

Predictions fill Captain's calendar

By Chris Burbach
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

There comes a time when a people must be freed from the ball and chain of Women of Nebraska, Men of Nebraska, Garfield and unicorn calendars. Such shackles must be shaken and the people armed to exercise that very fundamental act of liberty that is freedom of choice. In these troubled times we have a rock, a provider, a patron, a hero — Captain Nebraska!

Faster than a beached channel

cat, stronger than a Cornhusker water boy, more callous than Grandpa's toe, able to insult whole cities in a single sentence, Captain Nebraska, alias Roger Welsch, makes Underdog look like just another cape canine.

His 1985 "Not Yet Nebraska Calendar" is yet another feat of derring-do in a long list of like accomplishments, and with each his notoriety has grown. In the past, Captain Nebraska has had to deal with folks offended by their appearance in his calendars. Now, he says, things are different.

"Some people have been upset because they aren't in," the Captain said in an exclusive phone interview. "It's going to be a status symbol — if you aren't in Captain Nebraska's calendar, you're nothing."

The calendar predicts things for 1985 that have never happened in Nebraska and probably never will. For example, on Jan. 6, 46,000 Hawaii fans migrate to Nebraska for the Snow Bowl. On Sept. 18, Wyoming asks to be a part of the Nebraska Panhandle, and on Nov. 6, Roger Welsch is featured in a Playgirl photo essay entitled "Nude Nebraska."

Alongside such harmless, obvious humor are a few biting bits aimed at urban and rural Nebraskans alike and everyone in between, including Captain Nebraska's peers. It seems no one's hide is safe from Captain Nebraska's jaws.

On Nov. 23, the Mensa Society initiates John DeCamp. The Lincoln Police Department holds a Husker Identification Workshop on Aug. 22 and, in the same month, the Ag Institute urges farmers to forget profits and consider the future. On Feb. 28, Nels Forde makes sense.

Acutely, Captain Nebraska toned down the first draft of his calendar. As he says, the calendar on sale is a mild version of the original.

"This isn't as dramatic as it might have been," he said. "I showed it to my lawyer and he said, 'If you print this, there will be some sucking of eggs.'"

"That's a legal term," the Captain explained.

Several days of the year will befuddle many pseudo-Nebraskans and leave outsiders completely at sea. Captain Nebraska admits that, but views it in a posi-



MICK JAGGER BUNS FARM NEAR ROCKVILLE

tive manner.

"It's sort of a test to see how much of a Nebraskan you really are," he said. "If you understand everything in it, you're a consummate Nebraskan."

While weekend Nebraskans will have no trouble getting the joke about Mike Rozier opening a speed reading school, only thoroughbreds will know why O'Neil High School adopting orange as a school color is funny.

Both loyal and fair-weather Nebraskans have bought the calendar. Its author says sales are "alright."

"They're going like warm cakes; sales have been whelming. I'm constantly amazed by the number of Nebraskans who can read. We thought we'd take whatever we have left and stand on the corner and sell them before the last couple of football games — people will buy anything red," the Captain said.

The calendar cover is sturdy red construction paper, sporting a drawing by Lee Cummins of the author at his typewriter. A nifty stapling job holds the work together. Strong, straight lines separate the days of each month, all of which appear to be in order. A drawing by Cummins illustrates each month of the year. There are even spaces near the back cover to enter the horoscope crisis line telephone number and mark the date the first Mulberry poop is found on your car.

If you believe what Reader's Digest says about laughter, you should prescribe yourself a dose of Not Yet Nebraska. And if you're not careful, you may get caught laughing at yourself.

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BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

Lincolnfest to begin with breakdance contest

Lincolnfest begins Friday with a foodfest and breakdance contest.

Lincolnfest began in 1975 as a celebration of the newly complete O Street beautification project. The prime motive of the Lincoln Center Association and City of Lincoln was bringing people downtown to view the 13th and O intersection's brickwork star and the greenery of O Street. The festival, called "Hog Wild," featured free barbecued pork sandwiches and entertainment. Successive years brought about small changes

of site and activities, but the festival always has been downtown.

Now incorporated, Lincolnfest is an independent, non-profit organization governed by an 18-member volunteer board of directors.

Lincolnfest is an annual celebration of life in Lincoln, an affirmation of ourselves. We celebrate our talents, skills, culture and variety. Lincolnfest is the only celebration strictly for Lincoln to celebrate itself.

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