

# Daily Nebraskan

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Freshman music major Thomas Pullen drinks the free soda police gave to him during the Mall Stop 2000. During the event Lincoln police officers gave away buffalo wings and soda to promote safe drinking habits.



David Clasen/DN

## Stop fills bargoers' stomachs

Police, bars and NU Directions warm up to students with free soda, buffalo wings and tips on responsible drinking.

BY JOSH FUNK

Lincoln Police and the downtown bars chipped in Thursday to buy the first 1,000 people they saw a round of drinks — soda that is.

In an effort to improve student-police relations and teach students how to drink responsibly, police, the bars and NU Directions gave out buffalo wings, information and cups good for free soda at any participating bar.

Although some of the students who happened by Centennial Mall and R Street when the program started at 9:30 p.m. may have been warded off by the bright television lights from local news outlets, most found their way to the free food.

"As long as it reaches enough people, it's an outstanding, innovative program," said Sean Sutherland, a junior forestry, fisheries

and wildlife and agronomy major. "It would be better if it was more downtown."

NU Directions was founded in 1998 with a \$700,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to reduce high-risk drinking on campus.

That does not mean the group is against drinking, NU Directions Communications Director Tom Workman said. It just wants students to drink responsibly.

That message was clear in some of the tips NU Directions pasted on the side of the free cups. Organizers tried to change UNL students' attitudes toward drinking by introducing some issues with tips on the cup.

One such tip advised students to "drink better brands and slow down to enjoy them. There's no rush to finish quickly."

The free cups were designed to introduce the idea of spacing to help students slow their drinking with soda between drinks.

"We thought the best way to do that was to use the magic word in college: free," Workman said.

By the time the television lights were shut off at 10:30 p.m., students were seen joking

"I think it's a cool idea. It lets us see police and see their good side."

Justin Wilberding  
junior biology major

with the Lincoln Police officers handing out wings, which was one of the night's main goals.

"It's a chance for the average student to visit with an officer at a time when they are not being contacted" by an officer for violating the law, Lincoln Police Capt. Joy Citta said. Students said they liked meeting the officers when they weren't being suspected of or cited for anything.

"I think it's a cool idea," said junior biology major Justin Wilberding. "It lets us see police and see their good side."

Some students said they just stumbled on

Please see BEER on 7

## Spade to bring act to campus

BY JILL ZEMAN

During this year's Homecoming week, students can expect to hear more than the rousing phrase, "There is no place like Nebraska," repeated over and over again.

Rather, they will be able to hear comedian David Spade make jokes about pretty much anything — maybe even Nebraska football.

Spade is scheduled to appear Nov. 2 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's homecoming festivities.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, the University Program Council and the Athletic Department are bringing the comedian to campus, said Jill Braband, ASUN Homecoming Committee co-chairwoman.

Spade's appearance is made possible through fund-raisers, grants and corporate sponsorships, she said.

Braband said she thought Spade's performance would be popular with students.

"He's a popular figure and appeals to a variety of people," she said.

Homecoming organizers wanted to bring a major entertainer to continue the week's Thursday night tailgate tradition, said Joel Schafer, ASUN president.

"We wanted to make Thursday night a big event," he said.

The night also will incorporate the football team, with coaches and players scheduled to speak, he said.

Schafer said he thought the event would be popular with students.

"Students want more entertainment brought to campus," he said.

Because Spade, who

Please see SPADE on 7



Josh Wolfe/DN

Jesse James, 6, cools off at the drinking fountain next to Park Middle School Tuesday night. Jesse and a few neighborhood friends had been playing basketball most of the evening.

## Teacher-salary plan laid out by group

BY GEORGE GREEN

A teacher-salary task force selected to investigate teacher pay presented its proposals to a Legislative committee Thursday, but it didn't propose specific ways to pay for them.

Members of the Education Committee said they were committed to raising teacher pay despite a \$32 million state budget shortfall and Gov. Mike Johanns' pledge to not increase taxes.

