

Comet to light Christmas sky

North Americans, west of a line running from Mexico City to St. Louis, will get an extra Christmas treat this year. On Dec. 25, at 6:16 a.m. (CST), an artificial comet will appear in the sky 4 degrees to the right of the star Spica, in the constellation Virgo, and then move west toward the star Regulus in Leo. The "comet" is part of an experiment being undertaken by 48 scientists from three different countries to give the best look yet at the way the solar wind

interacts with the Earth's magnetic field.

The scientists have sent up three space crafts which literally will paint the sky with barium and lithium. Both of which will turn to glowing ions as the sun's energy strips away the electrons, and then the scientists will observe the baths of the gasses as they spread across the sky.

What should be seen in Nebraska will be a reddish-yellow,

then green, then purple, expanding comet-like ball with a tail. The comet-like ball will start as a dot the size of Polaris, and at maximum size the artificial comet should be at least one-sixth the size of the full moon. It will be visible with the naked eye for about three minutes, and then with binoculars for about 10 minutes, if all goes according to plan. Gerhard Haerendel, one of the group's leaders, hopes that the "tail" will get as bright as a moonlit cloud.

Year's first snowballs fly after major storm

The first major snowfall of the year is almost inevitably accompanied by a snowball fight. This year is no exception.

According to UNL police officers, 500 to 600 people turned out for an annual snowball fight between fraternity and sorority members and residence hall students. It began around 10:30 p.m. Thursday, between 16th and 17th streets from R to Vine streets and lasted until midnight.

People were throwing snowballs at officers and cars and some people were detaining traffic along 16th Street, UNL police said.

With the help of housing authorities, fraternity representatives, Lincoln police and UNL police, the fight subsided.

Later, around 1:30 a.m. Friday, another fight broke out in the same place. One arrest is pending on this incident.

Although throwing snowballs at each other may be a mutual thing, it inevitably gets out of hand, usually causing property damage or personal injury, UNL police said.

Generally officers will observe which housing unit people go into when the crowd disperses and file an involvement report to send to the dean of students. After a certain number of involvement reports are filed during the school year, authorities will be notified and some type of administrative action could be taken against that housing unit, police said.

If officers observe people causing damage or if they assault officers, the officers can make an arrest. The degree to which officers will investigate a case usually is determined by the amount of damage the people caused, police said.

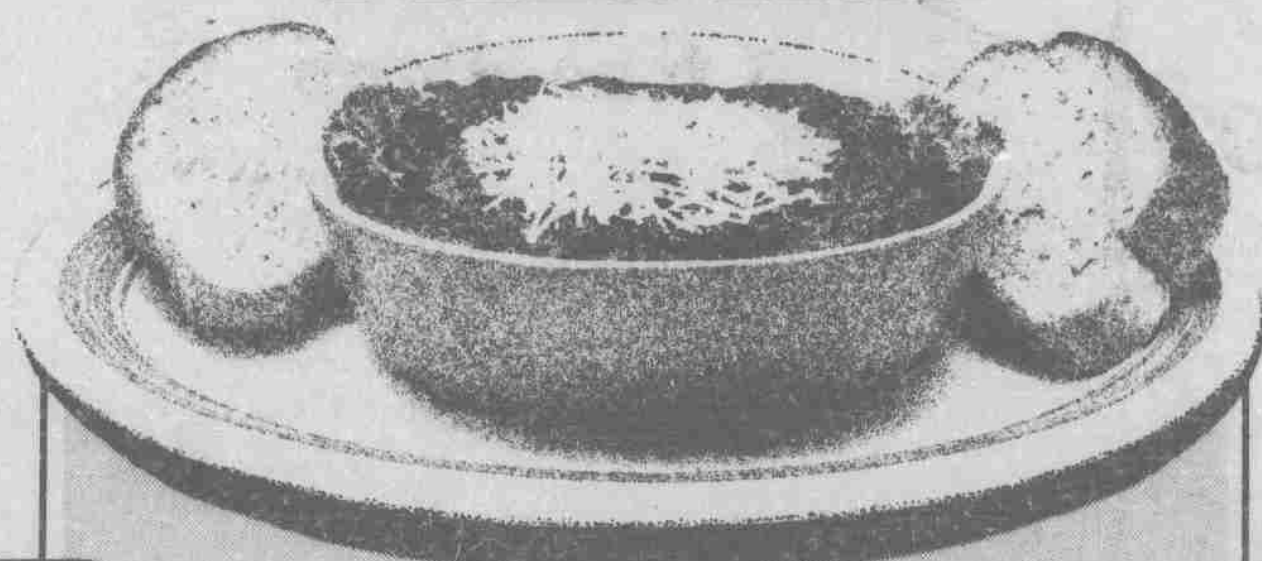
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NU fights . . .

Continued from Page 1

The regents also discussed plans for the proposed veterinary science program. The board approved a proposed change in legislation that would allow the university to establish cooperative agreements with existing colleges of veterinary medicine.

Payne, chairman of the board's agriculture subcommittee, said the program could reduce livestock death and disease 3 percent and add \$126 million to the state's economy within 10 years. About 21 percent of all livestock is lost to disease each year, he said.

"Research is the key," Payne said. "We've got to do everything we can to help the agriculture economy of our state."

Last week, Payne, NU President Ronald Roskens, and other university officials toured colleges of veterinary medicine at Mississippi State University and Kansas State University.

Payne said officials from both schools have shown interest in the federal animal and research center Clay Center. The center would be accessible to students in the program. It would be remodeled as part of the program and new facilities would also be constructed on UNL's East Campus.

NU would have joint responsibility for setting policies for curriculum, academic standards, and student admissions.

Payne said the federal government will match university funds of nearly \$7.5 million to construct clinical facilities in Nebraska, but said federal funds will be available only until October 1986.

Payne said the program will be at only half the cost of the original estimate needed to open a full-fledged veterinary school in Lincoln.

A proposal for a regional veterinary medicine college at UNL was dropped when supporters couldn't get other states to commit to sending students to it.

The board also approved a \$2.15 million bond issue for land acquisition and parking facilities at UNL.

UNL officials are considering buying land north, south and east of the university for parking lots. The bonds would be paid for with parking fees and fines.

A bid for the general contract work on additions to the Scott Engineering Center and Nebraska Hall were also approved.

The board approved a bid of \$1.13 million from M.W. Anderson Construction Co. for construction of a connecting link between the two buildings. The project will be paid for with donations to the NU Foundation.

The board also approved a change of salary for head football coach Tom Osborne. Osborne, who also serves as assistant athletic director and assistant professor of educational psychology and social foundations, will have his current salary of \$69,930 raised to \$78,000. The new salary will run through 1988.

Athletic director Bob Devaney received a special all-year appointment from the regents, extending his contract beyond the mandatory retirement age of 70. His current salary is \$64,500.

Douglas...

Continued from Page 1

Morrow also said Douglas has been wrongly linked to Commonwealth's demise. But he reminded the jurors that Douglas' alleged actions all occurred after the financial institution had closed.

Some people applauded as

prosecutors Kirk E. Naylor and Vincent Valentino left the courtroom.

Douglas was impeached by the Legislature in March, but acquitted by the Nebraska Supreme Court. A Lancaster County Court indicted him in June.

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