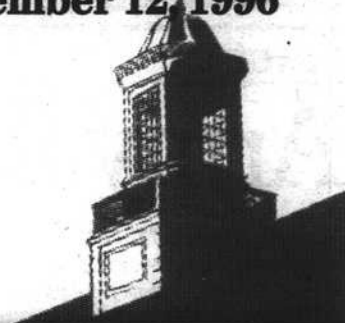


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## UNL taking the challenge: Coke, Pepsi or 7-Up

Soft drink companies may bid for exclusive rights to sell their beverages on campus.

By ERIN SCHULTE  
Senior Reporter

It's the new cola challenge: Will Pepsi, Coke or 7-Up offer UNL the best deal to sell only their line of products on campus?

Coke, Pepsi and Midcontinent Bottlers (which makes 7-Up) have until Dec. 4 to answer a request for proposals issued last month by UNL. If the university accepts a bid, the winning company would have exclusive rights to sell its products on campus, including in vending machines, Nebraska Union restaurants, Memorial Stadium and residence halls.

The decision might be hard at first

for die-hard Mountain Dew or Coke fans, but the rewards would be enormous, said James Main, assistant vice chancellor for business and finance.

"The nature of an exclusive contract has become extremely lucrative in the last several years," Main said. "Possibly several million dollars a year."

Main stressed that the university had not made any decisions yet and was simply looking at the possibility of exclusive sales rights.

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Eric Marintzer was consulted about the issue for student input, Main said.

The university also checked with other universities to see how beverage contracts had worked for their campuses, Main said. The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis just signed a deal with Coke for \$28 million, Main said, and Penn State just signed a deal

Please see **CONTRACT** on 6

## Suppliers blamed for hike in gas price

By ERIN GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

No relief is in sight for high gas prices, which could strain Nebraskans' holiday travel budgets, a gasoline distributor and gas station employees said Monday.

This means a lot of travelers complaining at the gas station checkout counters, said Helen Foreman, president and CEO of Foreman Inc., a gasoline distributor.

Gas prices have risen by about 10 cents per gallon since February. But don't blame the gas stations, Foreman said.

Gas stations and distributors' prices

just reflect higher market forces, she said.

The blame for this fall's high gas prices falls on both suppliers' charging more for crude oil and the typical increase of the season, Foreman said. In the fall, gas prices rise because of a jump in demand for oil products used for heating on the East Coast, she said.

"When our suppliers raise their price, we have no choice," she said. "We have to pass it on to the consumer."

Foreman said gas stations do not get together to fix gas prices around the holidays, a practice called collusion. That is illegal, she said.

Please see **GAS** on 6

## Chilly chore



SCOTT BRUHN/DN

MATT BEATTY, a UNL custodian, shovels snow off the steps of Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery Monday afternoon. Although Lincoln had a slight accumulation, some areas in Ohio were buried under more than 20 inches of snow. Cleveland was covered by 2½ feet of snow in the early blizzard. Up to two more feet of snow was expected in the area by this morning. Please see story on page 7.

## Homemade bombs found throughout Lincoln during weekend

By CHAD LORENZ  
Senior Reporters

A mailbox was the only victim in a rash of six homemade bombs that detonated in Lincoln over the weekend.

Eleven pop-bottle bombs, six of which detonated, were reported at two residences and two businesses, Lincoln police Sgt. Ann Heermann said. Police had not identified any suspects Monday.

All the bombs apparently were made with plastic pop bottles containing an odorous cleaning solvent and aluminum foil pieces, Heermann said. They are called "MacGyver" bombs because of their use on the popular television show of the same name.

Police think the targets were selected at random, but the incidents may be related.

“It can be a pretty good explosion if you have the right amount and the right ratio.”

DARREL KINNAN  
manager of the UNL chemistry lab

Heermann gave the following accounts of the incidents:

An employee of Havelock Furniture, 6200 Havelock St., found the remains of one bomb in the driveway in front of the store Saturday morning.

A 16-ounce plastic bottle was melted and twisted at the top and pieces of plastic and aluminum foil were scattered around.

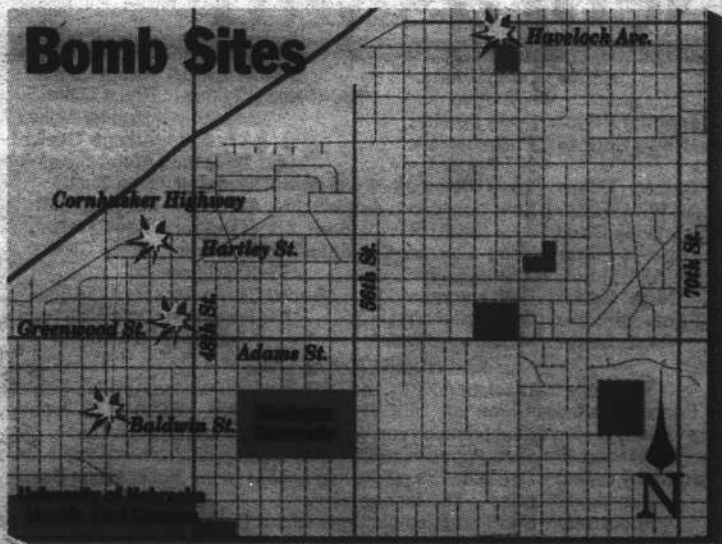
A 45-year-old man living on the 4700 block of Greenwood Street found

two green plastic Mountain Dew bottles sealed with tape on his porch.

He took the bottles inside where he noticed they were heating up and expanding as the liquid inside fizzed.

He set them in his back yard and watched them from his kitchen window. One exploded with a loud boom; the liquid in the other continued fizzing.

Please see **BOMBS** on 6



AARON STECKELBERG/DN