

Group concerned about balloon litter

By Jana Pedersen
Senior Editor

An ecology group from Fremont is hoping to let the air out of a Nebraska football tradition.

The Keep Fremont Beautiful Committee and other local branches of the Keep Nebraska Beautiful program sent letters earlier this month to the UNL athletic department expressing concern over the release of red-and-white balloons during home football games.

Sue Stoeber-Reyzlik, coordinator of Keep Fremont Beautiful, said the committee decided to send the letters after they learned that litter from massive balloon releases can be harmful to wildlife.

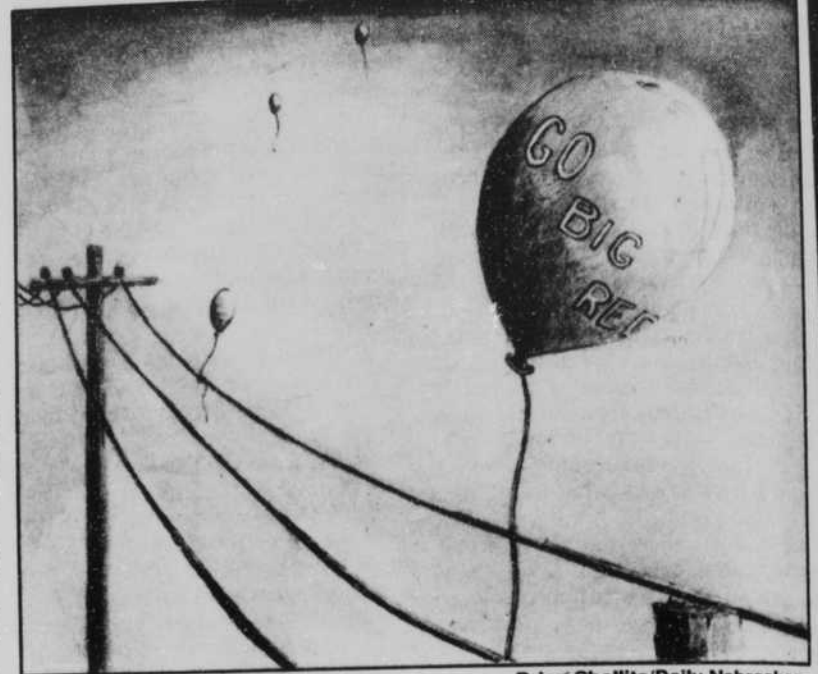
"Most people think of littering as throwing a candy wrapper out the car window," Stoeber-Reyzlik said. "But partially deflated balloons can pose a threat to wildlife."

There has been no documentation of harm to Nebraska wildlife from balloon releases, she said. But, releases were banned in Florida because of harmful effects on wildlife there.

Stoeber-Reyzlik called the letter-writing campaign a "symbolic start" to Keep Nebraska Beautiful's statewide program of educating Nebraskans about better waste management.

"If we can recognize that this is litter, maybe we can step forward and deal with our other garbage problems," she said.

Stoeber-Reyzlik said the committee hasn't planned any further action to encourage alternatives to the bal-



Brian Shellito/Daily Nebraskan

loon releases during games. But, she said, the letters did accomplish the committee's goal of pointing out the litter problem to UNL officials.

"It's going to come down someplace, and it's going to come down as litter," she said. "We felt we just needed to point out that balloon releases are litter and see if they (UNL officials) would consider that when setting the policy."

Gary Fouraker, assistant athletic director for business affairs at UNL, said the athletic department hasn't discussed any alternatives to balloon releases.

"Since the games are over with this year, that's not much of a priority right now," he said.

He said he has received no other complaints about the balloon releases.

The UNL student spirit organization Tassels sells balloons at Nebraska football games.

Football fans purchase the balloons from Tassels members. Balloons are released after the first time Nebraska scores.

