

July Jamm festival survives stormy weather

By Brian Sharp
Staff Reporter

Sounds of folk music, jazz and blues filled the air in downtown Lincoln last weekend.

And for a little while, the rain and thunder fell silent.

The second-annual July Jamm, a festival of music, food and fine arts, held at 12th and N streets, nearly fell victim to the wrath of mother nature. Heavy rain Friday morning delayed the start of the festival, and storms Saturday evening threatened to rain-out the event.

But all the bands went on as planned, said Marcia White, chairwoman of July Jamm. White is a member of the Updowntowners, the volunteer organization that put on the event.

"We didn't have to cancel any part of the festival," White said. "Everyone was very adaptable."

"Having people be that flexible really helped in making the festival a success," she said.

White said festival workers kept in close contact with Lincoln police, and were ready to evacuate the site if needed. Over 400 volunteers worked this year's Jamm, and it was their flexibility that helped make the festival a success, she said.

Crowds at the Jamm were estimated at 12,000-15,000, White said. The only decrease from the

crowd size from last year was on Saturday night. Admission was not charged that evening, because of the inclement weather, and will represent a large drop in profit.

"Right now, we're looking at a break-even festival," White said.



Many University of Nebraska-Lincoln students joined the crowds, meeting friends and enjoying the music and variety of food.

"We wanted to come down here and eat and sit around basically," Roger Benedict, a junior broadcasting major said. "It seems pretty cool actually. They don't have anything like this in Bellevue."

Crowds on opening night danced to the music of local band Tuna Fish Jones as well as to Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers, a band out of California.

"I'm having a good time," Colin Clark, a junior philosophy and film studies major, said. "Food, beer, lots of people, rock and roll."

"I like it," Lori Kaser, a sophomore majoring in hospitality management, said. "Beer and music go together."

One UNL student was doing more than watching at this year's



Damon Lee/DN

Friday night's July Jamm crowd listens and dances to the blues sounds of Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers Blues Orchestra.

July Jamm, however.

Andrew Vogt, a junior music major, played Friday and then again Sunday with the band Tom Larson Jazz.

Events like July Jamm are great places for area musicians to get more exposure, but they aren't very common, Vogt said.

"It's all if they're going to make

money, that's what it's all about," Vogt said. "Obviously I want more gigs."

Vogt said he thought there would be more support for bands like those heard at the July Jamm, but that the clubs in Lincoln do not advertise very much.

"There's a lot of good stuff," Vogt said. "You just don't hear

about it."

July Jamm, which grew out of Jazz Fest, a one-day event started in the late 1980's, was able to involve more local bands this year than last.

"Since we expanded our entertainment schedule so much, we had a better opportunity to involve more local talent," White said.



Damon Lee/DN

Construction continues on the Beadle Center at 19th and Vine streets. Bad weather has made for slow progress on the center, as the July 1994 completion date has been moved back.

Weather delays Beadle construction

By DeDra Janssen
Staff Reporter

Another victim of the flood of 1993 has surfaced in a muddy mess at the corner of 19th and Vine streets in Lincoln.

The construction of the Beadle Center, which is being designed for genetics and biomaterials research and teaching, has been delayed by the rainy weather, said Howard Parker, Project Manager for the center.

"The weather has been a problem for us. Because of the large number of rainy days, it has been very difficult for the contractor to keep his schedule," Parker said.

"There is no question that the

weather and rain and the resulting mud on the site has made for a delay," he said.

Parker said the contractor, Builders, Inc., has requested a delay on the project, and Parker, in turn, has requested data from the national weather service to determine a new schedule.

Construction of the center began in July 1992 and it was originally due to be completed in July 1994. Parker said the building was probably about one-fourth done.

He would not speculate as to when the center would be completed now.

"We are in the process of determining how much of a delay there is," he said.

Jim Beard, vice President of Builders, Inc., said the construction of the center was going "very poorly" with current weather conditions, and he speculated that construction should be finished in about 18 months given

normal weather conditions.

"We're trying with all our abilities to improve on the construction time, but the weather is a big deterrent," Beard said.

A minor accident that occurred on the site earlier this month did not add to the delay, Parker said. A worker fell on a piece of equipment at the site and punctured his leg on a sharp metal object. Though the worker was hospitalized briefly, the accident caused no threat to his life, Parker said.

Parker said the construction of the Beadle Center was the first part of the expansion of UNL City Campus eastward.

"The campus master plan does show development of that area with science and research facilities. It's definitely a growth area on the east side," Parker said.

The total cost of the construction of the Beadle Center is \$23.3 million.

Boxing

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Defense court records, including Walton's testimony given on July 7, were being held by Lindner, and were unavailable to the DN.

According to available April court records, Werger said during testimony that he was weighed in the nude by Walton, and later given a "fondling type of massage."

Werger said he first became uncomfortable with Walton after a regular practice session while doing sit-ups.

"He started massaging my belly while I was in the sit-up position," Werger said. "He got down into my lower abdominal region and into my pubic hair. That was my first clue that this guy was into something."

"I was just thinking that this feels weird to me, and I didn't think it was right."

After Werger told another student about the sit-up incident, he said he was told Walton did that to everyone, and it was "no big deal."

Although Werger had felt uncomfortable with Walton before, he thought Walton was a good coach and

went over to his house to get more boxing practice.

"I thought he was great. I learned more from him in that two weeks that I ever thought I could," Werger said. "I didn't want to think that he was hitting on me, I wanted to think he was my boxing coach."

Werger said the physical part of the assault was not the most painful, but rather the emotional part.

"He acted like my best buddy," Werger said. "He misled me and he works on your feelings and emotions. He gets you thinking it's going to be something and he turns it around."

Werger said before Werger and his parents reported the incident to UNL officials, Walton wrote him a letter and made phone calls to him.

"He apologized for me leaving like that," Werger said. "Basically what he said was 'come back to practice.'"

Werger said although he did not want publicity from the case, he wanted students to be aware of what can happen.

"I don't want people to know, 'hey, there's that kid that the coach hit on,'" he said. "I just want them to know to be careful."

Smoking

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throw up another roadblock."

However, Snelling said, the committee still must gain support somehow. He wants to use mailings, but the committee must first save money to pay for staff and student mailings.

"No organization just starting out has that sort of money," he said. "To come out with this in the 11th hour is attempting to deal a serious blow to

our organization."

Snelling said the new mailing was upsetting, and he said he felt it was a violation of smokers' First Amendment rights.

Snelling said he was unsure if the committee could accomplish all of this.

"It may take several months to build the strength we need to change this policy and to see an impact," he said. "but all we're trying to do is to find a fair solution."