

# Arts & Entertainment

## State Museum unlocks stored collection

By Ann Lowe  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Some people keep anything. On the top two floors of Nebraska Hall, the Nebraska State Museum keeps about everything it doesn't have in Morrill Hall — more than 99 percent of its exhibits and research specimens.

The Nebraska Hall collection usually is locked away from public view. Friday night, however, 471 people had a chance to see the specimens and chat with curators at the museum's "Friends Night."

After helping themselves to a buffet of fresh fruit and white wine, the guests wandered the halls and toured the research and collection rooms. There they saw a sampling of the museum's store, everything from Indian artifacts to 8-inch tarantulas to the fossils of Ice Age camels.

The strong-stomached could watch a taxidermist skin a rat and stuff it for display.

The event was sponsored by Friends of the State Museum, a 150-member organization of museum contributors. Membership donations range from \$10 for students and senior citizens and \$25 for families to \$25,000 for major benefactors. Benefits include an annual dinner in Elephant Hall, discounts at the museum



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan  
Dave Schmidt (left) of Lincoln and John Simmons of Scottsbluff partake in wine and conversation during the Nebraska State Museum's Friend's Night at Nebraska Hall Friday.

shop and planetarium, a subscription to Explorer magazine and a tax deduction. Members also may work in the field with museum researchers.

Although some of the relics and artifacts are collected by UNL researchers, many are donated to the museum, said Patricia Freeman, curator of zoology.

The collection was started as early as 1871 by the museum's founding director Edwin Barbour. Although the museum was intended for native Nebraska specimens, donations are taken from all over the world, Freeman said.

The curator said she can't estimate the collection's worth.

"It's priceless for its research value," she said. "You really can't put a dollar value on it. These specimens, in many cases, are the only one found in the world."

The specimens usually are used for research by scientists, professors and graduate students, Freeman said. The museum often borrows and loans research specimens with other university museums, she said.

The museum curators preserve, catalog and store the specimens. Some are locked in steel cabinets with moth crystals to keep bugs away. Other specimens sit on shelves in buckets, boxes and cereal cartons. Some just lie in piles on the floor.

Interim Director John Janovy said the stored specimens may seem unorganized, but the curators somehow keep track of it all.

"I've never seen a curator yet who didn't know exactly where everything was," Janovy said.

## Alcoholic disappoints and alienates friends

Problem more than facts, figures

Though probably not entertaining and definitely not about art, this week's column is about a timely subject. In light of the past week being alcohol awareness week, the Daily Nebraskan has presented a series of stories with the facts and figures. I'd like to



**Billy Shaffer**

relate something of the more personal side of the problem.

I have an acquaintance that is a chronic alcoholic. I'll call him Lloyd. I used to consider Lloyd a friend, but friendships are based on mutual trust and respect, qualities that become secondary in alcoholics' lives.

Lloyd started drinking during high school on the weekends, not exactly an uncommon occurrence. His usual order was a six-pack of Colt 45, a bottle of Boone's Farm apple wine and a box of Swisher

Sweets. That order was fairly standard for all the guys in Lloyd's gang.

Lloyd finished high school in pretty good standing and always had a steady girlfriend.

Lloyd came to UNL, attended most of his classes, and did fairly well. Slowly but steadily, Lloyd's drinking increased to near nightly consumption, whether it be in downtown clubs or at home. It had the appearance of a habit, maybe, but not one of immense proportions. Gradually though, Lloyd's portions and his tolerance for booze began to increase. On a few football Saturdays I can remember Lloyd singlehandedly polishing off more than a case.

Lloyd managed to graduate with a BA in 4 1/2 years. By his senior year he had begun drinking in the mornings "to take the edge off" his hangover and to keep from getting anxiety attacks in certain classes. Lloyd lost a longtime lover and started asking his roommates to lie to people on the phone to cover for his binges. The way Lloyd expresses it, he had three choices: he could dry out and be able to function fairly well after a few days of "detox zombieness," he could stay slightly inebriated (at least enough to function in public) or he could just stay drunk.

Nowadays Lloyd openly admits he's an alcoholic.

He has achieved a few minor accomplishments since his graduation last year, apparently as some form of compensation for the guilt he says he constantly feels. But his life is still centered around alcohol. Lloyd never calls or visits his friends anymore — unless it's for money or he needs a run to the liquor store, — because he's got the shakes too bad. Frankly, I've pretty much given up hope for Lloyd, too. It's hard to muster much sympathy for someone who lies and cheats his so-called friends, all in the name of self-destructive behavior.

Lloyd mostly sits around home alone with the shades pulled, watching TV, when he's not at his part-time job in a department store. He can't explain to me how or why he became an alcoholic, but he says, "I just got sucked in." Lloyd has lost most of his friends, his lovers, a few jobs, his ambition, his driver's license and a large chunk of his life.

Lloyd once showed me a poem he'd written. The first stanza went like this:

"wallowing in bewilderment,  
staving off tomorrow,  
a six-pack is my bestfriend,  
and wallowing in confusion . . ."

It gets worse after that.

## Cards & Letters

The article about Apollonia 6 silly as the groups may be, they referred to as a "boy singer" or and Vanity, which appeared in should at least be dignified by the any male band as a "boy group."

Mary Louise Knapp  
Lincoln

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