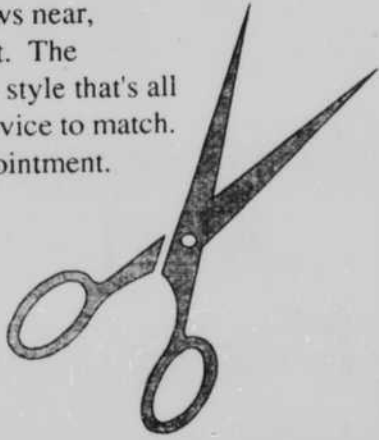
William Skinner, president of

See BALLOON on 7

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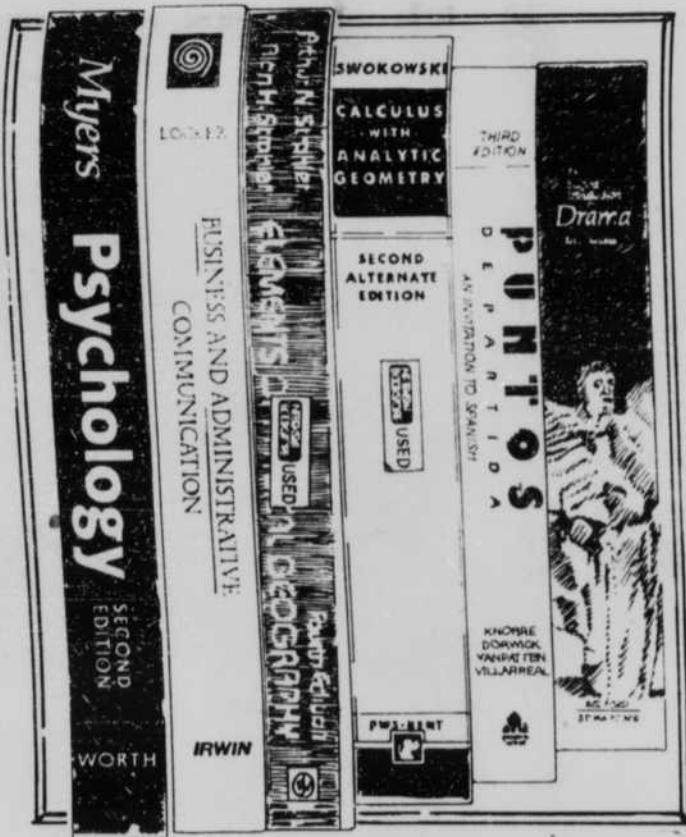


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East Campus financial aid office considered by ASUN

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

Several members of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska want to recommend a new East Campus branch for the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

ASUN president Bryan Hill said an East Campus office would provide financial aid services for agriculture, home economics, law and dentistry students. Currently, those students must use the City Campus office.

Students would be able to drop off and pick up forms at the office, said Nancy Karnopp, a member of the advisory board for the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. The

office also would be equipped with a computer for students to determine the status of their loans, Karnopp said.

One or two employees would work in the office, she said. The number of staff members would depend on how much money the office received, she said, but one employee might be sufficient to do the job.

The office staff members should be trained well, she said, because they would be responsible for answering students' questions relating to financial aid.

Each staff member would receive a salary between \$12,000 and

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police REPORT

Beginning midnight Thursday, Dec. 14

2:37 a.m. -- Person arrested at 14th and O streets for driving while intoxicated.

8:39 a.m. -- Jacket reported stolen from Nebraska Union, \$350.

9:58 a.m. -- Two-vehicle, non-injury accident reported near dairy store, \$650.

11:52 a.m. -- Two-vehicle, non-injury accident reported in Area 12, 14th and W streets, \$500.

3:21 p.m. -- Hit-and-run, non-injury accident reported in unknown area, \$240.

5:22 p.m. -- Garbage can reported vandalized in College of Business Administration, \$30.

11:25 p.m. -- Vacuum cleaner reported stolen from Bessey Hall, \$350.

Friday

12:04 a.m. -- First-degree arson reported in Selleck Hall, \$100.

8:17 a.m. -- Tractor blade reported to have damaged vehicle parked in Area 10 near Harper Hall, \$150.

8:41 a.m. -- Light pole reported struck down near Ruth Staples Laboratory, \$400.

1 p.m. -- Passport reported lost between 14th and O streets and Selleck Hall, \$46.

3:50 p.m. -- Hit-and-run, non-injury accident reported in Area 25, 14th and W streets, \$100.

5:59 p.m. -- Two-vehicle, non-injury accident reported in Area 2 near Abel Hall, \$900.

Saturday

4:29 a.m. -- Intoxicated person near 48th Dead Man's Run taken to Detoxification Center.

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