

Poet says search for answers starts in ourselves

By Jeff Kruse

"Oh, please be gentle to the human heart, dear stranger, for it is forever tender from the pain of eternally becoming . . ."

These words, softly spoken from the lips of a former ghetto dweller, drug addict, pocket-picker and prison inmate, were shared at the UNL Cultural Center Thursday night by B.F. Maiz, a present day poet, philosopher, and educator.

"We must look for answers inside ourselves," said Maiz. "There are no answer men any more. There are no messiahs, only charlatans.

"Any one who tells you there's an easy way, you can rest assured he is out to hoodwink you."

Maiz, who calls himself a humanistic

existentialist, described some of his background to a handful of black students.

Ran away

"I ran away from home and grew up in the streets of Chicago. I succumbed to drug addiction, overcame it, went to prison, and prayerfully, I've overcome that . . . to live a quality life that is characterized by effectiveness and inspiration as my goal," he said.

According to Maiz, the best path to effectiveness is to learn to work for yourself. "To work is divine," he said. "Not only is it therapeutic, it lends to self dignity."

The role of the poet, said Maiz, is to touch what is divine in every human being. "The divine is that part of the human being that longs for laughter and joy, yet fills itself with the tear of sorrow," he said.

"I have written over one thousand poems which are all committed to memory, including one called "When on that Holy September Sabbath Morning," he said.

*"When
on that holy
September sabbath morning,
we,
together,
you and I,
locked our lives,
I promised,
through all
the ripe and painted
autumns
to walk
with you.
Through
bleak and icy winters
I vowed to cuddle with you . . .
through
fresh and resurrecting springs*

*I took an oath to accompany
you . . .
and,
I swore to love you
through all the green and sunlit
summers"*

Poetry, however, has not come to Maiz without its miseries. "I paid a pain and met my soul," he says of his life experiences.

"In every life there is some suffering which turns some into crybabies, others into fanatics, others into anti-social beings and some into poets.

"I was blessed in being among the latter few." The problems of today are simply matters of "people not caring or sharing enough," he said, ". . . No one seems to give a damn . . .

"Being a citizen, or especially a human being in contemporary times is not easy. It never was, never will be."

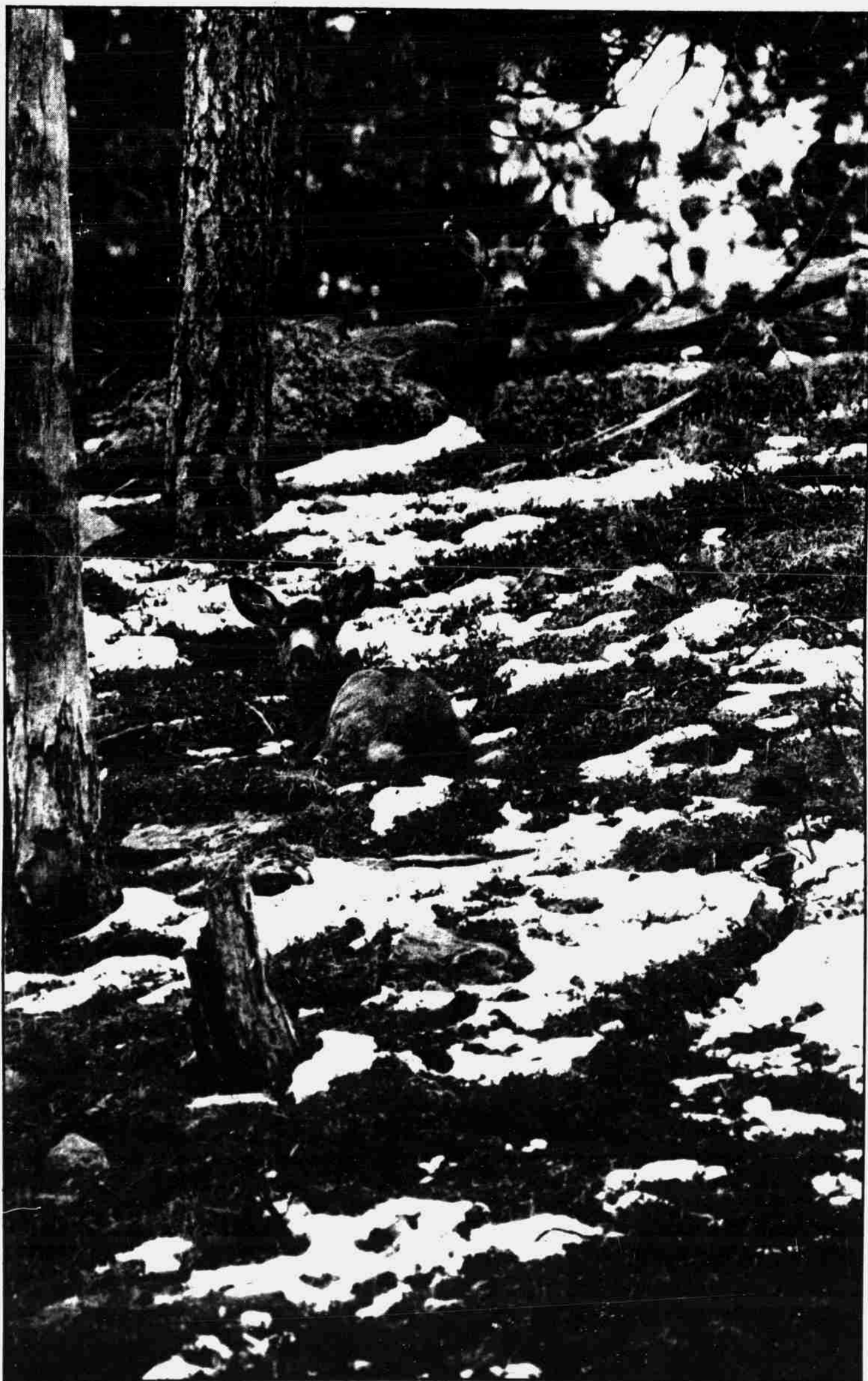


Photo by Mark Billingsley

After a strenuous day of men-hunting, these two deer rest under a clump of trees.

Last opportunity

Today is the final day to preregister for classes for spring semester. Preregistration materials must be turned in to the Administration Building by 4:30.

The next opportunity to register for second semester classes is general registration, Jan. 10th through the 12th.

Returned goalpost doesn't get reward, not complete piece

Jim Bertrand, the UNL student who turned in part of a goalpost taken from Memorial Stadium following the Oklahoma football game isn't going to get an award for it after all, but he's welcome to take back his section of the goalpost, if he wants it.

That's the word from the University Police, who say they stipulated that in order to receive the \$100 reward, the person turning in the section of the goalpost must turn in the entire curved arm that supports the uprights. Bertrand said he heard about the reward on the radio, and turned in the piece he had.

Police promised to ask no questions and file no charges and they didn't. Bertrand came in the following morning to check on his reward, and according to Sgt. Joe Wehner, the student was told he would get his reward as soon as Wehner checked to make sure the curved arm was intact, and some subsequent paper work was completed. However, Wehner said when he checked the arm, he discovered it was not intact, but only the bottom five or six feet of it was returned. "It's totally worthless" Wehner said.

Bertrand may have one consolation though. Wehner said if he wants the piece of the goalpost back, he can have it . . . no questions asked.

Bertrand was not available for comment Thursday night.

inside friday

Take the money and run: Better Business Bureau cautions Lincolnites of work - at - home schemespage 3
Step right up: Soft circus provides the greatest "little" show on earthpage 8
NU by two: Columnist picks Huskers to win in close game with Missouripage 10