



Residents 'deck the halls'

By Margy Meister

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas", especially in the UNL residence halls.

Trees of all styles, shapes and sizes are springing up in lobbies, floor lounges and individual rooms. Colored lights blink and spray "snow" frosts windows across the faces of most of the halls. Gold, silver, red and blue tinsel garlands and simulated Santa's deck the halls across campus.

The most popular and obvious manifestation of the Christmas spirit appears to be decorations in the windows of many residents' rooms. At last count, Neihardt Residential Center had decorations in three windows, Cather-Pound Halls in nearly ten, Selleck Quadrangle in 22, Harper-Schramm-Smith Halls in about 25 and Abel-Sandoz Halls in nearly 40 windows.

The Residence Hall Assoc. has appropriated funds for each hall to purchase a Christmas tree for their main lobbies or lounges. In addition, many floors are purchasing trees for their floor lounges with their own floor funds.

Tom Guzzardo, residence director (RD) at Cather Hall, reported that though he has not yet seen many decorations, several floors have trees and some residents are decorating their windows.

Lounge decorating contest

Pound Hall RD Anne Thompson said that each floor in Pound is decorating their lounge, with a prize to be awarded to the best-decorated lounge. She added that Cather-Pound-Neihardt will sponsor a window-painting contest in which prizes will be awarded to the best individual and group paintings on the windows of their dining hall.

Neihardt Residential Center has trees on some floors, and International House is planning a party to decorate their main lounge tree this Saturday night, according to Joe Scalzo, Neihardt RD.

Steve Heldt, Harper Hall RD, said that he has seen very little decorating in Harper thus far. He said that he has seen "three or four trees come through the door", and some lights in residents' windows, but that he expects to see more decorations going up as the momentous occasion draws nearer.

He added that there will be a party to decorate the main lounge tree and that many floors are also having parties to decorate their trees.

Parties planned

Smith Hall RD Bobbie Brickhouse reported that she has seen decorations in many windows and that most floors are purchasing trees and having parties to decorate them.

Schramm Hall will have decorations in the main lounges, according to Ina Lühring, Schramm RD. She added that she has seen many decorations on windows and doors of residents' rooms, and that several residents also have trees in their rooms.

Robin Buchman, social chairman at Selleck Quadrangle, said that many floors are having contests for the best decorated doors on the floor, and that many residents have lights strung in their windows. She added that the

cafeteria will be decorated with painted windows, a Christmas tree, and tinsel for a semi-formal dinner to be held next week.

Abel-Sandoz Halls Complex program director, Bitsy Griego, reported that trees will be set up in the lobbies of Sandoz, Abel North and Abel South, as well as in the cafeteria. She said that she has seen trees in many resident's rooms, and that most floors were buying trees and having some type of Christmas parties.

She added that a drive will be conducted to collect all real trees when residents leave for the holidays in order that these might be donated to underprivileged families.

Decorations add to spirit

Junior Marge Pestel, resident of Sandoz 5, has a 6½ foot real tree standing in her room, with Christmas gifts already beginning to pile up beneath it. The tree was purchased by Pestel and her roommate Monday night, and was decorated with ornaments from home, including "last year's tinsel".

Pestel claims that the secret of the tree's freshness is in the sugar water in the small trash can in which the tree is supported by rocks from the Abel-Sandoz parking lot. She added, "Decorations sort of make Christmas by getting you into the spirit."

Seniors Mike Napoliello and Chuck Trutna, of Abel 3, have a 4-foot artificial tree standing directly in the center of their room, decorated with multi-colored blinking lights, red ornaments and gold tinsel garlands.

Trutna said, "The tree is useful for my roommate to put my presents under, and it helps to bring the girls down to our room."

Napoliello, who has owned the tree since his sophomore year, said, "I live in this room nine months out of the year, so I consider it my home. The tree just makes it seem more homey. I wanted to decorate the room because decorating is an extension of the holiday spirit."

In addition to the tree, blinking lights from a tree shape on the room's window, a construction paper Santa rests on the window sill, and three small, white and gold tissue paper trees are perched atop Napoliello's book shelf.

Sandoz 2 resident Judy Erickson cut down a wild cedar tree from the shelter belt a mile north of her home near Benedict, Nebraska over the Thanksgiving holiday. She returned and decorated the tree with some ornaments from home and some that she bought here.

When asked why she cut down her own tree, Erickson replied, "I don't like artificial trees, and cutting my own was much cheaper. Besides, the tree smells so good!"

She added, "I wanted a tree, but as I knew I wouldn't be home to enjoy the one there, I decided to put up one here. It adds both to the room and the spirit."

Thus it seems that as the awaited holiday draws nearer, the spirit of Christmas will continue to "haunt" the floors, lounges, and lobbies, as well as the occupants, of the UNL residence halls.

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