

SAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE LIZARD

THE LIZARD LOUNGE IS ONE YEAR OLD THIS

THURSDAY

THE PARTY STARTS AT **9:00** WITH

50¢ DRAWS UNTIL 11:00

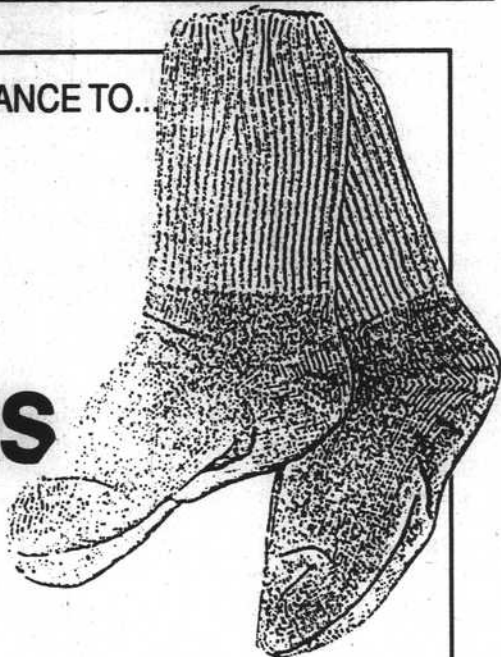
BUD, BUD LIGHT, LITE, RED DOG, COORS LIGHT ETC.....

ITS OUR BIRTHDAY BUT WE'RE GIVING THE GIFTS!!
T-SHIRTS, HAT, MUGS AND LOTS OF OTHER PARTY FAVORS!!

IGUANA'S - 1426 'O' STR.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO..

**Sell
Your
Socks
Off!**



Daily Nebraskan Advertising Account Executive.
Positions available beginning Fall 1995.
Application information: Room 34, Nebr. Union.
Materials due March 10, 1995 at 5 pm.

Citizen wants to make difference

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

As the roll call vote goes around the table at the mayor's Conciliation Committee meetings, members respond with their name, committee position and affiliation.

Pascual Marquez, U.S. Department of Justice.

Joel Gajardo, Director of the Hispanic Community Center.

Mike Merwick, Lincoln fire chief.

Then there's a different reply.

"I'm Ron Leifert, a concerned citizen."

Leifert does not represent an organization's agenda, nor does he belong to a special interest group.

Leifert belongs to the community, and he's there to protect it.

The committee, which was charged with promoting diversity and cultural understanding in Lincoln, was prompted by the death of Francisco Renteria.

A month and a half later, Leifert was spurred on by the birth of his daughter, Lorin. He said he saw how polarized Lincoln's ethnic and white populations had become after Renteria's death and did not want this environment for his daughter.

Instead, Leifert said he wanted a community in which people were accepting of each other's ethnicity. At the suggestion of a minority business associate who knew the Renteria family, Leifert went to a Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting.

The meeting was full of people from various ethnic backgrounds, Leifert said, and he—a white, middle-aged, middle-class male—was a minority.

After the meeting, Leifert's question to the mayor was, "Who would represent your average Joe Blow?"

"Everyone was representing a group," he said. "There was not anyone to say, 'I'm a citizen. I want to hear all sides and get in there and make a good decision.'"

The committee needed someone



Travis Heying/DN

Ron Leifert, who is a community representative on the Lincoln Conciliation Process Board, talks about the group's motive during a meeting on Tuesday at Bryan Memorial Hospital.

who did not have an agenda, he said. "One thing they certainly needed was a voice of balance."

Leifert, a native of Lyons—a small town of 1,500 people and few minorities—was not exposed to minorities until he came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1965.

"I grew up in a Norman Rockwell painting," he said.

Teaching was Leifert's first passion. He taught at Clinton Elementary School, where he was exposed to a diverse student population, and he coached football and taught drivers' education at Lincoln East High School.

Then Leifert's life changed. While working on his administrative degree in the summer of 1975, two of his former employers offered him a job offer he said he couldn't refuse.

Today, at 47, he owns and operates Leifert Construction Co., which specializes in concrete construction, but his teaching hasn't stopped. His company employs several university students who, he said, can take away more than a paycheck from their work experience.

Leifert wants to teach them tolerance.

For instance, the company's applications expanded the Equal Opportunity Employment statement by stating: "We welcome applicants of all ethnic backgrounds."

This was a suggestion for city employers mentioned at a previous conciliation meeting.

The mayor's meetings have heightened Leifert's and others' respect and awareness of minorities, he said, but these goals could not be accomplished overnight.

Even if committee members' opinions aren't the same, he said, members should have respect for each others' opinions.

"I can't comprehend that a 10-year-old boy fears the police—without hearing things from parents or authority figures," he said. "But these things exist in the community."

For his daughter's sake, Leifert said he wanted to change them.

"I will work to be someone who thinks on balance and makes decisions on objective judgment," he said. "I do not speak on a position of emotionalism."

"Now it's my time to be involved and to make a difference."

MACARONI AU FROMAGE

(EAT WITH GUSTO FOR ABOUT 51¢ PER SERVING.)

2 cups macaroni (pinwheels are fun)	1 cup milk
1 cup sharp cheddar (grated)	3 tbs flour
1/2 stick butter	1 tsp pepper
1 tsp Worcestershire (if you like)	1 tsp salt

Cook macaroni in 5 cups salted, boiling water for 15 minutes or until al dente. Drain. In a separate pot, melt butter and mix in flour over low heat. Then, stir in milk until smooth. Add cheese, salt, pepper and Worcestershire. Stir well. Smother macaroni. Serves 4.



Note: For your nutritional convenience, Citibank Classic cards are accepted at over 12 million locations, including grocery stores.

WE'RE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.™

To apply, call 1-800-CITIBANK.

