Toss back a cold one

Root beer, contests, prizes all part of OkSOBERfest

BY MEGAN BLUME
Antelope Staff

Keg stands on a dry campus? Failed sobriety test but no arrest? Take home a new iPod Nano by bravely crunching a cockroach?

All these things are possible at this year’s OkSOBERfest, an alcohol free event hosted by the Peer Health Education Office that kicks off 7 p.m. Oct. 29, in the Ponderosa Room of the student union.

OkSOBERfest will be offering free food and kegs of root beer provided by Thunderhead Brewery. There will be lots of opportunities to win prizes— including a Halloween costume contest.

Jared Jensen, a senior criminal justice major from Plainview, has dressed up for the OkSOBERfest costume contest twice. “I enjoyed all the OkSOBERfest events the past years,” Jensen said. “There were a lot of unique costumes and games that made the night fun, plus the root beer was good.”

OkSOBERfest activities include simulated sobriety tests, Black Jack, karaoke and a new event, “The Battle of the B’s,” consisting of three parts. The “Battle of the Brains” requires contestants to answer questions regarding binge drinking. In the “The Battle of the Body,” contestants wearing sumo suits and beer goggles will maneuver through obstacles. For “The Battle of the Will,” which is similar to "Fear Factor," students will have to eat different combinations of food, including real insects. The winner of “The Battle of the B’s” will receive the grand prize of a new iPod Nano.

Erik O’Brien, a recent multimedia graduate from Hastings, participated in the Fear Factor part of OkSOBERfest. O’Brien has no sense of smell; he went in thinking it would be easy to eat the crazy foods if he couldn’t smell them. “It was the texture that got me,” O’Brien said. But O’Brien found an unexpected challenge. “If you mix anything with peanut butter it’s hard to swallow.”

“One of the more popular activities among students is our simulated sobriety tests, which are performed by a Kearney police officer,” said Ismael Torres, UNK Health Education coordinator. “KPD has been very kind to assign an officer to this event every year to help educate our students on the dangers of binge drinking, and the consequences of high risk activities.”

According to Torres, the KPD officer brings beer goggles and has students perform simple tasks while wearing the goggles. Each pair of goggles simulates a different level of intoxication and provides the officer with an opportunity to discuss that level and how it affects the body.

“OkSOBERfest gives students an opportunity to engage with other students, police officers and staff in a way that they..."
Oravecz brings high-energy approach to student affairs

BY REBECCA MCMICKELL
Antelope Staff

It might well be the best advice a college student will get, and the new dean of student affairs, Dr. Joe Oravecz is hoping every student at UNK will take heed.

“Become actively engaged with the campus community,” he said. “College gives you the chance in four or five years to do things you would not normally do. If you do not take advantage of that, you’re cheating yourself.”

With three college degrees and job experience at seven colleges and universities, Oravecz knows that there’s much more to college than the classroom. He brings a high-energy, active approach to UNK student affairs with knowledge and experience to boot.

A Norwalk, Conn., native, Oravecz ventured to Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania for his undergraduate degree as a first generation college student. While earning his bachelor’s degree in psychology, he was highly involved on campus as an RA, a tour guide, a fraternity member and a member of an organization equivalent to LPAC.

After he graduated from Gettysburg, Oravecz had his sights set on a career in law. “I moved up to Boston with some of my college buddies, and I wanted to become an entertainment lawyer. I got a job as a paralegal, and I hated it,” he said. Reconsidering his plan for law school, he picked up The Boston Globe and found his calling in the classifieds.

“I saw an ad for an admissions counselor at a small school, Mount Ida College, which is near Boston College,” Oravecz said. “My responsibilities there were to work with international students, and I loved it.”

Oravecz decided he wanted a career on a college campus and earned his master’s degree in higher education and student affairs from Ohio State University in Columbus. He then went for a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Before Oravecz attended Florida State, he worked at a university comparable to UNK. “I worked in a director of student activities leadership position at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Md. I worked there for quite a few years, and there are so many parallels between Salisbury and UNK.”

Oravecz said the size, setting and student population at Salisbury are similar to UNK, and his experience there influenced his decision to accept a position here. “I really truly enjoyed and loved that sort of college environment,” he said.

Oravecz has also worked in student affairs positions at Syracuse University, Central Michigan University, the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut and most recently Bowling Green State University.

He began serving as the dean of student affairs at UNK on Aug. 1, replacing the interim dean of student affairs, Dr. Gail Zeller. Oravecz is responsible for overseeing the division of student affairs including Admissions, Financial Aid, Counseling and Health Care, Academic and Career Services, Academic Success, Multicultural Affairs, Nebraska Student Union and Residential and Greek Life.

