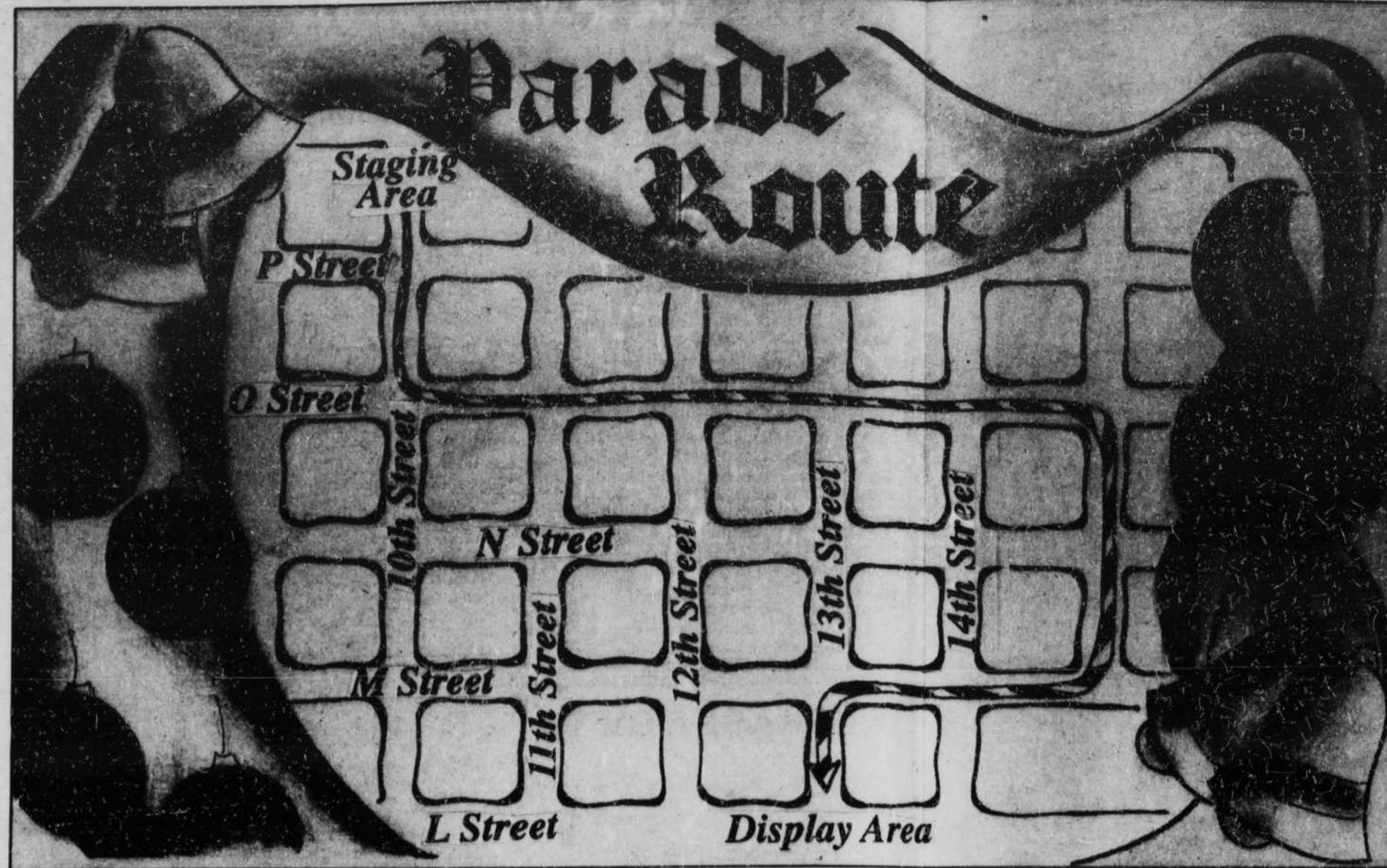




Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

### Additions, changes update quality of parade

By Kirstin Swanson  
Staff Reporter

Songs of the holiday season will ring through the streets of downtown Lincoln this weekend.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Star City Holiday Parade will weave its way through downtown Lincoln on Saturday. The parade, with the theme of "Songs of the Season," will start at 10th and O streets at 11 a.m.

The parade route has been changed this year, more bands have been added and the Saturday event has been expanded into a three-day weekend filled with activities for all ages, said Julie Lattimer, parade coordinator.

Lattimer said the parade route was changed to eliminate corners so the acts would perform more frequently along the parade route. There are 102 parade units this year, including five giant balloons; Twinkles the Teddy Bear, Snowflake the Snowman, Humpty Dumpty, an ear of corn and a hot air balloon.

