

# 'Tis the season to be giving for campus community

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Beta Sigma Psi is donating Christmas trees to the needy. Kevin Koenig, president, said he's unsure of the specific groups and that he thinks the United Way is one of them. Six to eight trees will be given away, he said.

Sean Martin, vice president of Beta Theta Pi, said the fraternity is collecting non-perishable food items for the Lincoln Food Bank. He said about two boxes of food items have been collected.

In addition to the food drive, Martin said he thinks house members

will take kids in the YMCA Y-Pals program to a UNL basketball game. He said it's usually done in November or December, and that if it's not done this year, it'll most likely be done next semester.

Kappa Sigma will have a party to help the needy, said Rob Thompson, philanthropy chairman. The date of the party hasn't yet been released. Proceeds will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Last Thursday through Saturday, about 35 members of Sigma Chi donated blood for Toys For Tots, Bill Thompson said. The drive was a success, he said.

Sororities, too, have philanthropy projects in the works. Alpha Delta Pi, Delta Delta Delta and Delta Sigma Theta are involved in charitable activities ranging from food drives to visits to nursing homes.

Pledges of Alpha Delta Pi made door signs and decorations for the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha, said Dawn Brooks, philanthropy chair. Monday, the house caroled for cans for the Lincoln Food Bank, she said.

Delta Delta Delta pledges made cookies for children at Via Maria in Waverly. They sang songs, too, said Bridget Nutter, philanthropy chair-

woman. The kids "really liked it," Nutter said. The house has done this activity for "at least the past three years," she said.

In past years, members of Delta Sigma Theta have caroled and visited with residents in North Omaha nursing homes, said Tonya Horn, a previous vice president and recording secretary. Last year they visited Salem Manor in North Omaha, Horn said. They'll probably visit a nursing home this year, too, she said.

Residence halls such as the Cather-Pound-Neihardt complex, and the Residence Hall Association (RHA) have philanthropy plans, as

well. All are working to give away either food, clothing, blankets or all three.

Residents of Cather and Pound are collecting money for a needy Lincoln family. The project is being organized by Student Assistants Kirk Carpenter and Mojgan Delalat, said Steve Grajewski, residence director of Cather Hall.

Neihardt residents are having a food drive contest. Boxes are located in TV lounges on each floor. The floor with the most food items in their box at the end of the semester wins a free pizza party. Proceeds will be donated to the Lincoln Food Bank.

## Idea-drained columnist lists his Top Five's for year

By Jim Hanna  
Staff Reporter

Oh my -- the pressure, the agony of finals. Just as the year is winding down and our young minds are at the edge of burn-out, finals week arrives to push us right over the edge of sanity.

### humor HANNA

Add to that the hellish experience of being a Daily Nebraskan columnist and perhaps you get some sense of the nightmarish quality of my existence.

But fortunately, the end of the year also provides an arts and entertainment writer with a small tidbit of salvation: The list.

This is the time of the year when all truly uncreative writers get to unleash a tidal wave of lists -- Top Ten Movies, Top Ten Worst Movies, Top Ten Albums, etc.

Simply recognizing this list phenomenon and noting that it is the mark of an unimaginative, drained mind does not mean that I am above using it as the basis for my final column of the semester.

So allow me (you really don't have a choice) to present my own series of lists for the end of the semester.

This is a look back at 1988 through my eyeballs. I have compiled these lists and am solely responsible for their content.

#### TOP FIVE WORST FASHION FAUX PAS OF 1988

- 1) Martin Massengale's tied cravat.
- 2) Tom Osborne's double-breasted jogging suit.
- 3) Ronald Roskens' cut-off dress pants.
- 4) Kay Orr's semi-transparent ballroom gown.
- 5) Dave Karnes' big, fluffy mutton-chop sideburns.

#### TOP FIVE MEANEST THINGS UTTERED BY FINANCIAL AID OFFICE EMPLOYEES.

- 1) "How did someone as stupid as you even get a scholarship?"
- 2) "Maybe you should use this loan to buy a clue, dim wit."
- 3) "Your loan? Oh I bet it all in the office pool and lost -- sorry."
- 4) "Here's your loan check. Come on jump for it, shorty. Reach higher. Higher. Ha-ha-ha-ha!"
- 5) "Hey Louisa! Greta! Everyone, come out here and look at this ugly kid picking up his loan. I've never seen anyone so ugly!"

#### TOP FIVE IDEAS FOR A COLUMN THAT MY EDITOR REJECTED.

- 1) The time I went fishing with Anita Baker and she bit the heads off of live carp.
- 2) The time I was so poor and hungry that I ate the family dog.
- 3) The time I got stinko drunk at the Governor's mansion and puked on Bill Orr.

- 4) The time I was giving plasma and the machine went haywire, started pumping in reverse and my arm exploded, spraying blood and pulpy flesh everywhere.
- 5) The time I read "War and Peace" aloud.