Oravecz said he enjoys the day-to-day interaction with students and seeing them transition from freshmen to college graduates. “I absolutely love talking with students about their hopes and dreams and trying to create opportunities for them to realize those.”

He encourages all students to take advantage of the many opportunities at UNK, whether it’s joining an organization, attending one of the numerous events on campus or getting to know professors.

“We don’t just want you to receive a college education, we want you to receive a college experience,” he said.

Letter to the editor:

Hernandez urges others to steer clear of texting and driving

MARIANA HERNANDEZ

I have chosen to write about the article entitled “New law cracks down on texting and driving” by Erik Dodge. I care about the issue because it affects everyone in our community, including my family and myself. Texting and driving is a serious issue that can affect an individual’s life dramatically, changing a life in seconds.

According to the article, driving while texting is considered distracted driving and caused many fatalities in 2009. A price cannot be put on a person’s life, so I think the fine amounts of $200 for the first offense, $300 for the second and $500 for all succeeding offenses is accurate. Our society is changing. Individuals are texting instead of communicating verbally.

I think that rules and regulations need to be put into place to maintain order. Many individuals are not aware that a simple stare at their message can cause serious consequences. We all fall at some point or another, but I think that it is important to really evaluate ourselves and be aware that a selfish act can really put individuals in a position that they may not want to be in.
Beranek's tough transfer turns out for the best

Former Loper basketball star awarded scholarship at UNL after a year of redshirting

BY JORDAN SQUIRES
JMC 318

Local basketball legend Drake Beranek, a Ravenna High School graduate and former Loper, was not sure what to expect when he made the decision to walk on for UNL before his senior year.

This decision would mean taking a mandatory redshirt year, participating only in practice and not games.

It would mean he would no longer be a scholarship athlete and certainly no longer the same hometown hero he was for the Lopers. It would mean a new degree path and many other changes he would need to adapt to upon his arrival in Lincoln.

Now, just over a year after he began school and basketball at UNL, the risky decision Beranek made proved to be worthwhile as he was awarded a basketball scholarship and saw playing time in the Husker’s pre-season tournament.

These things didn’t come without hard work, however, and the development of his game has been a long process.

As a high school graduate, Beranek says he was nowhere near talented enough to play high-level Division I basketball, making UNK’s acclaimed Division II program a good fit.

“They were successful, played the game the right way and it was close to home,” he said.

Beranek called this decision a “safe” one, as he had not received much serious interest from top Division I programs.

While the Loper basketball team seems to have had an epidemic of transfers throughout the past few years, the decision wasn’t necessarily an easy one, Beranek said.

Even when he began to have a desire to see if he could play at the next level, he was hesitant to leave the well-built program he had grown up with as a Kearney area basketball player.

“I wanted to stick around and get the program back to where it was when I got there, but unfortunately we couldn’t get that done,” Beranek said.

Although it was hard to leave UNK, Beranek said that what he felt at the time has been reassured now—Lincoln was the right choice for him. He says the move to Lincoln provided a chance to mature and get out on his own more than when he was half an hour from home.

However, he doesn’t speak negatively of his experience as a Loper.

“I made a lot of improvements in my game while at UNK, and the staff there put me in the position to maybe have an opportunity to play in one of the top conferences in Division I,” he said.

In his first year at Lincoln, Beranek said he struggled with a great increase in the time he committed as a Division I athlete in comparison to at UNK.

There are also many luxuries he is able to enjoy as a Husker when it comes to equipment and resources, he said.

“We have a projector screen for game film, a couple couches, massage chairs and each locker has wood finish,” he said of the Husker locker room.

The players were also given more apparel, including four sets of travel gear, two book bags and a handheld video recorder from the Big 12, he said.

The nutritional resources available are also beneficial for the athletes, he said.

“The food is labeled by our nutritionist, which allows the players to eat according to their specific calorie plan easily,” Beranek said.

Aside from the material items and convenient resources, Beranek said the move provided him with better opportunities for his future.

“Before I was pretty set on becoming a teacher or coach somewhere, and now the possibilities really seem endless for me,” Beranek said.

These possibilities include finishing his original teacher education degree, going on to graduate school to pursue coaching at the college level or even further pursuing his basketball career overseas, he said.

Due to eligibility and credit transfer differences, Beranek changed his major to communications studies when he transferred to Lincoln. Although he is a fifth-year senior, Beranek said he will not think about finalizing any of his plans until the completion of his final season of basketball next spring.

By Jordan Squires
JMC 318

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| 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
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AFTERdark brings light to campus

About 1,000 students attend ministry event

Photo by Skylar Leatherman

LEFT: Joe White pounds nails into the cross as if they were holding Jesus. He shares the story of Jesus and explains what it was like to be in his situation.

