

# Daily Nebraskan

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## THURSDAY

**WEATHER:**

**Today - Mostly sunny, windy  
& mild. Northwest wind 20  
to 30 mph.**

**Tonight - Mostly clear. Low  
around 30.**

January 11, 1996



## Coupon holds no smoke

*Provision  
problematic,  
retailers say*

**By Chad Lorenz**  
Senior Reporter

Coupon clippers and merchants beware.

A coupon recently distributed in Nebraska newspapers, if honored, violates Nebraska's smokeless tobacco laws. A number of Lincoln retailers Wednesday accepted the coupon.

The Dec. 10 edition of "Parade" magazine, a nationally distributed in-

sert found Sundays in the Omaha World-Herald and the Lincoln Journal Star, contained a coupon for a \$1.50 discount on Skoal's flavor packs of chewing tobacco.

At the bottom the coupon, in small print, are the words "Void in Nebraska."

Article 19 of Nebraska's tobacco laws says distribution of smokeless tobacco at a discount, free sample or "two-for-one" offer could bring the seller a \$500 penalty for the first offense and \$600 to \$3,000 for subsequent offenses.

The law, which was passed in 1989, is exclusive to Nebraska.

Kathy Burklund, a community health educator for the state health department, said the attorney general, district courts and county sheriff were

responsible for enforcing the law.

But Burklund said the law wasn't enforced well. And a deputy at the Lancaster County sheriff's office said no set procedure existed for enforcing the law.

Retailers interviewed by the Daily Nebraskan said they had not heard of the law, and most were accepting the coupon.

Jason Holm, a manager at the Kwik Shop at 2701 W St., said not notifying sellers of the law was unfair.

"I'm sure they have their reasons for the law, but I think they should make it clear to the public."

Brian Coles, a shift manager at Hy-Vee, 14th and Superior streets, said he

See TOBACCO on 3



## NU officials acquire free bowl tickets

**By Julie Sobczyk**  
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska administrators got a free trip to national championship festivities in Arizona, but NU didn't pick up the tab, an official said Wednesday.

Gary Fouraker, assistant athletic director for business affairs, said \$38,000 was allotted to send administrators, their spouses and the Board of Regents to the game.

*"The other regents put in for quite a few, so I just upped my requests."*

**ROBERT ALLEN**  
NU Regent

"We get that money as an allowance from the conference as a bowl package," he said.

The money paid for tickets, air fare and lodging for the NU Board of Regents, members of the chancellor's office and the NU President's office.

Members of the UNL chancellor's and NU president's offices could take their spouses for free, but regents had to pay for their spouses.

Tickets cost anywhere from \$65 to \$95, Fouraker said, and air fare was about \$350 per seat.

The total amount spent on the trip, however, is not available yet, Fouraker said, because he has not received the hotel bill.

Administrators could request additional tickets, but the requests had to be paid for out of their own pockets.

Some regents made large requests for tickets. Regents chairwoman Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo received 41 additional tickets, and Regent John Payne of Kearney got 37.

Other large requests included Regent Don Blank of McCook, who requested 35 tickets, and Regent Robert Allen of Hastings, who requested 31.

The requests were in addition to the one free ticket each regent received.

Allen said he bought tickets for his wife and daughter. He sold the remaining 29 tickets to friends and people who asked him to get tickets.

"It got out of hand," Allen said. "People I knew in Arizona called me for tickets, friends of mine called, and the mother of a yell squad member."

But Allen said he wasn't alone. He requested so many tickets because of the large requests made by other regents.

"The other regents put in for quite a few, so

See TICKETS on 3



Travis Heying/DN

Marty Ramirez, along with his partners Joe Lopez and Cruz Quintana (not pictured), have started a boxing club in Lincoln and are hoping to gain a large following. Ramirez is a counselor at the University Health Center.

## Boxing club aims to knock out gangs

**By Joshua Gillin**  
Staff Reporter

With gangs and drugs seemingly increasing problems in Lincoln, the future of the community's youth could be thrown into question.

But three men feel they may have an answer — the Lincoln Boxing Club.

The club will be open to youths and adults and will offer an alternative to the streets, said Marty Ramirez, one of the club's three organizers.

"I think there's a need out there," he said. "As far as the competition and skill-building are concerned, I think it's an excellent alternative to gang violence."

Ramirez, a counselor at the University Health Center, said he and his two fellow coaches — Joe Lopez, a barber, and Cruz Quintana, a social worker — had wanted to open a club for more than a year, but the resources simply hadn't been available.

Ramirez said the city was leasing the space for the club at the Air Park Recreation Center. He said the help was greatly appreciated, because it allowed the club to focus more on guidance and helping children suc-

ceed in life, rather than trying to find the money to keep it running.

The club is sponsored by the Hispanic Community Center and meets from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Practice is at the recreation center, 3720 N.W. 46th St.

"When you talk about opening something like this, a lot of people go, 'Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah,'" Ramirez said. "Now you can see it isn't just 'yeah, yeah, yeah.'"

Members of the club are expected to provide their own trunks and handwraps, as well as a mouthguard and some form of insurance. Gloves and training are free.

Donations are being sought to help keep the operation going, though.

"We've had a few people donating money," Lopez said. "I think it will be fine, though. When clubs died out before, it was because they didn't have any place to work out of. We've got that taken care of now."

All three coaches have been Golden Gloves boxers before, and they hope to carry on that tradition.

A newer twist on the traditional boxing club is the possibility of having female members.

"I know boxing is one of those stereotypical macho things," Ramirez said, "but if there are girls out there who want to box, who need somewhere to go, we feel we should be there for them."

A wide range of age groups may participate in the club — anyone between eight and 38, who are physically well enough to train.

While some may not consider boxing a safe or constructive use of one's spare time, Ramirez considers it one of the best things a community could offer.

"I feel that many people have a negative reaction toward boxing, that there's a negative connotation that's always present," he said. "I think that extends from what people see from the professionals. We're more about sportsmanship, competition and safety, not doing this as a career someday."

"We're trying to keep these kids safe, and I think there's no better way to do that than to have them participate in a sport that's really as American as apple pie."

Ramirez said those interested in participating in the club could call him at the University Health Center at 472-7461, or at his home at 467-3640.