

# Cameras capture craziness of Barney's ballyhooed bout

By Alan Phelps  
Senior Reporter

A media circus pulled into the Nebraska Union Ballroom Wednesday with a purple dinosaur in the center ring.

University Program Council's much-ballyhooed "Barney Bash" attracted almost 300 students to beat up on the fictional children's idol. As participants tore their way through stuffed animals, almost every blow was captured by some camera or reporter.

"I feel complete. I feel whole," said Jason Howell, a senior criminal justice major, as he tore stuffing from a Barney doll. "It's good to kill little, stupid, purple animals."

The glare of the television lights and camera flashes shined brightest on the bashing table, where students took turns destroying stuffed Barneys — and eventually the table they sat on — with rubber mallets.

The sacrifices were recorded by representatives of the syndicated tabloid news show "Hard Copy," many local television stations, The Associated Press and area newspapers.

After students entered the ballroom at noon, they flooded to displays run by UPC volunteers. Along with the mallet table, Barney bashers could toss balls at plastic Barneys, drill Barney pictures with darts, take swings at a Barney piñata or view a "dead" Barney lying in a small coffin.

The main event, a mock fight between students dressed as Big Bird and Barney, ended with a knockout punch by the bird.

Keith Benes, Association of Students at the University of Nebraska president, dodged a rubber ball someone threw at a plastic Barney.

"I think this is great," he said. "A bunch of non-censored college fun."

As the crowd moved from table to table, a student clutching a purple stuffed-animal pelt marched near Benes.

"You skinned him, you heartless bastard," Benes said.

At least two students weren't as hyped to hit Barney. Ann Koopmann, a graduate educational psychology student, stood with her friend, Wendy Leonard, near a table serving purple Barney punch.

"Barney represents good values we need to teach our children," Koopmann said, holding a "Go Barney Go" sign.

"It's a sad day when they bash Barney," said Leonard, an adult education graduate student.

While Koopman and Leonard watched the melee, Travis Fox, UPC events director, spent most of his time talking with reporters.

"It wasn't meant to be a political statement," he said to one reporter. "Nobody can refute Barney's message," he said to another. "But the purple dinosaur, that's negotiable."

During a break in the bashing, Fox called the event a success.

"I never expected we'd sacrifice a table," he said. "Everybody got really hammy for the cameras and things. The media definitely made it a lot more than it potentially could have been."



Travis Heying/DN

Kirk Smith, a sophomore pre-dentistry major, takes a swing at an inflated Barney punching bag Wednesday afternoon during "Barney Bash."

## ASUN passes bill in favor of UNL general education plan

By Matthew Waite  
Staff Reporter

After almost two hours of debate, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska voted to pass the general education requirements bill.

Elizabeth Grobsmith, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, was present to answer the many questions senators had about

the university's proposal.

Grobsmith said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln currently had requirements for graduation, but there was no uniformity to them, which surprised some officials.

"When Chancellor (Graham) Spanier came here in 1991, he expressed great concern that we are one of the few universities without a general education plan," Grobsmith said.

Grobsmith said some UNL students graduated without ever going to the library, the Lied Center for Performing Arts or the Sheldon

Memorial Art Gallery. She said UNL needed a general education curriculum to prevent students from missing cultural opportunities.

Grobsmith said the 30 credit hours of required courses could be overlapped with existing courses.

The requirements will not be instituted unless individual colleges consent, she said.

Grobsmith said she hoped the plan would be approved by the end of the semester.

ASUN President Keith Benes, who drafted the bill to support the

new requirements, said part of the university experience was to learn how to think. He said the requirements needed to be part of each college.

Benes said the program provided enough flexibility and ambiguity to avoid limiting any college's curriculum.

Both senators from the engineering college opposed the measure, saying they could take only 18 credit hours outside their college. They said they could not meet all the graduation requirements in

the plan without taking more classes.

After two failed attempts to delay action on the bill, it was amended by General Studies Senator Mark Byars.

The amendment said the plan would be implemented if funds were identified in advance to cover any costs incurred in the implementation. Byars said additional changes in current classes could require more funding.

The amendment was passed and the revised bill was passed by a vote of 19 to 8.

