



Drinkin' away the blues

By John Gardner
Staff Reporter

Winter is in full swing now and I can only think of one thing to combat the bone-chilling weather and dust the blues away: Get drunk and forget about it!

Actually, if you haven't noticed, the greenhouse effect, or whatever it's called, has really given us a mild winter so far. But that doesn't stop us, now does it?

“If there was no cap on money, I think we'd all go out every day of the week.”

Ames
UNL student

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Even when it does get deathly cold out, most of us find ourselves crawling into the nearest bar and even waiting in line outside. On those particular nights, I like to cuddle up with a really bad book and watch "Gilligan's Island" reruns, over and over. Just kidding.

Anyway, one would think that with outdoor activities being quite limited during the winter, more people would flock to the bars. Well, that is true, but the feeling around Lincoln is that it really isn't much different than in the warm months.

Tony Munsterman is a 22-year-old bartender at Iguana's, 1426 O St. You know — the one between Duffy's and the Rail. Munsterman said business had remained pretty steady so far this winter.

"When it's bitter cold, people don't come out in droves or anything," he added. "Still, on weekends, they still stand in line even when it's 20 below."

Munsterman said an average of 500 to 600 customers filed in and out on weekends. And Iguana's doesn't appeal just to college students.

"Even when the college kids were gone over break, it stayed about the same," Munsterman said.

One way I've found to avoid these frigid lines, or any line on this dreaded campus for that matter, is to get there really early. Try going down to Iguana's, Duffy's (1412 O



Illustration by William Lauer/DN

When the temperature drops, many students head for the bars to drown their sorrows in loads of liquor. Employees of downtown bars say business remains steady during the winter months.

St.), O'Rourke's (1329 O St.), or the Brass Rail (1436 O St.), about 7 p.m. or so. I bet you won't stand in line. (Of course, arriving at Administration at 6 a.m. didn't help during general registration. I still needed to get two override forms to get my classes.)

One student seemed to directly relate his binges to the winter blues. For Mike Ames, 21, the holiday season is spent alone.

"Holidays bring on the blues for me because I can't go home to my family," Ames said, whose parents live in Rapid City, S.D.

But, he doesn't let this get him down too much. Really, he drinks for the fun of it.

"If there was no cap on money, I think we'd all go out every day of the week," Ames said.

Another point is that winter doesn't really change our drinking

habits any. The cold weather just gives us yet another excuse to tie one on. Of course, for most of us, warm weather would be nice year-round, but the cold doesn't cause us to drink more.

It just doesn't enable us to drink in the beer gardens.

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