Lattimer said the parade is growing as a citywide event with the support of the Gateway and East Park Plaza merchants. Gateway is sponsoring a float in the shape of a house. The roof opens like a tulip and giant cookies will pop out, Lattimer said.

Parade officials estimated last year's spectators at 65,000 and they expect 70,000 this year, weather permitting.

Pre-parade entertainment along the route will feature clowns, carolers, mimes and jugglers starting at 9:30 a.m. and performing until the parade begins.

The two-hour event will feature a record number 34 marching bands from across the state, including the University of Nebraska Cornhusker Marching Band.

The Homestead Girl Scouts, dressed as ice princesses, will carry banners announcing the award winners and the sponsor of each entry.

Mayor Bill Harris, who will ride in a horse-drawn carriage, will light the community Christmas tree at the Cornhusker Hotel after the parade.

Lattimer said one of the goals of the parade committee was to "make the parade itself the best quality" parade possible. To insure high-caliber floats, one of her 26 volunteer committees is responsible for checking the progress of the floats weekly.

Also performing this year will be the Executive Clown Corps, which features 31 executives from the city, dressed as clowns and walking as one parade unit.

After the parade the Haymarket Historic District will be decorated and alive with costumed Charles Dickens characters reading excerpts from "A Christmas Carol." Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, storytellers and choral groups will be performing hourly.

