

Spelling relief

The Nebraska baseball team relies on a pitch-by-committee system that helped the team to a fast start this season. PAGE 10

Collective groan

The newest Top 40 "alternative" act to entertain Lincoln audiences, Collective Soul, comes to Pershing Auditorium tonight. PAGE 13

April 20, 1999

WARM AND PEACEABLE

Partly sunny, high 72. Cloudy tonight, low 45.

Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 98

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 142

Sex, Drugs & Saving Souls



ONE OF DAMIEN WRIGHT'S FRIENDS holds a bucket and his head up. The only time Wright vomited was in the car - but he doesn't remember.



WRIGHT TOSSES BACK one of his first shots. One of Wright's worst drinks was cognac, he said. "It tasted like shit. That one took me four drinks to go down. All the rest were one gulp. I only did a few shots after that because it was so bad," Wright said.

CLOSING TIME

Story by Sarah Baker ■ Photos by Matt Miller

Bar owners, experts attest to problem of binge drinking

Editor's note: This is the fifth day of an eight-part series on college students' high-risk behaviors and the movements to curb them.

The force that draws students to O Street once the sun goes down is a strong one.

It's almost primitive.

The lure of a \$2 draught, the sound of rock 'n' roll blasting out of a jukebox, the dark, smoke-filled air that holds the prospect of meeting someone at the most unexpected moment who seems perfect for at least those few hours - it's like nothing else.

Most University of Nebraska-Lincoln students don't associate their Thursday (or Friday, or Saturday) night activities with the often misunderstood term of "binge drinking."

By definition, binge drinking is having four or more drinks in a row for women and five or more drinks for men.

A frequent binge drinker is qualified as someone who consumes the required amount of drinks three or more times in a span of two weeks, according to a study at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Many students often partake in this much drinking in

Legislature

Cigarette tax debate set for May

By JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

For the second time this year, debate on a bill that would boost the cost of a pack of cigarettes to more than \$4 a pack was delayed.

Sen. David Landis, who sponsored LB505, said he needed time to better assess the varying degrees of support for the bill. Debate on the bill, which would increase the cigarette tax from 34 cents to \$1 per pack, is set for mid-May.

Cigarette taxes in surrounding states for a pack of 20 cigarettes.

Iowa	36 cents a pack
Nebraska	34 cents a pack
South Dakota	33 cents a pack
Kansas	24 cents a pack
Colorado	20 cents a pack
Missouri	17 cents a pack
Wyoming	12 cents a pack

JON FRANK/DN

much the tax increase should be or whether education, not taxation, is the answer to reducing the number of smokers.

An amendment that would increase the tax by 30 cents a pack fell one vote short of advancing last week during debate.

Lobbying groups on both sides of the issue have been spending a lot of time trying to sway senators' votes.

"It's probably one of the more heavily lobbied bills this session," said Rich Lombardi, a lobbyist for Citizens for Healthy Nebraska, a coalition of health care professionals.

Please see **SMOKES** on 3

StarTran fares well regionally

By JOSH KNAUB
Staff writer

StarTran officials are asking riders to grade the service this week using a report card-style survey.

But StarTran service, free to University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, is already ahead of the curve when compared with bus services offered to other Midwest university students, said StarTran administrative aide Debbie Sovereign.

"We've rated very well in previous years," Sovereign said. "Riders mainly want more service routes and later hours."

StarTran operates 18 regular neighborhood bus routes, six express morning and evening shuttle routes and two downtown circular routes.

Please see **BUS** on 3