



Damon Lee/DN

UNL Nebraskans for Peace contribute to the community by serving a free supper like this one at The Gathering Place on the first Sunday of every month.

## Peace

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to do some kind of concert or publicity thing," said Craig Imig, a UNL graduate sociology student.

“It helps a lot of people out like this. A lot of these people don't have any place to go. It's their only means of eating, coming here.”

— Marvin,  
patron at  
The Gathering Place

Schuetzle said with the soup kitchen, they expected about 30 people to show up for the meal, but last month there were 48. Sunday, people were waiting outside when the doors opened at 5 p.m.

“I usually come here when my food stamps or something runs out,” said Edward Rye, one of the patrons at The Gathering Place on Sunday.

By the end of the week, Rye, who was there with his family, said he

would have some money again. Mason Marvin, a first-time visitor at The Gathering Place, said the food was OK and the service provided by the students was important.

“It helps a lot of people out like this,” Marvin said. “A lot of these people don't have any place to go. It's their only means of eating, coming here.”

For Doug Schweitzer, a regular at The Gathering Place, this is all too true.

“I'm homeless” Schweitzer said. “I eat once a day and it's right here.”

“I've been on the street about six years,” he said. “I don't have no place to go, no place to eat.”

The plight of the homeless is not as visible in Lincoln, Schweitzer said, because police crack down on O Street and in the downtown area.

Further community involvement like the volunteer effort at The Gathering Place is needed, Schweitzer said.

“I think it should be more,” he said. “Not just for feeding people, but for getting us off the street.”

Imig said there were many opportunities for students to get involved and work in the community, but few took time out of their schedules to get involved.

## Smokers sign petition

By Carma Loontjer  
Staff Reporter

Fairness is what they want, and although members of Smokers Against the New Smoking Policy are few in numbers, they are determined to be treated fairly by the university, members said Wednesday.

“One thing everyone should be aware of is we are only asking for fairness,” said Sandy Masek, a member of the committee and a Nebraska state employee.

“It is not somebody else's right to tell me if I want to smoke,” Masek said.

Formed about one month ago in response to the smoking ban that will go into effect August 1, the group is made up of staff and students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The ban will prohibit smoking in all university buildings and in the immediate 10 feet surrounding the buildings including the Nebraska Union.

“The big problem right now is getting the word out,” said John Snelling, chairperson of the committee.

Student ombudsperson Dave Temple said the group needed to get the support of an organization.

Snelling said that he has approached the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, the Academic Senate, the University Association of Administration Department, and the University of Nebraska Office

Personal Association for acknowledgement of their group and to be placed on meeting agendas. However, none of these groups meet again until September, he said.

“Getting the word out is almost impossible, however we are going to fight this with a petition,” Snelling said.

Wednesday's meeting was used to formally announce a petition being circulated that will be given to Gov. Ben Nelson.

The petition states that signers of the petition want the Governor to enact a smoking policy that is fair to all the citizens of Nebraska.

“You are going to have to fight individual fights unless you get a state policy,” Masek said.

The petition asks for smoking and non-smoking areas in all state office buildings and any state building where tax funds from Nebraska citizens are used. This includes all NU buildings.

“We (the tax payers) are paying the bill and we feel we have the right to smoke in these buildings,” Snelling said.

Some of the money used for building and maintenance comes from the tobacco tax on cigarettes, he said.

Last year over \$36 million was raised from tobacco tax in Nebraska. There is now a \$.34 tax per pack on cigarettes.

“This ban made me feel like a second class citizen because I smoke, which I believe that I am not,” Snelling said. “It's been a slow process but we have gained from day one.”

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