

# Big Brother: I tried strategy, but you have to be yourself

by STEVE STRASSER  
Staff Writer

The old locomotive stands silver and solemn, presiding over the laughter below as the Silver Streak flashes down the snowy slope, jars to a slushy halt half-way down, and sends Jack Mayfield the rest of the way on his face.

But before Jack can repay the traitorous sled, the Royal Racer flies straight at him down the hill, slithering easily through the slush and sliding triumphantly to the bottom, while Jack picks himself up out of the snow again.

The difference between triumph and humiliation can sometimes be measured in seconds or inches. In this case it was measured in pounds - about 40 lbs difference in weight between Jack Mayfield and his little brother Bob Smith.

Well, they aren't technically brothers, but they are anyway, because they want to be. There are important things to talk about.

"If you lie calm in the water will sharks bother you?"

Jack doesn't think they would.

"What costs more, Jack, a horse or a motorcycle?" Jack's not sure, but "motorcycles don't die."

"How fast do snowmobiles go?"

Jack can't answer too many of the questions. He never had a little brother before. But Bob has a lot of things to ask about. He never had a big brother before. Even his father has been gone for quite a while now. Jack knows what that's all about, because he can't remember his real father either.

But every Thursday afternoon after his

last class in Centennial College, sophomore Jack Mayfield drives out to Lincoln Air Park and picks up 13-year-old Bob Smith. Two brothers get together, thanks to Student Action Front, a University organization on the third floor of the Nebraska Union which always needs volunteers for its Big Brother program.

They've been brothers since last October. Sometimes they go bowling or play pool. Or they might wash Jack's car.

Bob likes Jack to take him to Centennial College where all the big kids hang out. You can watch "Star Trek" on a color TV there.

"At first it was kind of shaky," Jack admits. "I hadn't worked with kids much when I started this. I tried strategy on him for a while, but that didn't work. You have to be yourself."

One time they went to the fine arts department at Bennett Martin Library. But Bob couldn't find any Mungo Jerry records there, so he checked out a book about whales.

"He's really concerned about ecology," Jack says. "All the whales are disappearing."

Jack can remember when he was 13 very clearly. "I would see ads on TV for the Big Brother program and think it would really be great to have a big brother. Now I'm glad I'm doing something and not just sitting around."

Bob was shy and unsure of himself back in October, but things are smoother now. After all, Jack bought him a Go Big Red tee-shirt, so all his friends think he's on the NU football team.

And Jack kind of likes sliding on his face at Pioneer Park once in a while, as long as he can hear his little brother's laughter ringing off the old locomotive at the top of the hill.



Brothers... enjoy sliding.

## RHA policy is 'ill-defined'

In one University dormitory a rap session constitutes the "formal or informal" activity necessary for Residence Hall Association (RHA) open visiting hours to be held. In a different hall the same rap session would be interpreted to be in violation of current RHA visitation policy.

The reason for this double standard is varying interpretations of the current RHA visitation policy by different residence directors, according to Barry Pilger, chairman of the University Housing Policy Committee.

"The RHA open house policy as it is currently enforced is one of the most arbitrarily administered and ill-defined social regulation policies this University has ever had," he charged.

Current RHA hours may be in effect for up to six hours a day. During the visitation period some activity, formal or informal, must be planned.

A residence hall staff member, a faculty member or

parent must be present to sponsor the event.

The problem of the policy is that it is general and must be arbitrarily administered, Pilger said. In some halls very formal activity must be planned while there need be virtually none in others, he added.

Another aspect of the problem lies in the area of sponsorship. Some residence directors apply sponsorship rules strictly while others do not, he said.

"I would hate to be a residence director and have to try and administer this policy," Pilger said. "A unified effort is needed through the RHA to get a new and better policy."

RHA president Al Bestmann said RHA hours are being widely used in most dormitories. But, he added that there are problems with the policy.

He said a new policy is now being considered by the Housing Policy Committee and RHA. The policy is the outgrowth of studies by an ad

hoc committee appointed by the Housing Policy Committee last fall to study social regulations in all residence halls, Greek houses and cooperatives.

Pilger said the proposed policy approaches self-determination in living unit social policies with "only minimal guidelines."

Bestmann criticized the portion of the policy that requires the door of a room be open to provide an unobstructed view of the room when a guest of the opposite sex is present. A problem in this rule is that most dormitory doors do not open in a way that will give an unobstructed view of the room, he added.

### Delta Delta Delta offers scholarships

The annual Delta Delta Delta service projects scholarship competition is being held on campus for all full-time undergraduate women students.

Tri Delts at the University will grant two full tuition awards. All local winners in colleges where there are Tri Delt chapters are eligible for one of the \$1,000 awards to be made by the Tri Delts' National Service Projects Fund.

### Union operating hours to change

The Nebraska Union Board has announced a change in the weekend operating hours of the Nebraska Union effective next week.

On Saturdays the building will open at 8:30 a.m. instead of 7 a.m. The building's opening on Sundays has been changed from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## CALENDAR

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 12:30 p.m. - Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship    | 6:30 p.m. - Masters Week, Union               |
| 3 p.m. - Miss U. of N. Committee, Union            | 6:30 p.m. - Kosmet Klub, Union                |
| 4 p.m. - Faculty Evaluation Report Hearings, Union | 7 p.m. - Pi Tau Sigma Smoker, Union           |
| 4 p.m. - A.S.U.N. Senate Meeting, Union            | 7 p.m. - Alpha Kappa Psi, Union               |
| 4 p.m. - Social Committee, East Campus             | 7 p.m. - Omicron Delta Upsilon, Union         |
| 5 p.m. - Culture Committee, East Campus            | 7 p.m. - Builders, Union                      |
| 5:30 p.m. - Engineering Toastmasters, Union        | 7:30 p.m. - Spring Day, Union                 |
| 6 p.m. - Special Services Tutoring, Union          | 7:30 p.m. - Math Counselors, Union            |
| 6 p.m. - Husker Honeys, Union                      | 7:30 p.m. - Education Committee, East Campus  |
| 6 p.m. - Kosmet Klub Exec, Union                   | 8 p.m. - Student Veterans Organization, Union |
| 6:15 p.m. - Phi Beta Kappa Dinner, Union           | 8 p.m. - Kappa Alpha Psi, Union               |
| 6:15 p.m. - Red Cross, Union                       | 9 p.m. - ASUN - Education Committee, Union    |

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