Photo by Skylar Leatherman

RIGHT: Joe White demonstrates the thoughts of a Roman soldier who is building the cross that Jesus died on. White explains that even the Romans were looking for answers about Jesus.

BY SKYLAR LEATHERMAN
Antelope Staff

AFTERdark on Oct. 14 at the Health and Sports Center included a concert by well-known Christian recording artist, Dave Barnes, as well as a main speaker, Joe White.

White spoke about his family and his life struggles. He also performed a short drama while building a wooden cross on stage. In the drama, White acted as a Roman soldier, representing struggles and thoughts that the soldier could be thinking as he nailed the cross together.

White then shared about his life and his daily struggles. He explained that he is committed to God, and that is his passion.

Students were asked to write down a small letter to God to express thoughts from the event. The letters were then nailed to the cross that White made.

“I think it helped people who needed to hear the message,” said Sarah Skaff, a senior elementary education major from Norfolk.

About 1,000 students attended the event. AFTERdark is a ministry that travels around the country to college campuses.
Picture This

Walker Art Gallery displays photography of former professor

BY ANN PELSTER
JMC 318

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And if you don’t act fast, you might miss your chance to behold the beauty of Jim May’s photography currently on display in the UNK Walker Art Gallery.

May’s show opened on Sept. 27 and will conclude with an artist talk and reception at 6 p.m. on Oct. 29. This exhibition is May’s first show of digital photography.

May, who taught art history and creative photography at UNK from 1968-2006, is now retired and lives in Custer, S.D.

John Fronczak, director of the Walker Art Gallery, describes May’s work as very sound and of good quality; well-balanced and beautifully composed.

“He focuses most of his photography on images of nature with the evidence of people around,” Fronczak said. “May references the way people impact the environment. He is after what strikes him as a worthwhile image.”

May’s work is not about telling a story though. According to Fronczak, May’s photography is neither narrative, nor journalistic, nor critical. Instead, May tries to capture the feeling of what he is seeing. “He wants to elicit in you the feelings he got when he took the picture,” Fronczak said.

And amidst the busy life of being a college student, Fronczak encourages all students to slow down and take advantage of this chance to experience the feelings that May is trying to convey.

“It’s a time to stop and to look and to understand that this person didn’t rush off from the moment. He found value and tried to share that moment with somebody else,” Fronczak said.

Fronczak added that these photographs allow students to “travel” to places that are normally out of reach to college students. This specific collection contains photographs from May’s travels through Alaska, Mexico, Canada and the Black Hills of South Dakota.

In addition, Fronczak said May’s work is important for students in the art department to analyze because he shows an ability to compose a well-balanced photograph.

“When you’re a photographer, the world is without a frame, and you are trying to find a composition within the frame of the camera,” Fronczak said. “You are trying to locate shapes and rhythms as they interact. The frame moves. The world stays. If you do it right, the photo can elicit a bigger story to the viewer.”

According to Brent Wheaton, a senior secondary education major with subject endorsements in math and biology, May did it right. “The photographs were very interesting, very intricate,” Wheaton said. “Even though most were black and white, they really caught your attention and made you look for something deeper.”

May’s work might seem foreign to students, Fronczak said, but it can make a big impact and broaden a student’s horizons. Seeing May’s work is seeing something from a different generation and a different outlook.

“May’s work harkens back to another time — these photos could have been taken 30 years ago,” John Fronczak
Director, Walker Art Gallery
Meister vs. Heineman

Vote for candidate who 'responds to your needs'

BY ERIK DODGE  
Senior Reporter

If students want to influence UNK’s budget and state politics voting for the governor on Nov. 2 is a good way to start.

“The governor has considerable influence on the state budget and as such will have some influence on the budget at the University of Nebraska at Kearney,” said political science professor Dr. Peter Longo, who has been in the political science department for 22 years.

Budget proposals are written by the governor and submitted to the legislature for modification and approval. State funding makes up almost a quarter of the University of Nebraska Lookouts’ budget, which totals roughly $2.1 billion, according to NU director of budget Chris Kabourek.

“When voting students should determine if the governor will respond to their needs,” said Longo, a co-author of a book about the Nebraska Constitution.

The election is between incumbent Republican Dave Heineman and Democrat Mike Meister.

Once the Legislature passes the budget the governor has the power of line item veto—he can delete any item he chooses.

“The ability of governors such as ours to identify a line or more of a budget and cross it out gives the governor a big advantage over the Legislature and a substantial power over the priorities or our state,” said political science professor Dr. Claude Louishomme.

Vetoing single items is much easier to accomplish than vetoing the entire budget. Instead of upsetting a whole room full of people, line item veto allows him to upset just a couple people. So it’s much harder for those affected by the line item to potentially mobilize a supermajority to get what they want,” Louishomme said.

