

# Grounds crew out foxes tree thieves

## Nasty stench of fox urine keeps pines out of homes

By Bob Nelson  
Staff Reporter

Margaret Broberg and two gallons of fox urine may have saved as many as 10 University of Nebraska-Lincoln pine trees during the Thanksgiving weekend. More than 500 trees on East and City campuses were sprayed with fox urine to deter vandals from chopping them down to use as Christmas trees, said Broberg, nursery production manager for the UNL grounds department.

**'I was a little cranky by Wednesday. I had just about enough ribbing and spraying by that time.'**

-Broberg

In past years, six to 10 pine trees have been cut down during Thanksgiving vacation, she said. No trees were stolen during this year's break, she said.

Broberg sprayed fox urine on the trees because the odor would be unbearable if the trees were taken indoors, she said.

"Fox urine smells a lot like (a) skunk that has been dead for two days," Broberg said.

Broberg said fox urine was used because its odor has just the right potency.

Fish emulsion was tried, but it was too weak, she said. Skunk oil also was considered, she said, but it would have been too smelly.

Campus grounds have received as much as \$4,000 in damage during past Thanksgiving weekends, she said. The fox urine project cost \$200, she said.

"A little fox urine goes a long way," Broberg said.

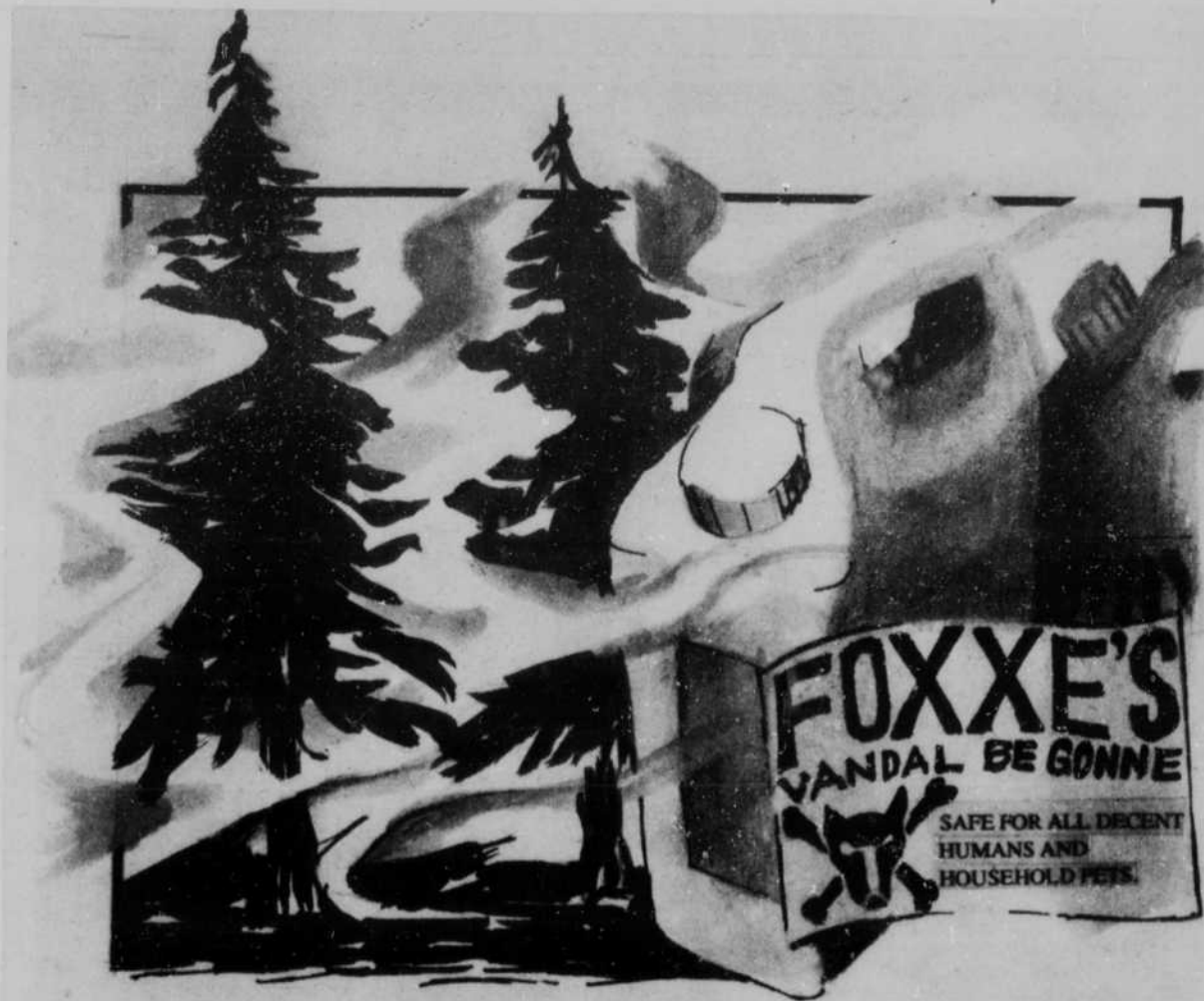
Money was not the only reason Broberg wanted to protect the trees, she said.

