

Charity event a 'fantasy' for chocolate lovers

By Jill Zeman

Staff writer

It was a dream come true for chocolate lovers.

Chocolate handcuffs, chocolate police badges, chocolate beer mugs and even chocolate dog bones were available at the 14th Annual Chocolate Lover's Fantasy at the Holiday Inn, Ninth and P streets.

More than 600 people attended, said Shannon Drake, planning committee member.

The committee of the Chocolate Lover's Fantasy began preparations in October and comprised members representing the Cancer Resource Center and the Historic Haymarket District, said Drake.

The event raised about \$12,500, which will be split between the Cancer Resource Center for counseling for cancer victims and the Historic Haymarket District for continued revitalization and beautifica-

tion, Drake said.

The committee asked about 25 chefs to come up with chocolate creations, Drake said.

Each chef was asked to bring 600 to 800 bite-size samples of their chocolate, Drake said.

Tom Duden of the Lincoln Police Union said this was the fourth year the union has participated in the event.

"It shows we're active in the community and support activities within the community," Duden said.

The Lincoln Police Union prepared chocolate handcuffs, badges and radios and were given the award of Most Creative Use of Chocolate, Drake said.

Jeannie Mutum, a kitchen worker at Old Chicago, was one of the three workers who helped prepare the restaurant's samples.

Mutum and others helped construct a five-gallon beer mug with the Old Chicago logo on front, made entirely of chocolate, she said.

Old Chicago was named Most Unique Table, Drake said.

"It was really fun decorating everything," Mutum said.

Jack Saltzman of Cedars Youth Services was another celebrity chef participating.

Cedars Youth Services is an organization that takes in about 10,000 homeless or abandoned children yearly, Saltzman said.

Members of the organization brought cookies for the event made by the chef at Cedars, Saltzman said.

These cookies are the same ones served to the children every day, Saltzman said.

"We want everyone to know how well the children are treated at Cedars," Saltzman said.

Guests had the opportunity to bid on items in both silent and live auctions, Drake said. Some items donated by local businesses were Lincoln Stars hockey tickets, a puppy, a keg of Crane River beer, flowers and gift certificates.



Sharon Kolbet/DN

ETHAN CARPENTER gazes upon chocolate-dipped marshmallows, bananas and strawberries at the fondue table hosted by Sullivan's Catering. Fondue was just one of the treats at the 14th annual Chocolate Lover's Fantasy held Sunday night at the Holiday Inn, Ninth and P streets.

Discussion to inform about partner benefits

■ Forum to give students chance to voice opinions about implementation of domestic partners benefits.

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

A group of students, faculty and staff members are taking a step toward encouraging university officials to consider the implementation of domestic partner benefits.

After months of work researching domestic partner benefits — which would give gay partners the same benefits as married couples — a student government advisory council is ready to test the waters for student support.

The Sexual Orientation Advisory Council, a subcommittee associated with the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, will hold a public forum Tuesday night to answer questions and provide information concerning the implementation of domestic partner benefits.

The forum is the precursor to a

vote in ASUN that supports extending benefits to the faculty and staff of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The forum is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff and others interested to learn about the implications of implementing domestic partner benefits at the University of Nebraska, said Natalie Hoover, the ASUN liaison to the advisory council.

"We want to inform students as to what domestic partner benefits are, educate them about the process and why they are important," Hoover said.

Hoover said the group decided to look into the logistics of implementing domestic partner benefits because of their importance to many faculty, staff and students on campus.

After looking at UNL's policy on unlawful discrimination, Hoover said, the group feels the university's policy on domestic partner benefits violates the policy.

The university's policy on nondiscrimination states that support services and conditions of employment will be made without discrimination on the basis of marital status or sexual orientation.

"The advisory council believes the policy and practice is in direct conflict (with UNL's nondiscrimination clause). People do not receive equal pay and do not receive equal benefits."

Natalie Hoover

ASUN liaison to the advisory council

Hoover said the council is not living up to the parameters set in the first part of the nondiscrimination clause, she said.

"The advisory council believes the policy and practice is in direct conflict," Hoover said "People do not receive equal pay and do not receive equal benefits."

The advisory council isn't the first group to bring up concerns about what it sees as a policy gap.

The Academic Senate has looked into implementing the benefits, and has passed a resolution on it twice — in 1996 and 1998 — said Gail Latta, president of UNL's Academic Senate.

But the resolution that will be before the student senate will be unique in that it asks ASUN to work with other campuses to get support for implementing the benefits, Latta said.

If support for implementing the

benefits exists on all campuses, it will be impossible for the NU Board of Regents to ignore it, Latta said.

"The most effective thing ASUN would do is work with other campuses to get support," she said. "Other campuses have not been as supportive, and that has been a stumbling block."

Latta said getting the administration to address the lack of domestic benefits has been a problem.

But Hoover said she thinks it is realistic that a resolution passed by ASUN could spark discussion among the regents.

"It's still a very sensitive and controversial issue in society," she said. "But it is obvious discrimination, and the way to amend it is to implement domestic partner benefits."

Everyone is invited to the discussion Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

RHA hears recreation proposal

By Jackie Blair

Staff writer

The Campus Recreation Center shared a proposal with the Residence Hall Association on Sunday that may add more recreational facilities.

The proposal would include indoor and outdoor tennis courts, six multipurpose areas, sand volleyball courts, basketball courts, climbing towers and an ice-skating rink.

Stan Campbell, Campus Recreation Center adviser, said the idea to update and add facilities came from the need to renovate the tennis courts.

"I'm really interested in the ice-skating rink," said Eryn Vaughn, a freshman Spanish and communications major and a Smith Residence Hall RHA representative.

Vaughn said ice-skating and broomball are popular activities for students, but it's difficult to find times to go to the Ice Box because of Lincoln Stars hockey practices.

The proposal would put new facilities where the softball field, parking lot, Reunion building and Harper-Schramm-Smith tennis courts are along 14th Street.

The new softball fields would be put somewhere between City and East campuses, but officials haven't found a definite location.

The indoor tennis courts would be built directly south of Smith Hall. This ultimately will block the first four floors of Smith, Campbell said.

The tennis courts could easily be moved farther east so they're not blocking the residence halls, he said.

The added facilities would take away 530 parking stalls, Campbell said. But Campbell said that because of campus construction projects, a parking garage that will hold 1,200 spots is slated for 17th and R streets. Other garages are planned, as well.

If the proposal to build more recreation facilities is approved by the university, then construction would begin in about five years. The first to be built would be the ice-skating rink and the basketball courts.

There are also plans for an East Campus recreation center in the next six to 10 years.

"Student fees would more than likely have to increase, but there is no cost estimate at this time," Campbell said.


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