

Agencies lower costs Travel brokers wheel 'n' deal

By Eva Nekovar
Staff Reporter

Do-it-yourself may work on many occasions. But when it comes to spring break travel, a travel agent is one way in which many students are booking their trips.

Cathy Hodgson, a travel agent for Adventure Travel, 7501 O St., said setting up a trip through a travel agency was the best way to keep costs down.

"We have access to most of the airlines, hotels and various vendors," Hodgson said. "We research for the best value."

"This saves you spending your money on long distance phone bills, and it also saves you time."

Travel agents can book students with many different packages. They can price and arrange air fare, hotel stay, rentals and even set students up with a tour company.

Hodgson said tour companies can arrange group rates for travel, many times at a reasonable discount.

"The students are grouped together with other students and do not have to worry about being grouped together with parents or elders," Hodgson said.

Pam Lundberg, an agent at Executive Travel, 1212 O St., said UNL students were going to many different destinations this year for spring break.

"We have had students call up South Padre, Mexico, Phoenix and Las Vegas. Most of the students are looking for the least expensive trip," Lundberg said.

When it comes to the cost of a trip, there are a few things to take into consideration.

"If you want to fly out of Lincoln, it is going to be more expensive than Omaha; hotels in prime locations are going to also be more expensive and require a deposit on the room," Hodgson said.

Most of the general expenses, such as air fare and hotel, will cost about the same no matter the destination, Adventure Travel said.

"It will cost about \$500 to \$700 for a trip. Yet if a student decides to go on a cruise, the food and entertainment is all paid for," Hodgson said.

"On the other hand if the student were to go to a specific location, he/she would need to take into consideration the cost of his/her food and entertainment."

Hodgson said students' main consideration should be how much they were willing to spend at their destination, not the trip itself.

"The real question is where the best value is once you get there," she said.

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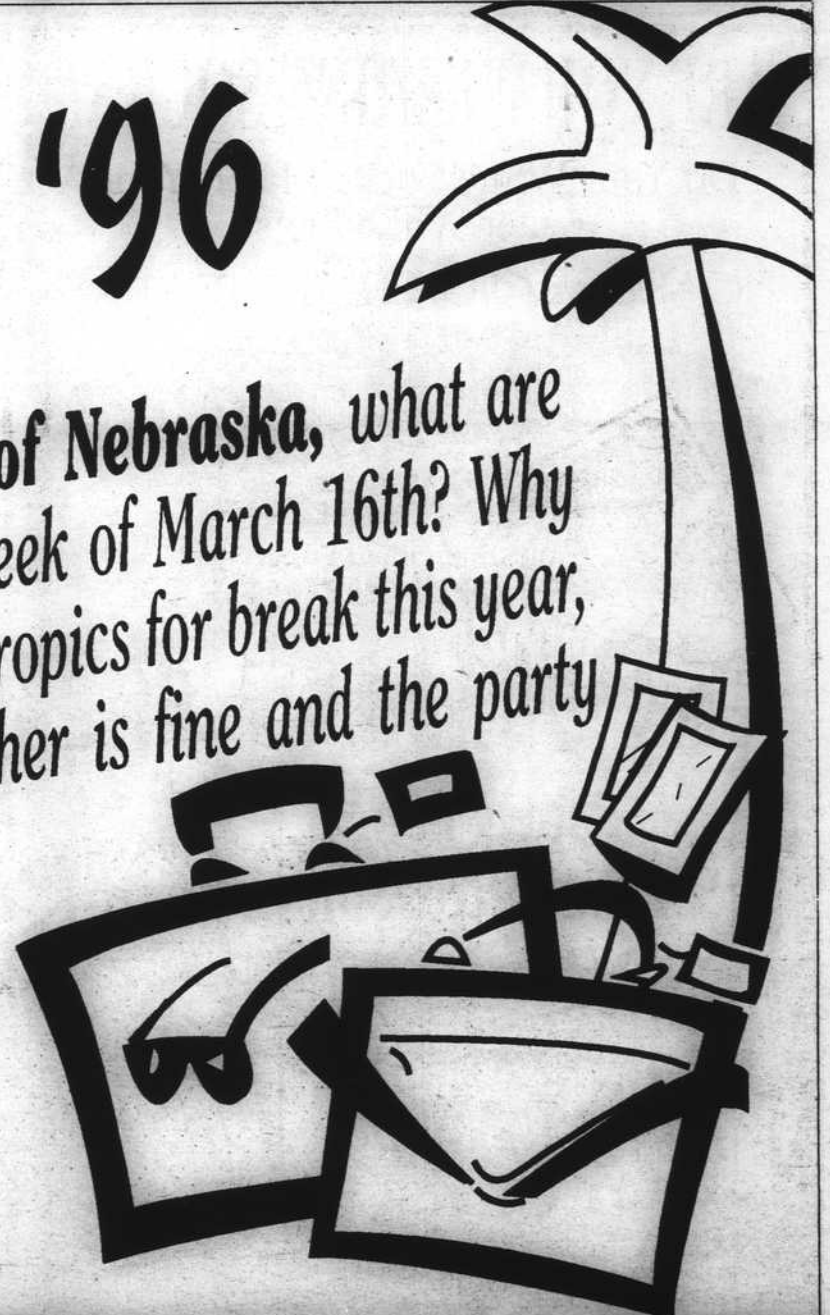
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