

Carpool to help drive away loneliness, high cost

By Becky Brugman

Carpooling is coming to UNL. Carpooling is transportation without the loneliness, a method of saving on parking and gasoline costs and a way to meet and get acquainted with new faces.

Hopefully, to be in effect by mid or late October, the carpooling program will serve both students and faculty, said John Duve, UNL traffic manager. The program will serve both campuses.

An alternative to the high cost of traveling alone, carpooling will offer people living in residential areas a way to share rides downtown, Duve said.

A few years ago people were saying it was nonsense that gasoline would go up to 60 cents a gallon, he said. Talk now is that gasoline will go as high as \$1 a gallon. Carpooling is an opportunity for people to lessen the effect this increase would have, he said.

Duve said those interested in carpooling should turn in their names and transportation route to his office. The names and routes will be sent to the city carpooling office to be run through a computer.

The computer will match people with others from the same area interested in sharing rides.

Those not in the same neighborhood, but on the same route can be included in the carpool, he said.

People will be given the names of people that it would be practical they ride with and it is then up to the people

to make the contacts, if they actually want to go through with it, Duve said.

Lincoln carpool/vanpool program coordinator Shirley Maly, said carpooling isn't easy for everybody.

She said some people are too shy or afraid to contact those in their carpool. It takes time to get used to the idea of sharing your car.

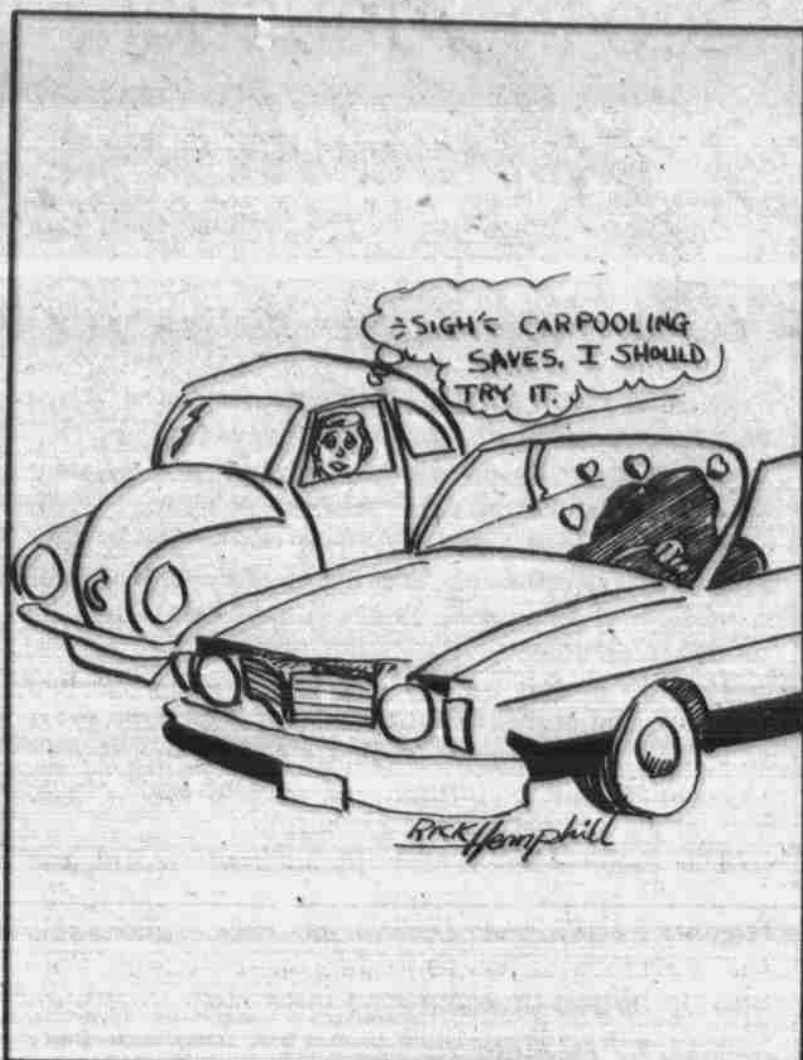
Duve said an advantage of the Lincoln program is that names can be added and subtracted from the carpool lists. If individual schedules change or the need for more people in a carpool arises, Duve said the computer can update the lists.

"Basically the program is a war against the lone driver," Maly said.

The carpool/vanpool program is funded by federal and city funds. The funding lasts until December 1978. Duve said he thinks if the program functions well funding will be continued.

The more people involved in the program, the more a success it will be, Duve said.

Maly said 671 people are currently involved in the carpooling program.



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