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Lucky Charm

Micky's, the newest bar on O Street, brings Irish authenticity to the strip. A&E, PAGE 9



It's Over

Nebraska's men's basketball season ends with a 63-55 loss to Baylor. SPORTS, PAGE 16



LINCOLN IRISH DANCERS member Betty Bloomquist teaches a traditional dance to Lisa Hutt on Thursday night at the Auld Recreation Center, 3140 Sumner St. The dancers performed for a crowd of about 300 mentally disabled people and ended the night with a dance lesson.

Josh Wolfe/DN

Dancing through the ISLES

Irish Dancers give Lincoln a taste of Celtic tradition

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

Irish dancing — what a wee good way to spend an evening.

The craze of Irish dancing took off after people were mesmerized by Riverdance, an Irish dance production. It has sparked lessons from the Karen McWilliams School of Dance and interest for an Irish dancing club in Lincoln.

"It's something that you love it, or you hate it," McWilliams said. "And if you love it, you love it with a passion. It's hypnotic."

McWilliams began teaching her classes to 9-year-olds through high school seniors about three years ago. Since then 70-75 students have been drawn to the classes, she said.

About the same time Luanne

Anderson, a Lincoln dance teacher for 10 years, organized the Lincoln Irish Dancers, a dancing club focused on the Ceili style, in the spring of 1997.

Ceili is traditional Irish folk dancing and originally was an opportunity for an informal gathering for dancing, singing and story telling.

Some of the Lincoln Irish Dancers took classes once a week from McWilliams, but because of time conflicts, the classes had to end, McWilliams said.

With quick, precise moves, a lot of jumping with no help of momentum from arm movement, McWilliams said the style was one of the hardest dancing forms because it takes strong legs.

"The stamina that it takes is incredi-

Irish Dancing took off in part because of the success of Riverdance. The Lincoln Irish Dancers do 25-30 performances a year.

Irish Moves

March 16	Pre-show entertainment at Joyo Theatre
March 17	Havelock B & R
March 17	The Ambassador Care Center
March 18	People First at The Loft
April 13	Van Dorn Villa
July 3	That's Entertainment - Antelope Park Bandshell
July 14	That's Entertainment - Antelope Park Bandshell

Please see IRISH on 7

Melanie Falk/DN

Student to tell his story at Harvard

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

UNL senior Joel Wiegert's spring break plans are a little out of the ordinary.

During a week when college students typically flock to the nation's hot spots to sun bathe and take in plenty of booze, Wiegert will be doing the opposite.

He will be proclaiming his status as a "former binge drinker" during a press conference at Harvard University.

Tuesday, officials from the Harvard School of Public Health will give updated

statistics about binge drinking on college campuses.

Wiegert will be there as one of two students chosen to tell the nation his story of once having been a binge drinker.

The other student, who is from Florida State, will talk about his experiences as an "abstainer."

During his appearance, Wiegert will tell about his experience of coming to college and rapidly becoming a part of the binge-drinking scene.

"I was part of the counter-culture when I came to college," Wiegert said. "When I had a good time, it was because I was

drinking."

In the past, if alcohol wasn't part of an event, Wiegert said he wouldn't have participated in it.

He said he eventually woke up to the dangers of high-risk drinking. As an economics major, he performed a cost-benefit analysis, he said.

"I have yet to find a benefit to high-risk drinking," he said.

But in his message to the nation's media Tuesday, Wiegert said, he wouldn't

Please see WIEGERT on 7

— LEGISLATURE —

Tie vote stalls research bill in committee

By Veronica Daehn

Staff writer

For now, fetal tissue research is safe at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Judiciary Committee members failed to advance a bill Thursday that would have banned the use of aborted fetal tissue in research.

Sen. David Hilgert of Omaha introduced the bill in response to the discovery last November that UNMC was using cells from aborted fetuses for medical research.

Sen. Paul Hartnett of Bellevue made the bill his priority bill.

The bill needed five votes to advance, and there was a stalemate in the committee — a 4-4 vote.

Elkhorn Sen. Dwite Pedersen voted to advance the bill to the floor.

Despite Thursday's defeat, Pedersen said he thought the bill still would make it to floor debate.

Senators can file a motion next week that would allow for a floor vote on whether the bill should be pulled from committee.

The bill needs 25 votes to be debated on the floor. Twenty-nine senators co-signed Hilgert's bill.

Pedersen said he supported the bill the whole time.

"We need to look at other alternatives," he said. "If we would have spent all this time working on finding alternatives (to using the aborted tissue), we'd have found some by now."

Hilgert was unavailable for comment Thursday, but his legislative aide Joe Cohout said Hilgert

"Now, we'll get busy working on alternatives."

Dwite Pedersen

Elkhorn senator

always had supported the bill.

"He thought LB1405 was a reasonable, responsible reaction to recent discoveries of the use of fetal tissue at UNMC," Cohout said.

Pedersen said he hoped there would be an effort to bring the bill to the floor and get it passed, but he didn't know who would file the motion.

The senator said he supported the research UNMC does but doesn't think aborted tissue should be used.

Members of the Judiciary Committee met in executive session Thursday morning and did not discuss the bill before they voted.

They had been discussing it informally since it was introduced, Pedersen said.

"I knew what the vote was going to be," he said. "Now, we'll get busy working on alternatives."

Senators who voted against advancing the bill were: Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, Sen. Pat Bourne of Omaha, Sen. Jennie Robak of Columbus and Sen. Matt Connealy of Decatur.

Besides Pedersen and Hilgert, Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha and Sen. Tom Baker of Trenton voted to advance the bill.

Rock for a cause



Sharon Kolbet/DN

MEMBERS OF THE group of Blue Panic, Jon Kelley, left, and Doug Graber, both UNL students, lead off Abelpalooza on Thursday evening in the Nebraska Union Ballroom. The event was organized by the Abel Residence Hall Association and Pi Kappa Alpha.