A supermajority, 30 of the 49 senators, must vote to overturn a veto.

Governors have a strategic advantage in gaining support for their policy preferences.

“They can talk to the people and mobilize people to support what they want,” he said.

This is in part because of more media attention and voter recognition.

“When the governor has a press conference, most of the media in the state covers it. When a committee chair or even the speaker of the legislature gives a press conference, it doesn’t register with most Nebraskans, even when it’s broadcast,” he said.

Louishomme said his class “State and Local Government” exemplified voters lack of interest or knowledge about other state political figures.

“I’m teaching state and local politics right now and I think out of the 17 students taking that upper division class, only one student knew who the current speaker of the unicameral is and that’s because he is from the same town.”

Meister aims to keep grads in state

Dem. candidate wants to create jobs

BY ERIK DODGE  
Senior Reporter

Democratic candidate for governor Mike Meister does not offer prepackaged solutions to university issues—instead he looks for them outside of the box.

“Our university system is probably one of the best things we have for the state,” Meister said.

Meister said the university provides very high quality education for a low price and has done an excellent job of trimming the budget. The former United States Army JAG officer complimented professors for their sacrifices and for helping students gain valuable skills to take into the marketplace.

But students are not staying in Nebraska after graduation, according to Meister.

“They get their education and then they’re off to other places. Those are the kind of issues we need to be addressing,” said Meister, a 1986 Creighton College of Law graduate.

The Scottsbluff resident would keep students in state by offering partnerships between businesses and students. He suggests a program of internships, where students are paired with local businesses so they learn skills and build relationships that will keep them here.

With college graduates facing national unemployment rates of 12 percent according to the Economic Policy Institute, the father of three encourages students to look for untraditional ways of entering the workforce.

“You just have to get out of your box and figure out other ways to do things,” he said.

Meister wants to support fresh ideas from young people like Facebook, the idea that made Mark Zuckerberg the youngest billionaire in the world.

“We need to take those ideas and instead of scoffing at them, say how can we help you develop that into something,” he said.

Meister would accomplish this through the Nebraska Business Development Center.

“What the current system does is you go in, they help you get set up, and then they kick you out the door. You’re on your own, and you make it or you don’t. I would like to see us be a little more proactive in making sure those small businesses make it.”

Meister proposes that the NBDC could provide support after businesses are running and that Nebraska could provide more resources to the NBDC.

Nonprofit work is another avenue for graduates struggling to break into the job market.

“Work in those nonprofit areas so when the economy does recover you’re actually in a better position than the kid graduating from college, because now they have similar experience to what they would be doing in the corporate world,” he said.

Meister said a state budget could not be created until all state entities were evaluated but that the NU budget issues would likely be curbed with UNL’s move to the Big 10 Conference.

“I think you will see an influx of research dollars. If you look back at Penn State and what happened when they joined the Big 10, it was such a boom for them, and I think Nebraska will see that same boom, ” Meister said. “Then it’s a matter of the chancellor figuring out how to share the wealth.”

Editor’s note: Republican candidate Dave Heineman could not schedule an interview by print time.
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Are you afraid of the PIKES?

Haunted house aims to save World Theatre, terrify attendees

ABOVE: “Once completed, the World Theatre will serve as an affordable entertainment venue for Kearney and the surrounding communities,” said Pi Kappa Alpha president, Bill Hayward. For more information about the haunted house and the renovation of the World Theatre, visit www.facebook.com/WorldTheatre.

Photo by Bethany Shinn

John Gahan, a sophomore from Lincoln, gets his face painted a pale hue by Andrea McClintic to stand out against his black clothing. For $10, you can be sure to get your fair share of scares. Haunted house T-shirts are also available for $10.

Photo by Hope Merrick

PIKE HAUNTED HOUSE

7-11 p.m.
Oct. 27-30

World Theatre
2318 Central Ave.

$10 per person.
All proceeds go toward the World Theatre renovation

Photo by Hope Merrick

FAR RIGHT: Paul Knutson, a senior from Schuyler, channels the doll from the “Saw” series at the PIKE haunted house. Knutson and other members of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity work together to “scare up a little cash” for renovation of the historical World Theatre.

Photo by Hope Merrick

HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN

Photo by Kaylie Perry

Phantoms at the Frank House will have a Halloween party Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Frank House. Junior Friends of the Frank House will be handing out candy from 1:30-2:30 p.m. There will be face painting and Halloween crafts to participate in. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes.

Photo by Hope Merrick

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity members have been working to set up the haunted house at the World Theatre for four weeks. An eerie maze in the basement leads visitors through many dark twists and turns.