

Welcome events attract new students in big numbers

By Justin Fisher
Staff Reporter

The success of this weekend's Big Red Welcome exceeded past years, event organizers said.

Lisa Schmidt, director of admissions at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said this year's Big Red Welcome was the "biggest and best ever."

Pat McBride, director of New Student Enrollment, said about 1,500 students attended the All University Welcome, and about 3,000 came to the festival at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. He also said event organizers served 1,500 hot dogs Friday evening at the picnic by Broyhill Fountain.

Deb Dohmen, the student organizer of this year's Big Red Welcome, said she credited the high attendance to increased publicity during New Student Enrollment and in residence halls and greek houses.

Pledge educators from Delta Gamma Sorority, Jessica Bettger and Megan Mullin, brought their new pledge class to the welcome to help the new students discover what the university had to offer.

One pledge, Karey Vering of Colleyville, Texas, said, "All the energy makes me very excited for the football games to start."

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier and Andrew Loudon, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, tried to draw upon the energy Friday during their welcoming addresses.

Both speakers stressed the impor-

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—Vering
freshman

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tance of getting involved in campus organizations and getting to know university faculty and staff.

The festival, held at the indoor track in the Devaney Center, offered students the opportunity to put Spanier and Loudon's words to work. Students could sign up to get involved in many campus activities.

Ann Burnett, director of speech and debate at UNL, said the welcome was a "good opportunity to get our name out on campus."

But more important to many students was the free stuff at the festival. Local eateries offered a taste of their food, and students made away with pens, cups and other goodies.

A few students took home even more.

Brenda Robbins of Burwell won a stereo compact disc player in a drawing.

Twana Harris, a graduate student from California State University at Long Beach, said the welcoming activities did a good job to "make people who are not from here feel welcome."



Shaun Sartin/DN

Anne Homan, who coaches new members of the University of Nebraska crew team, practices her rowing during Big Red Welcome on Friday. About 3,000 students attended the welcome held at the Bob Devaney Sports Center indoor track. The university holds the welcome each year to help new students get acclimated to college life.

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Few rules have been enacted on bicycle use

By James Hruska
Staff Reporter

Few regulations govern bicycle, inline skate and skateboard use on campus, parking advisory chairman Daryl Swanson said.

Several regulations were considered last semester, but so far none have been enacted, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Chief Ken Cauble said.

Last January, the Parking Advisory Committee, at its monthly meeting, discussed the hazards of bicycle traffic on campus pedestrian paths. The group discussed several plans that would eliminate bike traffic in certain areas of the campus.

Some plans suggested creating dismount zones, which are areas of campus where bikes can't be ridden. The zones would be designated in congested areas of campus.

Swanson said no plans to create bicycle regulations were on the parking advisory committee's agenda for this year. But the issue could re-emerge if students or faculty brought it up.

"We would invite the interested community to bring it back on the table," he said.

Cauble said he wanted to see a plan similar to one used at the University of Colorado in Boulder. At that school, bike racks are brought to a few central locations near or on campus.

The central location of bikes makes them easy for police to protect from thieves, he said. Police have had a hard time watching bikes that are scattered and locked to signs, trees and buildings, he said.



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