## Shows abroad let singers communicate through music

By James Goodwin  
Staff Reporter

This semester, UNL junior Lance Hedlund learned he could communicate in a foreign country. And he doesn't even speak the language.

The general studies major went with the University Singers to the Czech and Latvia republics Sept. 15-27 for the Prague Spiritual Music Festival and the Riga Dimd Choral Festival.

During a mixer with singers from other countries who participated in the festivals, Hedlund said he had an experience he'd never forget.

"There was a half circle of Norwegians and a half circle of us just standing around a candle singing back and forth to each other," he said. "Stated simply, music is a common language."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln music professor Jim Hejduk, who directed the group, said the University Singers split their 13-day tour between the republics' capital cities of Prague, in the Czech Republic, and Riga, Latvia.

Singing groups from Latvia, Norway and Italy also performed at the festivals, he said.

The 31 students who took the trip originally were scheduled to go to the region two years ago, but couldn't because of a lack of funding, Hejduk said.

The trip, which cost about \$1,400 per student, eventually was paid for with combined monies from UNL's School of Music, the College of Fine and Performing Arts and the students themselves.

Although the Europeans enjoyed the University Singers entire repertoire, Hejduk said, they especially liked the group's performance of an African-American spiritual.

"If we were to go again, I'd definitely program more spirituals ... and some decent arrangements of American folk songs, although those are

— 66 —  
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— Cope senior, women's studies major

— 99 —  
few and far between."

Hejduk said the audience also enjoyed the singers' performance of a piece written to commemorate the death of John F. Kennedy.

"Kennedy is still generally revered in Europe," he said.

But the audience wasn't the only group to enjoy the experience.

Robin Rowe-Wigdahl, a senior business administration major, said she enjoyed seeing the sights of Prague, especially St. Winslow Square.

But Rowe-Wigdahl said Prague's citizens attracted her most to the city.

"They were just a very genuine people," she said.

Melba Cope, senior women's studies major, said the the Latvians gave the group a similar welcome.

"The Latvians were very friendly and helpful. They had a profound respect for their country and were very eager in sharing it with us."

In addition to getting acquainted with the Latvians and Czechs, the Singers met and spent time with other choirs, including ones from Italy and Norway.

Thursday the University Singers will present a public slide show about their experiences abroad and perform a Norwegian piece they learned on the trip.

The free performance will take place at 2:30 p.m. in the Westbrook Music Building.

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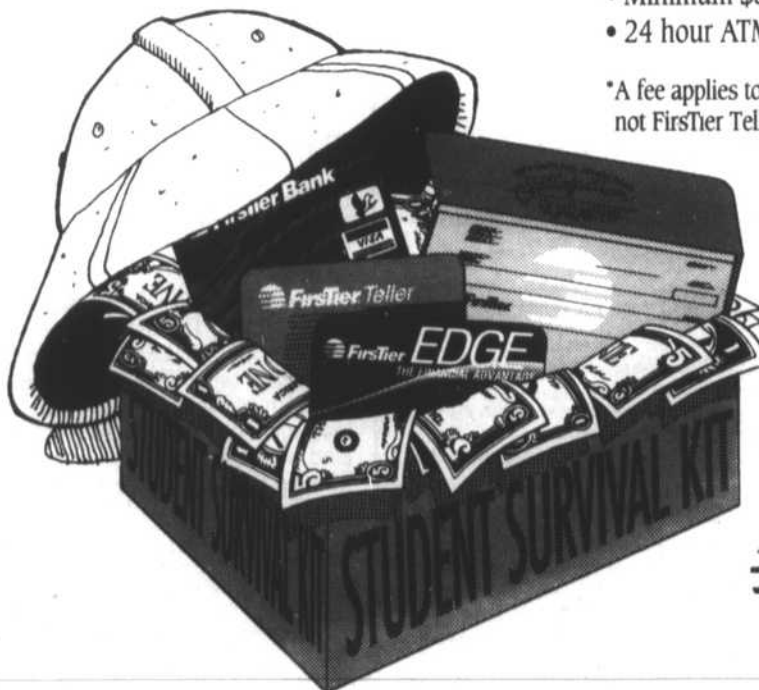
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