"People don't realize how mad a horticulturist gets about incidents like this," Broberg said. "It kind of cuts to the heart."

Broberg said she suggested using fox urine on the trees at a grounds department meeting. She said her co-workers supported the idea.

"I've received a lot of good-natured ribbing about it, though," Broberg said. "I was a little cranky by Wednesday. I had just about enough ribbing and spraying by that time."

Broberg said she spent three days before Thanksgiving vacation armed with a 2 1/2-gallon tank of fox urine mixed with glycerin and water. The glycerin makes the urine stick to the trees longer, she



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

said. Fox urine was used because it is the only type of urine that can be bought. The urine came from Pettigrew Fur Company Inc. in Lincoln. A gallon jug of fox urine

costs \$25, she said.

Fox urine is sold because trappers use it to cover human scent while trapping, she said. They also use it to trap foxes. Foxes often

bury food and then mark the spot by urinating on it, she said.

The urine is collected by placing a tray under a cage full of foxes, Broberg said.

## Survey: coupons needed

By Bob Nelson  
Staff Reporter

Union Director Daryl Swanson said Tuesday although the new student center would be competition for the Nebraska Union, he is not worried the center will hurt union business.

The union has always competed with the downtown area, which is closer to the union than the student center, Swanson said at the Union Board meeting.

"The center will be six blocks away from us," Swanson said. "But to say this enterprise is no competition would be untrue."

The north side of campus is not properly served by the union, he said.

In other Union Board business, faculty member Cal Garbin said a survey done of university students and faculty indicated a need for an increase of coupons and package deals to improve sales in the Union Harvest Room.

Garbin, an associate psychology professor, said coupons would help to "make people come back" to the Harvest Room. The survey was done because of poor sales in the restaurant, he said.

Garbin said the results of the survey also pointed to a need for more advertising for the Harvest Room. He said a lot of the students and faculty surveyed said posting the restaurant's menu would also help.

Garbin said 192 students and 54 faculty members were surveyed. The survey asked students and faculty if they had ever eaten in the Harvest Room and what they believed could be done to make them eat there more often. The survey also asked what could be done to make the restaurant more visible to the public.

Also, the Union Board awarded the prize for the best design idea for the new union bakery. Dave Manganaro won first place and \$150. His design will be used in the construction of the bakery.

## Orr: Community must accept dump site

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Force and professor of law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"If Nebraska is selected, we will insist on these conditions," Orr said, adding that she thought the conditions are reasonable.

Orr said that it is premature to say where the waste site will be located if Nebraska is chosen, but that it will not be located near

water.

Thorson will present the criteria to the five-state compact on Dec. 8. The host state will be chosen by the compact committee Dec. 15.

Thorson said the conditions were formulated "to be prepared for any eventuality."

"The conditions go a long way toward meeting objections which have been raised," Thorson said.

## Snowball mob causes \$10,000 damage

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try to convince students how absurd the fights are.

Rick Gestring, president of the Interfraternity Council, said he also thought Monday's snowball fight was out of control. Gestring said he arrived at the fight at 10:30 p.m. and saw people using pipes, rocks and anything they could throw.

At its last meeting, Interfraternity Council members urged fraternity

members not to participate, he said.

Gestring said the residence halls obviously organized Monday's snowball fight.

The police also need to take a bigger role in protecting fraternity property, he said. Police blocked off the streets and were content to contain the snowball fight, Gestring said.

Russ Johnson, RHA president, said students need to change their attitudes before the snowball fight problem can be solved.

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