



Staff photo by John Zoz

Fifth and sixth grade students at Hill Elementary School examine their school's new mobile.

Computer parts are art at Hill School

By Marlene Burbach

Discarded computer parts are more than junk; for some, they're art.

At least they are for students and teachers at Rich Hill Elementary School, school at 5230 Tipperary Trail. A mobile made of computer parts suspended from brass bars is the latest display in the school's permanent art collection.

The mobile, which hangs in the school's media center, was fashioned from computer hardware discs, a circuit board and symbols from a computer keyboard, Kelores Wenz, a secretary at Hill School, said.

The school administrators had wanted a mobile, so they contacted Roger VanDeventer, the art consultant for the Lincoln Public Schools.

VanDeventer contacted a UNL student, Jon Swindell, to do the work.

Swindell wanted to make the mobile representative of a current issue, VanDeventer said.

With student suggestions, Swindell created a computer mobile that was completed in two days.

Two or three times a day during that time, the teachers of Hill School took their classes on a 15- to 20-minute "walk-through experience." The students asked Swindell questions and saw the mobile in its early stages of creation. When the

project was completed, there was a dedication ceremony, which all the students observed.

"The students seem to be very enthralled with it (the mobile)," VanDeventer said. "Part of that is from the fact that they know the artist and saw it built."

The past 10 years, one of VanDeventer's tasks has been to set up different projects for the 56 public schools in Lincoln. The projects are funded by the local PTAs and the Lincoln Board of Education.

"They have employed several hundred artists, some for one or two days, a month or even a couple of years," VanDeventer said.

Once a project is completed, it becomes the property of the school. All projects are observed by the students during their creation.

Other projects completed in the Lincoln Public Schools are stained-glass windows, welded and kinetic sculptures and paintings. Artist also are hired to teach courses in watercolor painting, cartoon drawing and illustration drawing.

The next scheduled project set up by VanDeventer will be at Holmes and Brownell schools. Nancy Teague, a professional artist and former art teacher, will teach illustration drawing in two days of large-group demonstrations and classes in which students will participate.

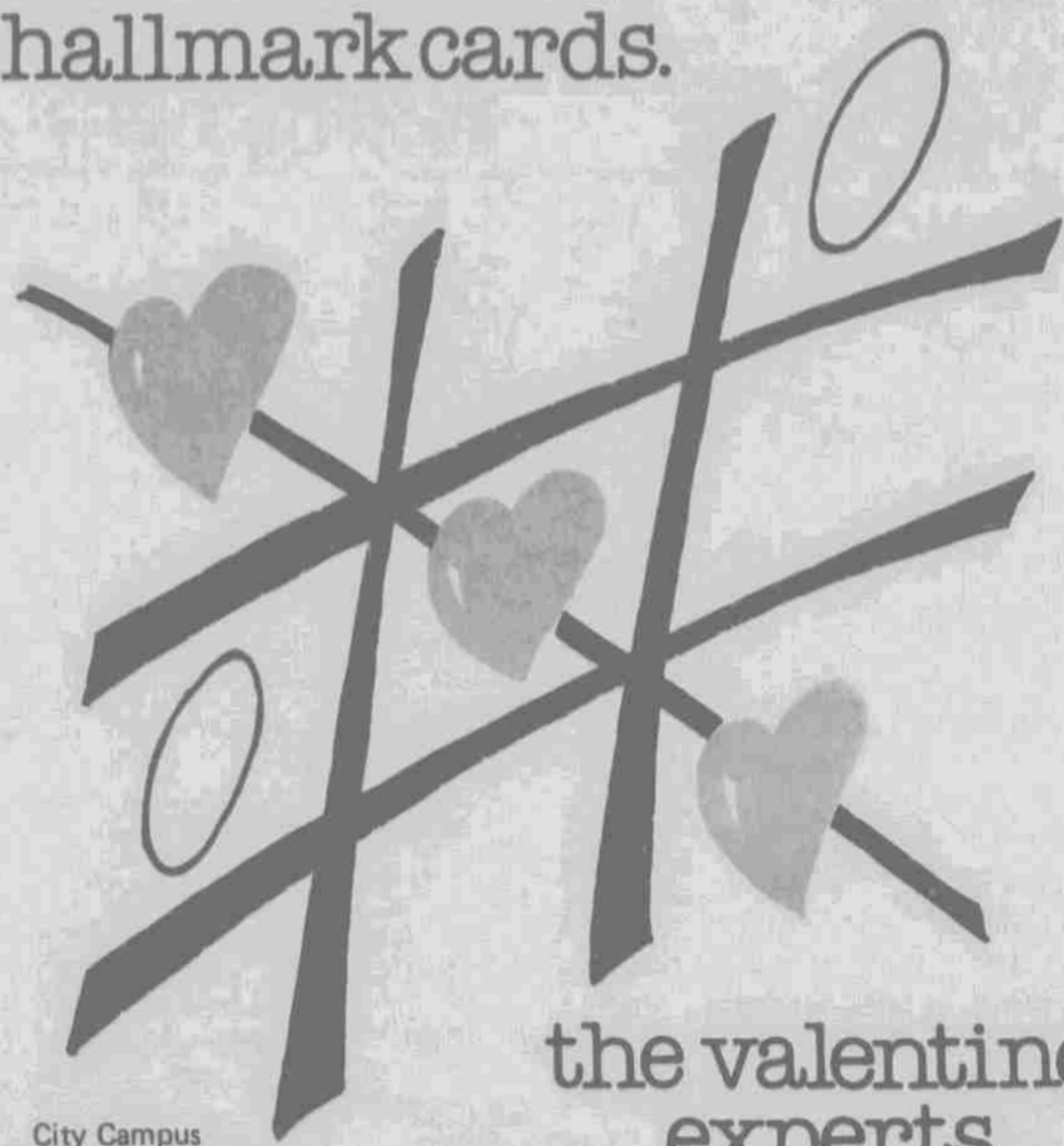


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