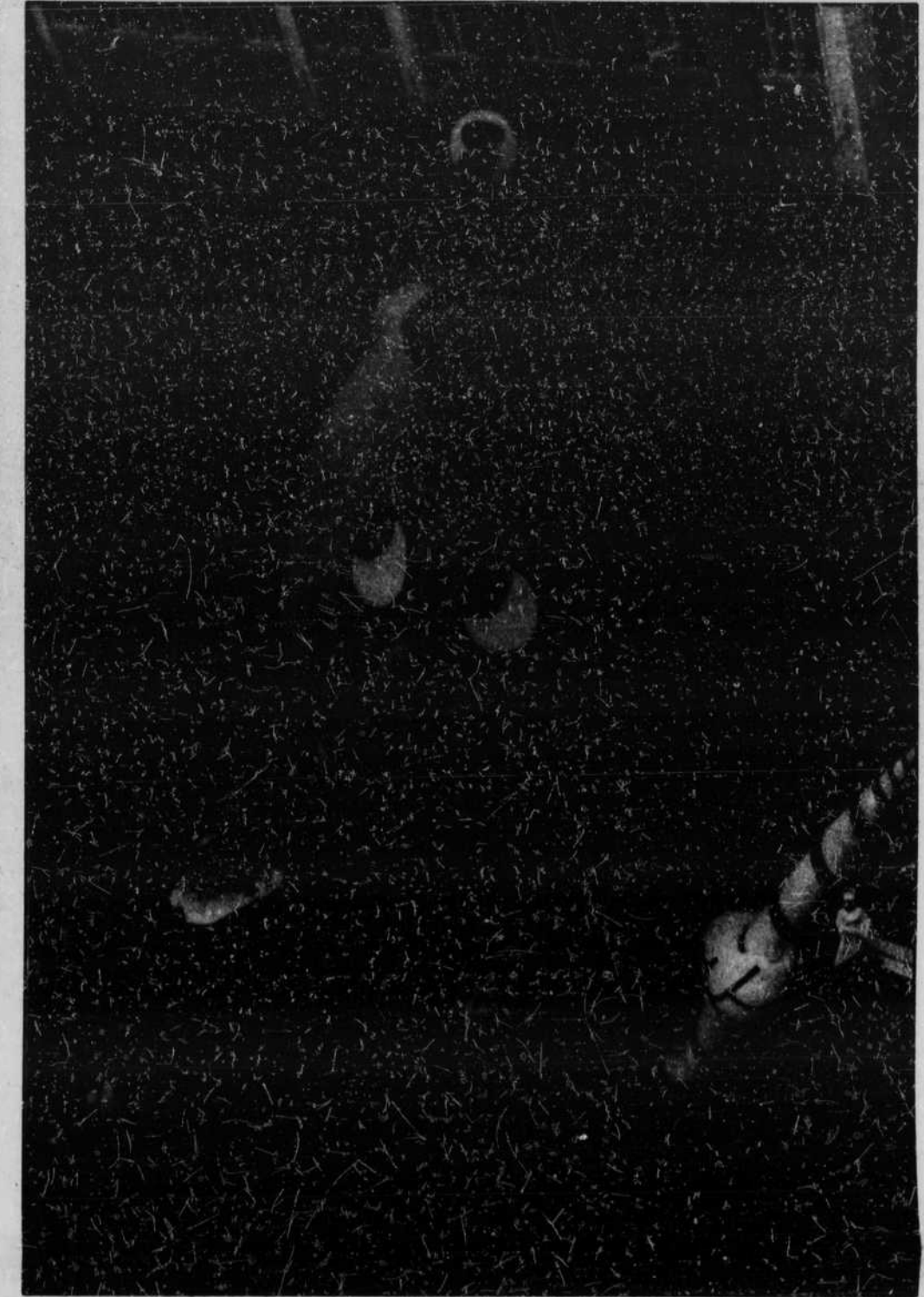


Photo Courtesy of Julie Lattimer

### BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS.....

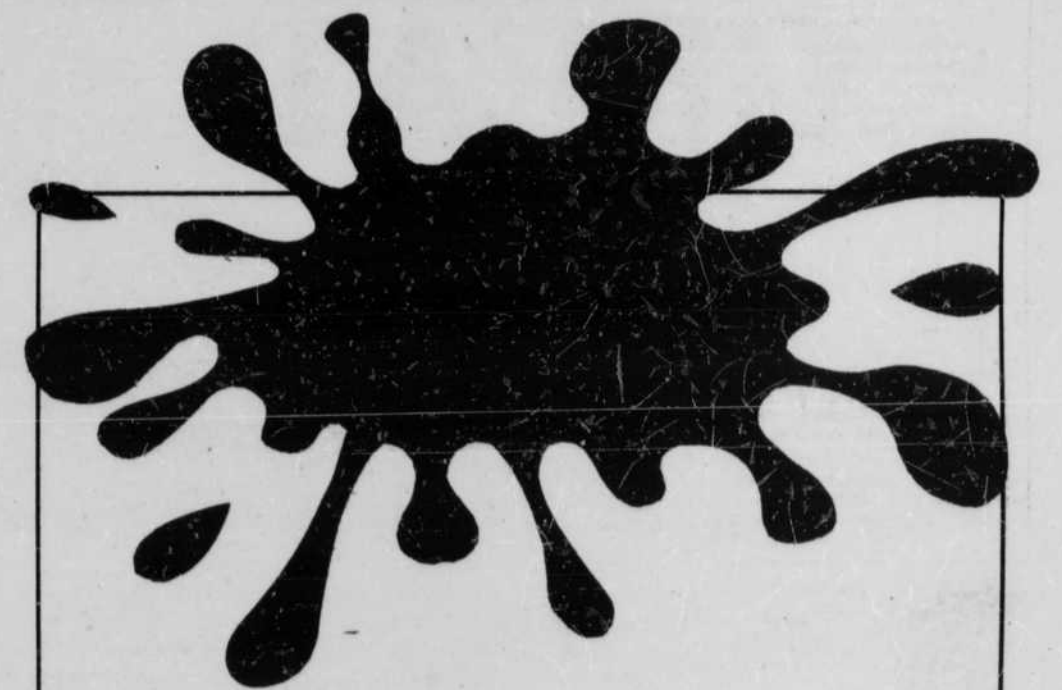


### AFTER THE HOLIDAYS!!!!



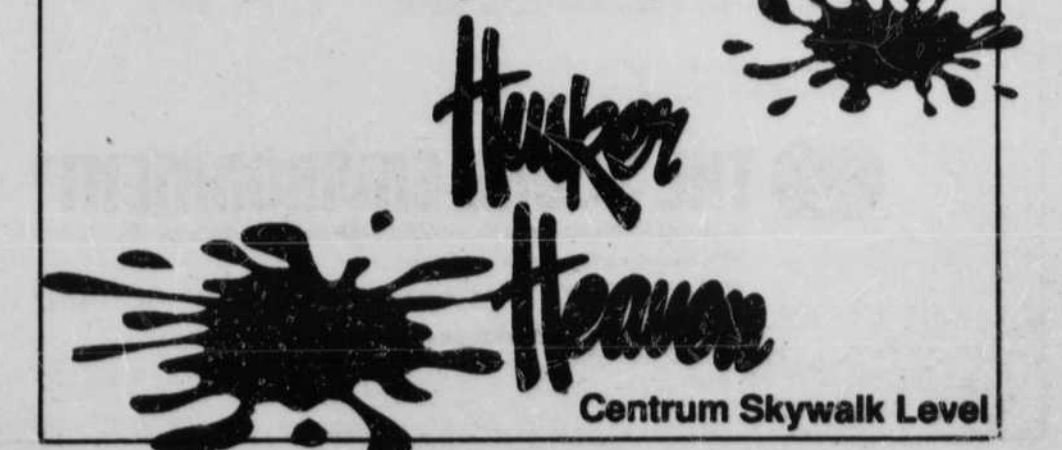
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