

# Daily Nebraskan

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**Weather:** Mostly cloudy, cooler and quite breezy today, with a 40% chance of showers, high about 58. Tonight, cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers, low near 40. Tuesday, continued chance of showers, high in the mid-50s.

— Bob Brubacher/Daily Nebraskan

**A muddy good time:  
UNL's Rodeo... Page 7**

**Huskers sack Mizzou,  
wrap up a win... Page 8**

## Recovered alcoholic relates story of despair, discovery

By Gene Gentrup

Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Statistics from the Lincoln Council on Alcohol and Drugs show most young people have their first drink between the ages of 12 and 14. By the time they graduate from high school, two-thirds will have used some type of illicit drug. Mike (who asked that his real name not be used), although he survived, is an example of this teen-age tragedy.

Mike was 12 years old when he began drinking. He drank because he wanted to feel like an adult. He didn't feel special to anyone and thought drinking would change everything. It did change everything but not in the way he had hoped. By the time he was 16, Mike had been arrested for auto theft, malicious destruction and other acts of violence. He had lost his license three times and was shot at once. He eventually spent time in a reformatory center and was, for a short time, kicked out of his home by his family.

"I didn't like myself then," Mike said. "I didn't like my environment. I didn't like my folks. I know when I drank, it changed my feelings and I liked it. I remember how good I felt and I know I felt better with alcohol."

Mike stuck with alcohol until the Vietnam War period, when he was 19. He didn't go to Viet-

nam, but some of his friends did. When his friends returned they brought with them a new drug called "raw opium." Mike liked it more than alcohol.

"I didn't throw up as much," he said. But Mike's buddies made sure he tried everything. Hash, purple haze, sunshine, orange barrel and LSD-25 were easily accessible.

"Back in that era, most people just gave them to you," he said.

When Mike became addicted to drugs, he said, it was because of too many doctor-prescribed drugs, not from those he obtained off the street.

"I'd keep getting headaches, and instead of working out my problems, the doctors just gave me more and more drugs. If I took enough, I'd feel better. They had me on a drug nearly as powerful as morphine, just to cure a headache," he said. It was at this point he said he felt an addiction to drugs.

But the drugs were too expensive for Mike. He had to find cheaper drugs.

"I knew a guy that just robbed pharmacies," he said, "I bought them wholesale."

Mike had enough money for drugs. He ran his own body shop, specializing in custom bikes. He often was featured in Easy Rider and Hot Rod magazines in the mid 1970s and had no diffi-

culty buying drugs. But more money meant more drugs.

His addiction to drugs worsened, as did his health. He began losing feeling in his feet, and twice went into respiratory arrest.

"My central nervous system just puked-out. I was dying. I would sit there and say, 'I'm not going to die, I'm not going to die.'"

Though he was now heavily into barbiturates, Mike said, his life still centered around alcohol.

"In order to have fun, I had to be drinking. In order to make love, I had to be drinking. I drank because I was scared. I drank because I was happy, I drank because I was lonely," he said.

Mike first admitted to having a problem after suffering a number of drug overdoses in the mid-1970s.

I was taking a thousand milligrams of phenobarbital a day plus valium and phenocodine. It takes only 320 milligrams of phenobarbital for post-operative sedation. I was taking that much in the morning just to wake up," he said.

Mike said he admitted to having a problem but did not immediately seek help. The drug problems continued.

"I OD'd in a cafe one time, made it to the car, started the engine, and then passed out. A policeman woke me up a couple of

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Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

### Where's the rest?

Erin Gaines, 2, examines a couple of stuffed Oryx heads during the Nebraska State Museum's open house at Nebraska Hall Friday night. Erin and her parents, Andrew and Sherrill Gaines of Omaha, were among the 471 visitors that evening. Story on Page 10.

## Survey to decide fate of unlimited food plan

By Kevin McCoy

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Residence hall food service probably will not be switching to its "unlimited food" option before the end of the semester, Housing Director Doug Zatechka said at a meeting of the UNL Residence Hall Association.

Zatechka outlined the housing office's position and answered questions from students during an RHA open forum on the option. He said some negative student response to the approximately \$20 increase that would result in room and board costs caused the office to reassess its plan.

The status of the unlimited food option will hinge mainly on

the result of an RHA/housing survey designed to assess students' willingness to pay added room and board for items under consideration. The surveys will be distributed to a randomly selected group of hall residents sometime before the end of October. The three items being considered are:

- Cable television in the residence halls, at an estimated \$18 increase in room and board fees.
- Paper towels and/or soap dispensers for floor bathrooms, each at an approximate room and board increase of \$2.50.
- Unlimited food in residence hall food services, at a proposed \$20 room and board hike.

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## Regents buy Commonplace Building to relieve space shortage in union

By Suzanne Teten

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

The NU Board of Regents Friday approved the \$230,000 purchase of the Commonplace Building to provide more meeting rooms and office space for the Nebraska Union and authorized the preparation of a \$2.1 million parking bond.

The Commonplace Building, 333 N. 14th St., across the street from the Administration Building, is owned by the United Presbyterian Church.

Richard Armstrong, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, said the church will move its campus offices to Wesley House, 640 N. 16th St., and wanted to sell Commonplace.

Armstrong said the purchase "gives us a sense of relief to space problems in the Nebraska Union."

Of the 300 students organizations on campus, he said, 40 apply each year for office space. The union has enough space for only 30 organizations, he said. Five more groups share space with the other 30, Armstrong said, leaving five organizations with no office space.

Nebraska Union Director Daryl Swanson said Commonplace offers the possibility of 12 additional offices, depending on how the space is used.

Swanson said he thinks the Commonplace Building will solve the union's office space shortages. However, he said, when organizations find out about the additional space available in the building, more will apply for offices.

The union's meeting room shortage also will be eased by the purchase. Swanson said the union has 11 meeting rooms and two larger rooms, the Ballroom and the Centennial Room, which can be used for large groups of people. He said the meeting rooms available for rent are filled every Tuesday through Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. Some of the rooms are used two or three times a day.

Some rooms are better suited to some purposes than others, he said. Swanson said the isolated atmosphere of Commonplace will interest some groups. The building has a quiet retreat setting that will attract organizations that don't like the busy traffic in the union, he said.

Swanson said the Commonplace chapel will be converted into one large meeting room. The building will provide three smaller conference rooms and the lounge could be used as an informal meeting room, he said.

The union director said he receives many requests from cus-

tomers who want to serve potluck dinners during their meetings. Since the union has a restaurant license, he said, the Union Board has prohibited customers from bringing in their own food.

Since Commonplace is a separate building, he said, this service could be offered. In addition, meetings could be scheduled at Commonplace when the union is closed.

In other business, the regents authorized preparation of a \$2.1 million parking bond issue. Armstrong said he thought the bond would be issued within the next 30 to 60 days after the board approves the interest rate.

Armstrong said the bond money will be used to buy land belonging to Jacobs Bulk Plant south of the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Court Street, two small lots on R street across from the NU Foundation and 10 acres of former Rock Island Railroad property between 18th and 19th streets and R and Vine streets. Ownership of that property was transferred to the Chicago Pacific Corp. when Rock Island went bankrupt.

Armstrong said he is uncertain whether the new parking areas will be residential, commuter or faculty lots. The university is trying to develop "a mixture of parking to meet the most pressing needs," he said.