

Friday

Weather: For the last day of January, we're still spoiled by above normal temperatures. Cloudy today, high near 39. South-southeast winds during the day 5 to 10 mph. Clearing toward evening, winds shifting from the north. Low near 22. Saturday, slightly warmer and clear, topping out at 44.

Island of Misfit Toys play unique music

Arts and Entertainment, page 9



Ricketts' swimming career won't end with graduation

Sports, page 8

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Pro-, anti-Lied factions clash

Students protest as construction on Center begins

By Jonathan Taylor
Senior Reporter

Students for and against the Lied Center Performing Arts project clashed Thursday night on the steps of the Nebraska Union.

What started as a protest by the Students Against the Lied Center turned into several shouting matches, after members of the Lied Center Student Advisory Committee arrived and began exchanging comments.

At 6 p.m., when the protest started, about 15 anti-Lied students were marching, chanting and carrying signs with slogans such as, "Stop the Waste," "Who needs Lied" and "Lied is a lie." About eight pro-Lied students were present also, but none carried signs.

More pro-Lied students — apparently fine arts majors — bore signs of their own and began to arrive at 6:30 p.m. Pro-Lied signs read "Lied not Greed," "Lied on, Nebr.," and "Support the Arts."

Shouting ensued between the groups and the demonstrators on both sides began to disperse at 7:15 p.m.

See PROTEST on 3



Students for and against the Lied Center for the Performing Arts shout at each other in front of the Nebraska Union Thursday night.

Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Officials toast drinking age effects

By Lise Olsen
Senior Reporter

On New Year's Day 1986, 20-year-old legal drinkers became extinct in Nebraska.

People who turned 20 on or before Jan. 1, 1985, had been allowed to drink because of a grandfather clause attached to LB56, which increased the state's drinking age in 1984 from 20 to 21. But people who turned 20 after Jan. 1, 1985, had to put away their party hats and postpone alcoholic festivities.

Statisticians say it is too early to judge the law's long-term effects, but they have recorded some immediate changes.

For example, Fred Zwonechek, an administrator of the Nebraska Office on Highway Safety, said the number of accidents involving 20-year-olds dropped 34.5 percent from 254 in 1984 to 166 in 1985 and accidents involving 19- to 20-year-olds declined by at least 9 percent in each age group.

But, he said, the most significant change from January 1985 to October 1985 was among the 20-year-olds, the group directly targeted by the law.

"It's either a real ironic coincidence or the law is having an effect," Zwonechek said.

Traditionally, 20-year-olds had led all age groups in alcohol-related accidents by a margin of 60 or more. Twenty-year-olds also consistently led all age groups in the number of arrests for driving while intoxicated from 1976 to 1984, according to a study conducted by Ron Dade, research analyst for Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs.

The trends were broken in 1985 when the number of 20-year-olds arrested for DWI dropped 48.9 percent, from 139 in 1984 to 71. This moved 21-year-olds into the highest DWI category among the 19- to 24-year-old age groups for DWI in 1985.

But even fewer 20-year-olds were arrested, the 25-and-under group was still over-represented in 1985's DWI arrests, Dade said. Those under 25 accounted for 572 or 47.1 percent of the state's 1,215 DWI arrests.

In every year of Dade's study, those under 25 — 11.5 percent of the Lincoln/Lancaster County population — have accounted for more than 40 percent of the arrests.

Like Dade's statistics, the Lincoln Police Department's records for 1985 show decreases in nearly all categories of alcohol-related arrests. Minor in possession arrests dropped from 362 in 1984 to 309 in 1985, a 15 percent decline. DWI arrests dropped 17 percent in 1985 from 1,580 to 1,316. Arrests for contributing to the delinquency of a minor fell from 63 in 1984 to 35 in 1985, a 44 percent drop.

Although authorities and bar owners predicted the law would increase the number of false identification cards, only 17 people were arrested for altering or lending ID cards in 1985, compared to 44 in 1984, said Lt. Jerry Smith of the LPD record department.

Although many partially credited the law for statistical improvement, officials agree that publicity surrounding the legal age increase, tougher DWI penalties and improved alcohol education also could have affected the

figures.

Alcohol education has been an outgrowth of stiffer DWI penalties and the 1984 law, officials say.

However, Lincoln Sen. Don Wesely, who voted against the bill two years ago, still has mixed feelings. Stricter DWI laws punish the offenders, Wesely said, but a drinking age change punishes people who abide by the law as well as those who break it.

The 1984 law marked the third time the Legislature has changed Nebraska's legal drinking age. The legal

drinking age was 21 until 1969, when it was lowered to 20. In 1972, it again was lowered, this time to 19.

The Legislature dropped the age to 19 because of pressure from 18 to 20 year olds who were being drafted to fight in Vietnam but could not buy a beer in their hometown bar, Wesely said.

The 1984 hike came in the wake of a federal bill that would have cut highway funds to states with drinking ages below 21 by 5 percent for the first five years and by 10 percent in 10 years.

Beutler says state lottery would benefit development

By Kent Endacott
Senior Reporter

Though the Lied Center for the Performing Arts is not a top priority of Gov. Bob Kerrey, the Legislature or the NU Board of Regents, it was simply "too good of a deal to pass up," said Sen. Chris Beutler Thursday.

"The Lied Center was not my first priority when it was proposed," Beutler said. "But life is like that, it doesn't always give us the thing we most want. But when the offer was made, the NU foundation said, 'We're going to raise \$10 million to match the \$10 million grant, and raise another \$5 million to pay for maintenance so the people of the state won't be saddled with the maintenance costs.'"

Speaking to the UNL chapter of the Young Democrats, Beutler said the Lied center will strengthen the human-

ities programs at UNL and make Nebraska a more attractive place for new businesses to locate.

"The quality of life in Nebraska is important to economic development," he said. "In Colorado and California they have natural resources such as mountains and the ocean to attract businesses.

"In Nebraska, we have to create our attractions. That's why we build the Lied Centers and the Sheldon Art Galleries...Ultimately, for a person to want to locate their business in Nebraska, they have to want to live here."

He also said he favors lottery to offset revenue shortfalls which the state has experienced recently.

"In this point in time, it would be beneficial to have a state lottery and put the money into economic development," he said.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Solace

Flags remained at half-staff Thursday as the Legislature adopted a resolution paying tribute to the "ultimate sacrifice" made by the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger. President Reagan will attend a memorial service for the crew, who died when the shuttle exploded Tuesday, today at the Houston Space Center.