



Travis Heying/DN

Elvy Musikka, a South Florida resident, takes a drag from a marijuana cigarette after speaking Thursday to a small crowd gathered at Broyhill Plaza. Musikka is allowed to smoke the drug legally for medical purposes. Musikka suffers from glaucoma and lost sight in an eye. She said smoking marijuana saved sight in her other eye.

Pot backers rally in 'joint' effort

By Sean McCarthy
Staff Reporter

"Hemp, hemp, hurrah," ralliers at Broyhill Fountain shouted Thursday as a giant joint burned.

"We like pot; we smoke it a lot," supporters said at the rally, which was sponsored by the National Organization for Reformation of Marijuana Laws/Help End Marijuana Prohibition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Cannabis Action Network, a national group to end marijuana prohibition.

The rally featured information booths, bands and speakers, all promoting hemp, a byproduct of marijuana. Hemp wallets, T-shirts, necklaces and other products were sold at booths around Broyhill. The rally included a march to the State Capitol to support legalizing marijuana.

Elvy Musikka, one of eight people in the United States who is approved to use marijuana legally, was the key speaker at the rally. Since 1988, Musikka has used prescribed marijuana to treat glaucoma.

David Splichal, coordinator for NORML/HEMP at UNL, said the event took about two weeks to organize. The Omaha Hemp Movement, People Against Polluters, Nebraska Rainbow Coalition and Nebraskans for Justice were some of the other sponsors of the event.

"The motivation for this was to primarily actively address all issues involved in the hemp movement, which includes medical purposes and commercial and industrial benefits," Splichal said.

Rachel Dawson, national coordi-

nator for the tour, said Nebraska was the fourth stop this year. Response to the tour has been positive, Dawson said. At Thursday's rally, passers-by occasionally would let out jeers.

"Five years ago, most people would have never heard of hemp; now it's much more well known," Dawson said.

Musikka, a Florida native, has traveled with the Cannabis Action Network and has participated in debates, hearings and rallies since 1988. Musikka said she had found overwhelming support for her cause.

"I have seen support from everyone, from students to physicians," Musikka said. "In every survey I have participated in, 75 to 80 percent of the people surveyed would make marijuana legal."

Parking reactions surveyed

From Staff Reports

UNL Parking Services is using a survey to find out how recent parking changes have affected students and visitors.

"We thought it would be best to do a survey to find out what is going on," said Tad McDowell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Parking Services manager.

The survey examines changes in parking areas, the addition of StarTran busing and modes of transportation, he said. The survey also could help determine the location of a university parking garage, McDowell said.

The number of people per car and areas where people park are other factors being studied, he said.

The survey, conducted by the UNL Bureau of Sociological Re-

search, began Sept. 26 and will conclude today, McDowell said.

Students and employees of the bureau are distributing the surveys, said David Johnson, co-director of the bureau. They distribute surveys in buildings that have heavy traffic of both students and visitors, he said.

McDowell said he hoped to complete at least 500 interviews. Completing one survey interview takes about two minutes, he said.

When the survey is complete, results will be entered into a computer, and parking services will write a report on the results. The report should be made public by Nov. 1, McDowell said.

McDowell said he hoped the survey would show how convenient parking was for students and visitors.

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