Sen. Ardyce Bohlke, chairwoman of the Education Committee and a task-force member, presented the group's findings and highlighted the report's nine major proposals.

The Teacher Salary Task Force was created by the Legislature in 1999 to study teacher-pay problems in Nebraska.

A \$180 million price tag for the plan overshadowed the committee's presentation.

"The proposals can not be funded without additional revenues," said Harrison Sen. Bob Wickersham, a task-force member.

Johanns is not enthusiastic about the proposals, said Sen. Deborah Suttle of Omaha.

The governor, though, is not the final word, Wickersham said. If the governor disagrees with the proposals, members of the Legislature will have to find the 30 votes necessary to override a veto.

Chris Peterson, a spokesman for the governor, said the budget process is just beginning, and the governor would not comment on the proposals.

The report's proposals include:

■ Rewarding teachers through pay bonuses based on the number of years they've taught and the amount of education completed, Bohlke said.

■ Evaluating teacher performance and paying bonuses

to teachers who excel in the classroom, she said.

Before statewide implementation of the bonus program, the group wants to create pilot programs in five school districts to establish specific teacher-evaluation criteria and an unbiased assessment committee, she said.

■ Providing teachers five additional contract work days each year, Bohlke said.

■ Expanding mentoring programs for new teachers to include all first-, second- and third-year teachers, she said.

Despite the high price tag for implementing the proposals, Wickersham said a variety of options are available to fund them.

When the committee interviewed people in Nebraska communities about financing the programs, they suggested raising sales and income taxes but opposed raising property taxes, Bohlke said.

Last year, the Legislature lowered the property-tax levy from \$1.10 to \$1 in response to public pressure.

The 20-member task force, which is composed of government officials, businesspeople and school teachers and administrators, will sponsor town-hall meetings in each congressional district to gauge public reaction to the proposals, Bohlke said.

Problems with teacher pay prompted the Legislature to form the task force, Bohlke said.

According to the report, from 1998 to 1999, Nebraska paid teachers an average salary of \$32,880, ranking it 43rd in the nation.

Nebraska also will replace half of its teaching staff in the next 10 years, which means it needs to attract new, competent teachers, said Jim Griess, a task-force member from the Nebraska State Education Association.

"This is our opportunity to grow quality teachers," he said.

## High school students break out of traditional mode at Zoo School

BY VERONICA DAEHN

It was the middle of a student government meeting at this focus school, and ideas were flying.

The voices of nearly 20 high school students mixed and played over each other, fighting to be heard.

They talked about respecting the animals and the computer labs. Some mentioned the idea of a school ski trip. The enthusiasm was overflowing.

The room was a bit like a zoo. But perhaps that should be expected.

More than 70 Lincoln Public School high school students this year attend classes at Zoo School, a science

focus program at Folsom Children's Zoo, 1222 S. 27th St.

And the cacophony of this day was not unusual.

Michelle Guittar, a senior from Lincoln Northeast, said at Zoo School, everyone knows each other. It's her second year at the school.

They talk so much because everyone gets along.

Kristen Pudenz said there weren't any cliques like there were in Lincoln's public high school buildings.

"People here don't seem to form those boundaries," said Pudenz, a Lincoln High sophomore in her first year at Zoo School.

But those were just a few of the rea-

sons students at Zoo School said they liked their out-of-the-ordinary learning atmosphere.

It's more relaxed and more fun at Zoo School, students said. Teachers go by their first names. It's more like a family.

Pudenz said she had been bored at Lincoln High.

Guittar said she had wanted a new challenge, a new atmosphere.

"I was too comfortable at the high school," she said. "I wanted to make a change and see if I could do something else."

Students have to apply to attend

Please see ZOO on 7



Josh Wolfe/DN

Mackenzie Mueller, a senior at the Zoo School, stuffs vitamins into fish that would be fed to seals. Mueller works with the zookeepers as part of an internship between classes.