

Protestors: Demonstration 'making authorities think'

By Brandon Loomis
Senior Reporter

INDIAN SPRINGS, Nev. -- After about three hours in a holding pen and an hour on a bus Saturday, five civilly disobedient UNL students were lectured about trespassing and emerged from a high school gym to 300 cheering demonstrators.

The students, along with two Lincoln High School seniors, were arrested for trespassing on federal property when they crossed a fence onto the Nevada Test Site. The group drove from Lincoln Wednesday to protest nuclear weapons testing at "Reclaim the Test Site II."

After their arrest they were bussed 75 miles to Beatty High School where they were cited and released.

Nell Eckersley, a freshman social sciences major, said she achieved her goal by making authorities think about the nuclear issue.

Eckersley said she could tell that the officer who issued her a citation was affected by the non-violent protest.

"I think we did make her think, there's no way to get around that," she said. "There's no way that that

can't attack them personally."

Eckersley's sister Camilla, a Lincoln High senior, said getting arrested alongside about 1,000 protestors gave her a sense of the unity of the peace movement.

"I feel like this movement is powerful," she said. "This made me feel even more adamant about it."

Police told her to come back to court in three months or they would come get her, she said, "but I gave them a fake name."

Nell said most of the protestors she was arrested with gave fake names, but four who were transported to Beatty with her gave real names.

"There are some people who really want to go to court" and cost the system as much money as possible, she said.

All members of the Lincoln group gave fake names.

Nell said she was happy with the outcome of the action. Especially, she said, since her sister and Kati Tobler, also a Lincoln High senior, are both under 18 and could have faced lengthy detentions. The authorities normally detain minors longer than adults until parents send air fare to fly them home.

"I really feel lucky," Nell said.

The group had planned to jump the fence around midnight Friday, but decided to wait until Saturday because several of them were tired.

Nell said she was glad the group decided to wait, even though they could have missed a lot of school if one of the group had been kept in jail longer than expected.

"So many things could have gone wrong" at night, she said.

Police would have been paranoid in the darkness, Nell said, and someone could have gotten hurt. Also, tired protestors might have forgotten their non-violence training.

Another reason they decided to wait until Saturday, Nell said, was to join thousands of protestors who entered the site simultaneously. This bogged down authorities, she said, and made quick releases necessary.

Mike Sorrell, a junior in the College of Arts & Sciences whose job was to find out where the group had been bussed or jailed, said seeing all the protestors cross the fence together made him feel less apprehensive.

Sorrell said he knew the police would have to let them go quickly. "I felt pretty good through the

whole thing," he said.

Sorrell said he had no problems finding the group at Beatty High School because the busses carrying the demonstrators passed him on the highway.

The only mishap happened when Carl Klamer, a sophomore political science major, got separated from the group and was put on a different bus.

Because police sometimes take prisoners to different jails 100 miles or more apart, group members were concerned that Klamer would be stuck without a ride. Klamer said the only worry he had was that Sorrell

would have to drive farther than had been expected.

Klamer said he will come to the test site next year and would like to be part of a group that is willing to get arrested several times.

"If I was here alone next year or had a more adventurous support group, I would do way more," Klamer said.

He said the whole point of the actions is to put "as much as possible" stress on the system.

"I think that would be the best, the most effective way to shut down the site . . ."

Army Reserves to build armory

From Staff Reports

The U.S. Army Reserves plans to build a new armory in the northwest corner of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus in 1994 to replace the John J. Pershing Armory, an army official said.

Lt. Col. Dennis Collier, facility manager for the armory, said Per-

shing Armory is too small for the reserves. About 600 people currently are using the armory, which was built to accommodate only 200 to 300 people, Collier said.

The armory needs more office, storage and parking space, he said.

The Army will give UNL \$60,000 plus the old armory in exchange for the 8.4 acres of land needed for the new building.

Spill is one of many price increase factors, officials say

By Pat Dinslage
Staff Reporter

Although many people may believe the recent Alaskan oil spill is the cause of recent gas price increases, other factors have had a greater effect, said Trisha Griggs, account representative for Rockport Oil Inc. of Lincoln.

Local gas prices may continue to climb as high as \$1.25 to \$1.35 per gallon of unleaded this summer because of product shortages and increased demand, Griggs said.

Rockport Oil, a Midwestern distributor of gasoline and oil products, purchases gasoline from most of the major oil companies.

Although the major companies

may have used the oil spill as a reason to raise prices, it "shouldn't have had that much effect" on the market, Griggs said.

Two refinery fires in California and an unusually high number of refineries closed for cleaning and repairs have contributed to a gas shortage on the West Coast, she said.

To meet demands, suppliers in California had to "borrow" gas products from other areas, including the Midwest. In order to keep sufficient supplies in the Midwest and other areas, suppliers raised prices, Griggs said.

"Until the (wholesale) buyers quit coming in, prices won't go down . . . I possess every indication that gas prices will go higher," she said.

Mark Whitehead, president of

Whitehead Oil Co. in Lincoln, agreed the oil spill costs may be contributing to increased prices, but that the spill itself is not the only factor involved.

He said the governor of Alaska's disruption of the state's pipeline flow and possible changes in long-term supply projections also are contributing to the increase.

The negative publicity surrounding the oil spill could affect future drilling rights in Alaska, and therefore decrease long-term oil and gas supplies, Whitehead said.

Following the spill, industrial oil and gas buyers "rushed out to buy ahead" for future supplies and there was a substantial increase in demand, he said.

Griggs said increased farming and construction during spring and sum-

mer also add to oil and gas demands, forcing prices higher.

"But I was not expecting this type of increase this time of year," Griggs said, even allowing for the seasonal adjustments and refinery problems.

Currently, Lincoln gas prices average about \$1.06 for regular and \$1.08 for unleaded gas.

Griggs said these prices reflect increases of 15 to 20 cents per gallon since mid-March.

Last week, gas prices started to drop, she said, but now Rockport is paying 2 to 3 cents per gallon more daily.

Prices received by distributors generally take two to three days to filter down to the pumps. Last week's price drop is reflected in the current "leveling off" of gas prices experi-

enced by local service stations, Griggs said.

The increases distributors are receiving now will affect prices at local gas stations this week, she said.

Despite the higher prices, at least one service station has not had a drop in sales.

Don Church, area sales manager for Coastal Mart, a convenience store and gas station chain, said the number of gallons sold by the store has not changed since the increases began.

"People are still driving," he said, and the prices don't have much of an effect on consumption.

Whitehead said the increases may not have a significant short-term effect on sales, but in the long run, the higher prices may affect summer travel plans for some people.

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