

**Sandcastles, bubble-making, toys galore:
Creative fun for kids large and small**

By Chris McCubbin
Staff Reporter

It is not generally considered necessary, when one is building sandcastles, to consult with professionals. Still, if a team of professional architects was to design and build a sandcastle, the result should presumably be a markedly superior grade of sandcastle.

This premise will be put to the test at the American Institute of Architects — Lincoln Chapter's sandcastle building contest where teams of professionals — including several local architecture firms — will compete to build the biggest, best and most beautiful sandcastle.

Greg Smith of AIA, said that an architect designs a sandcastle with a view to its being structurally sound, with a pleasing aesthetic. Structurally sound is, of course, the tricky part when one is working with sand.

The castles will be built entirely from sand and water. Smith said no fly ash or other cement-like materials are allowed. Decorating and garnishing the castles is, however, encouraged, Smith said.

Construction will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday and all castles will be completed by 4:30 p.m.

The AIA will also be sponsoring children's sandpainting for kids who want to express themselves.

Here's more of the many activities offered at the children's festival:

- Camp Fire is sponsoring an obstacle course and button making.

- The NU State Museum will bring many of the hands-on exhibits from their encounter center to the festival.

- The YWCA will allow children to create their own "Disc Graphics" art works.

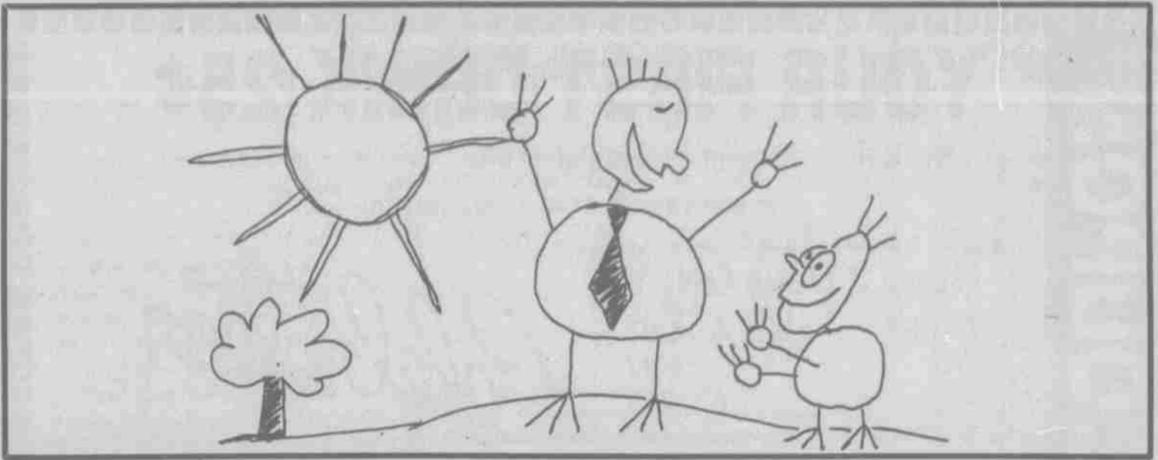
- The Nebraska State Recycling Association and Citizens for Environmental Improvement are creating an educational "Recycling Path."

- The Nebraska State Historical Society is bringing their "Pastimes and Playthings" activity, which allows modern children to play with authentic reconstructed toys and games from the turn of the century.

- Theatre Arts For Youth is sponsoring a paper bag puppet show.

- The Omaha Children's museum is sponsoring what amounts to a festival within a festival. In addition to displays of Indian and pioneer artifacts, activities include: Indian leather painting, buzz toy construction, beaded leather key ring construction, Polaroid "Hug Pictures," fact paints, a Lego building block area, "Bubble Factory," basket weaving, Indian Headbands, corn planting and thumb print stationary.

Most of the activities cost between 25 or 50 cents.



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