

Spelling bee to benefit library

By Jeff Randall
Staff Reporter

Fun, f-u-n, fun.
That's what Nebraska Literary Heritage Association board member Barb Hoppe said the 12th Annual Adult Spelling Bee promises.

This year's event will be held Tuesday night at P.O. Pears, 322 S. Ninth St., and will feature a number of fierce and not-so-fierce spellers locked in competition, Hoppe said.

No matter who wins, she said, the real winner will be the Heritage Room at the Bennett Martin Public Library, which will receive the contestants' \$30 registration fees and all other proceeds from the benefit.

The Heritage Room, located on the third floor of Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th and N streets, contains books written by authors who were either born or have lived in Nebraska.

Works by literary figures as well-known as Willa Cather and Louise Pound are shelved beside works by lesser-known contemporary authors, Hoppe said. The Heritage Room is also a valuable source for researchers.

"It's really kind of a jewel," she said. "Having something like this is very important to Nebraskans."

Lightheartedness has been the rule rather than the exception throughout the history of the adult spelling bee, Hoppe said.

"It's a very light and encouraging environment," she said. "You don't hear any harsh put-downs or insults."



Bret Gottschall/DN

But that doesn't mean serious competitors are nonexistent.

"There are some gunners who are definitely out to win," Hoppe said. "For a lot of them, this has become sort of a grudge match, a real point of pride."

The winner of the bee will receive a dictionary, and all competitors receive T-shirts.

Because cheering sections are a necessary part of the winning equa-

tion, she said, bringing large groups of supporters is a tradition. Spectators must pay a \$5 admission fee, which also goes to the Heritage Room.

"People should basically just come out and have a good time," Hoppe said. "Besides, it's for a good cause."

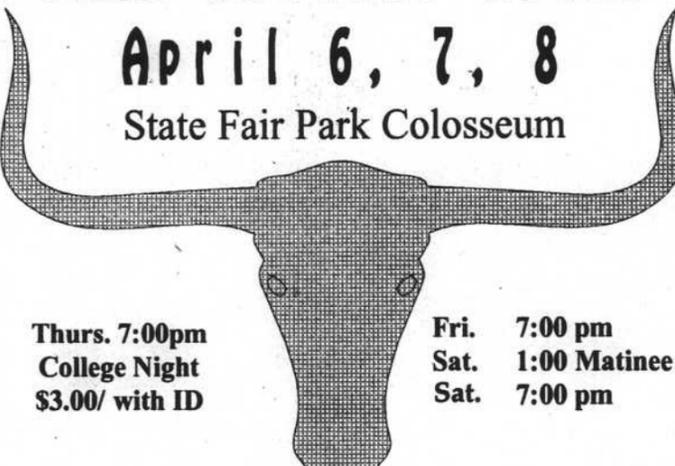
People who are interested in entering the Adult Spelling Bee or sponsoring a competitor should contact the Bennett Martin Library. The \$30 registration fee and application are due April 10.

37th Annual UNRA College Rodeo

April 6, 7, 8

State Fair Park Colosseum

Thurs. 7:00pm
College Night
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Fri. 7:00 pm
Sat. 1:00 Matinee
Sat. 7:00 pm

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Dance 10:00 - 1:00 am
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April 21
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Cable

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For example, basic cable at Cox Cable costs \$10.28 a month and includes 24 channels. One month of basic cable with Cablevision costs \$10.61 a month for 21 channels.

For an extra \$9.88 monthly, Cablevision can add 18 more channels, including MTV, VH-1 and ESPN. Another \$4.95 will add 11 more channels, including the Science Fiction Channel, Prime Sports Network and Encore, a movie channel not available through Cox.

"Encore is generally considered as a premium service," Kiolbasa said, "but here it is offered as a part of a tier of service."

For Cox Cable customers, an extra \$3.31 a month adds seven more channels, including CNN, The Nashville Network and ESPN. Another \$7.97 adds 19 channels including Comedy Central, the Cartoon Network and the Disney Channel. The Disney Channel is considered a premium service on Cablevision and costs \$11.95 a month.

Bill Norton, community relations director for Cox Cable, said the Disney Channel was added to the complete basic package because of its quality.

"It's a great program," Norton said, "and it added a lot of value to the channel lineup."

Disney was aware that the high price tag of the Disney channel kept it out of a lot of homes, Norton said, so they started talking to cable companies about possibly converting it to a basic channel as a way to sell the service.

"We saw it as a way to get a great channel onto our basic service, and we've gotten tremendous responses from our customers," Norton said. "It's the best move we have ever made."

Having the big piece of the cable pie in a community has some universal advantages, Kiolbasa said.

"It certainly cuts down on confu-

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Community relation for Cox Cable

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sion," he said. "Everyone knows who to call, everyone has the same thing on the same channel."

"It's easy for us, for the paper that does TV listings and for the city," Norton agreed.

"With our size and being spread out over a lot of customers," he said, "we can be more up to date with technology, and we can keep growing to meet the needs of our customers."

Like customers of almost every business, UNL students like Matt Topping, a freshman general studies major, wished the cable companies could give "lower prices and better deals."

Kim Kathol, a business administration junior, said she'd like more choices.

"They should make it so you can just select the channels you want," Kathol said, "like only one channel of HBO. It would be cheaper."

Craig Vacek, a freshman biology major, said Cablevision should provide its Lincoln viewers with Comedy Central, which feature shows such as "Mystery Science Theater 3000" and "Kids in the Hall."

"Plus," Vacek said, "they need to give Ron Kurtenbach (who has a community access show) a prime-time slot."

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