Students saddle up for college rodeo

By Stacie Renner Staff Reporter

The thrill of competition is what has kept Terri Bridgman in the rodeo.

Bridgman, a junior veterinary science major, won her first buckle when she was 11. She is one of more than 200 students who will compete today through Saturday in the University of Nebraska Rodeo Association's College Rodeo.

The event, in its 37th year, is the biggest fund-raiser for the group. The rodeo will take place at the State Fair

Two rodeos will take place, said George Pfeiffer, adviser for the group and agricultural economics associate professor. The first rodeo will take place today and this evening with the second taking place Saturday afternoon and evening. A dance featuring "Aces High" will follow each rodeo in the State Fair Grandstands.

The rodeos, which are two of 10 rodeos that occur in the region each year, are chances for participants to collect points to qualify for the National Intercollegiate Rodeo in June.

The top two regional teams, along

with the top two individuals, will travel to Montana to compete nationally.

Winners also receive money, belt buckles and other prizes.

Five events make up the men's competition: bare-back bronco riding, calfroping, saddle bronco riding, steer wrestling and bull wrestling. Women compete in barrel racing, break-away roping and goat tying. Team roping is

open to both men and women. Preparation for the event is year-round with the last month being particularly busy, said Penny Waller, a junior agricultural education major and chairwoman of the program and tickets committee.

Bridgman said a great deal of preparation went into putting the rodeo together. The group sells advertisements to help support the rodeo and prints a program of the rodeo. Those involved also print banners for sponsors, set up the arena area and organize the event.

A sold-out crowd is expected both Friday and Saturday evenings, Waller

"It's just like any other sport," Waller said. "These athletes that compete go through practices. There is a great deal of time and preparation.'



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Miller

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good music and point them in the right direction.

Johnston said he still used Miller as a musical resource for the school's swing choir, which has received honorary invitations and gold trophies.

Johnston and Goodwin said they had many fond memories of the group, including one time when a singer performed for 15 minutes at an Omaha show with his zipper down. "Every time he turned around, the

audience applauded," Johnston said. 'He couldn't figure it out.'

Fortunately, that incident did not

ruin Gene Klosner's career. Klosner, who was with the group from 1979 to 1983, went on to be an acoustic rock recording artist in Antioch, Tenn.

When reminded of the zipper incident, Klosner commended Miller for his tolerance.

"He definitely put up with our antics," he said, "which would have given anyone health problems."

The Scarlet & Cream singers will perform their annual spring concert at UNL under Miller's direction for the last time this weekend.

The singers take the stage Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$6 for students and senior citizens.

Weber

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intended to finish his degree and go to medical school.

His plans changed.

"I wanted to become a specialist, and that meant at least another eight years of school," he said. "Once I got a taste of making some decent money doing what I really loved to do, it was hard to go back.'

Weber was told by several differ-ent people that he should take a shot at the big time. He took their advice.

He said the fact that his gamble had been successful was a pleasant sur-

prise.
"I never thought I'd be doing this

After leaving UNL for good, Weber spent 1 1/2 years performing on a cruise ship. During that time, he said, his decision to pursue a show business

"My last six months doing the cruise that's when I decided to give it a go as a career and move to New York and really go for the big time.'

The move to New York paid off. Working as a bartender at night, Weber auditioned during the day. He landed some work as an extra on a soap opera and won a role in a produc-

tion of "Cats" in Switzerland, where he lived for a year.

He also was a cast member on the national tour of "Starlight Express."

In September 1993, he moved to Las Vegas and began working in his present role. Because of his role in "Starlight Express," Weber said, he will have the financial security to move back to New York this September and audition exclusively, without having to work a night job to support himself.

Meanwhile, Weber is back in school — this time in theater arts. With 17 credit hours this semester in addition to his already rigorous performance schedule, Weber said he was sometimes hard-pressed to find time to study.

Looking ahead, Weber laughed, saying his ultimate goal was "to be a working actor.'

Weber, who trained as an actor, goals were to land a principal role on Broadway and possibly to break into television and movies.

Right now, he's looking forward to finishing his run with "Starlight Ex-

press" and moving on. "It's time to make a break ... I'd rather get out and find out what else I

ASUN

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she said. One of them left shortly after reporting that a man in the group was spitting chewing tobacco on the floor. When the waitress gave the man a

cup, Ziems said, she recognized him as Loudon. If more staff had been on hand, she said, the group probably would have been told to leave.

The damaged pictures in an upstairs meeting room were found by Laird the next morning. A discussion group meets in the room on Wednesdays, Ziems said, and the doors had been left unlocked.

Although she never saw members of the group going upstairs, she said she believed they were the only ones who could have committed the act.
"It was so crazy that night," she

said. "They must have literally been throwing popcorn around. When they left, it looked like it had snowed."

Jason Bynum, arts and sciences senator, said he was at the bar from 10 to 11 that night. Everyone was seated and talking about the evening, he said. Neither the waitress nor the bartender ever accused the group of being disruptive, he said.
"I was totally surprised (by the

letter)," Bynum said. "I didn't see anything, but they were saying we were just tearing the place apart."

Hurtgen said ASUN officials were looking into the issue and questioning party-goers.

Ziems said former ASUN president Andy Massey had called to apologize for the evening, and she didn't know if there were any monetary estimates for the damage.



