Congress. Key GOP leaders said they were not consulted and even House Republican Leader Bob Michel of Illinois said he had not seen all the details.

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