

Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Fred Zauder trims a board in the woodworking section of the Bedient's shop.

## Craftsman spans ages to make beautiful music

Upon receiving an order, Bedient says, he or an employee surveys the site in person — every Bedient organ is custom-designed to blend into and enhance its setting.

Plans for the organ are then drawn up, and construction begins from scratch.

The wooden parts are cut and fitted in Bedient's wood shop. The metal for the tin-lead alloy pipes is melted from bars of the pure metals, formed and soldered in the metal shop.

The entire organ is constructed in the building's tower. It has to be disassembled for shipping.

Bedient said "there's just a handful of companies like us" that hand-make tracker pipe organs.

He said his organs have been sold all over the country. He said the small organ he's working on now will go to Washington, D.C.

Lincoln boasts five Bedient organs, two of them on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

Bedient said the chapel at St. Mark's-On-The-Campus, 1309 R St., was small but reverberating, so its organ was "designed to be a gentle-sounding organ." He based the design on Italian organs, he said.

The organ at Cornerstone, 640 N. 16th St., was designed to re-

semble late 17th-century northern German organs, he said.

"It's a very interesting type of organ to listen to, one that commands the listener's attention," Bedient said.

UNL School of Music organ professor George Ritchie recently recorded a tape and compact disc of Bach organ works on the Cornerstone organ.

A review of Ritchie's tape in the December issue of Stereo Review magazine said, "The Bedient organ at Cornerstone in Lincoln, one of the finest Baroque organs in the country, has a commanding presence."

In a description of the organ written for a Cornerstone brochure, Bedient quotes the late American organ builder George Fisk as saying, "This is the oldest organ in the country." Fisk meant that the Cornerstone organ recaptures the sound of old European organs better than any other American instrument, Bedient said.

In the mid-1960s, as a student at UNL, Bedient switched his major from engineering to music. He said he became interested in organ design while studying music.

Bedient has a message for UNL students, based on his own career. "There's lots of things that people might not think of as a profession that are options," he said.

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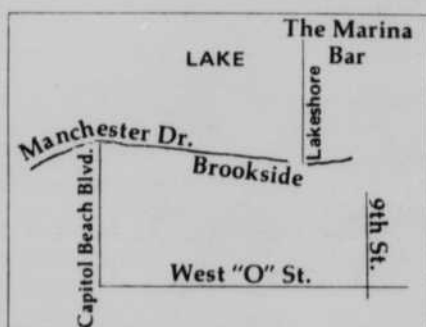
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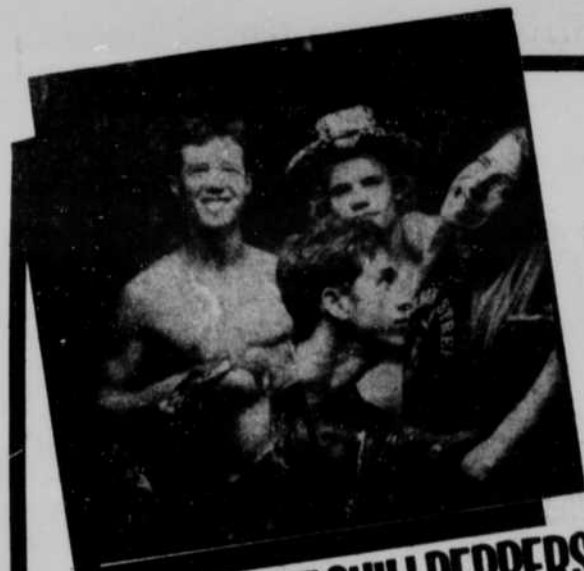
## Shorts

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Flute Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23 in Kimball Hall.

The ensemble is composed of UNL School of Music flute majors.

The group will present works from diverse stylistic periods. Some of the selections will require up to eight flutes.

The concert will be open to the public without charge.



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