#### THE TOP FIVE EXCUSES USED BY UNL STUDENTS TURNING IN LATE PAPERS.

- 1) "I thought this was a leap year."
- 2) "This whole Dan Quayle

thing really had me rattled. I couldn't even write this paper."

3) "This paper was due when? Who are you? Who am I? What is this welt on my head?"

4) "I'm turning in the next writing assignment a few weeks early, that's all."

5) "I didn't finish this paper, professor, because I was busy writing my essay nominating you as teacher of the year."

#### THE TOP FIVE REASONS I GAVE A METER MONITOR

#### NOT TO TICKET MY CAR.

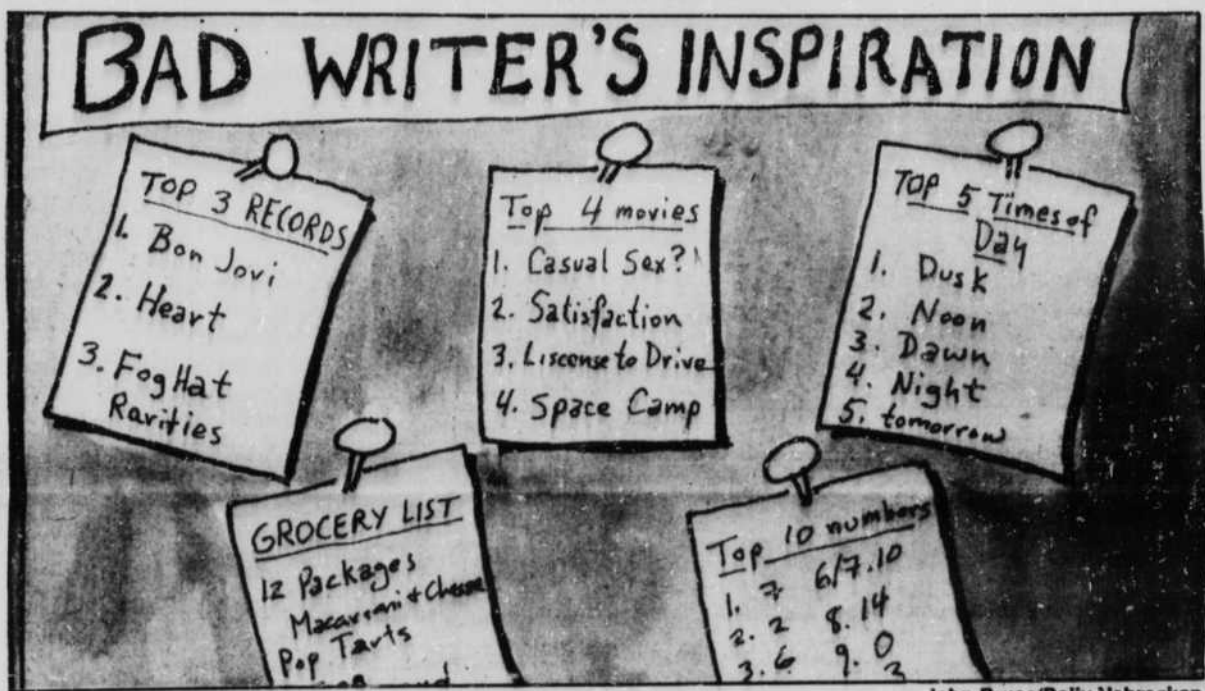
1) "Don't touch that car! It's wired to explode when the wipers are lifted!"

2) "My dad is the mayor."

3) "If you ticket my car, I will kill you."

4) "Oh no! Another ticket. Now I'll never be able to make the final payment on Mother's dialysis machine."

5) "Oh, this car? No, it's not my car -- I think it's the police chief's car."



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

## Seasonal parties vary with cultures

By Lane Van Ham  
Staff Reporter

December celebrations are found all over the world, and some of them have nothing to do with Santa Claus, mistletoe or Christmas shopping.

The celebrations of the American Indians and southern Africans, for example, relate predominantly to the link between agricultural and spiritual concerns.

Liz Grobsmith, an associate professor of Anthropology whose main area of interest is Native American studies, said the most elaborate celebrations are held by the Pueblo tribes of Arizona and New Mexico.

"The Hopi, in particular, have a religion that is based on Kachinas -- masked god impersonators. They believe that during the winter the Kachinas reside in the San Francisco peaks. After the winter solstice, the ceremonies begin and the Kachinas return," she said.

Grobsmith said the Kachinas are thought to provide a bountiful harvest if the ceremonies are done properly.

She said the Kachinas begin the season of dancing at harvest time. All the dancing revolves around a prayer for rain, she said, because the Hopi are dry land farmers.

"They believe that if you do the Kachinas ceremonies right, you will get rain and productivity. The whole use of the spiritual beings revolves around bringing life, and to them, winter is the period where that season begins."

This is similar in many ways to the ceremonies of southern Africans at the same time of year.

Robert Hitchcock, also an associ-

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