

Tree choice sparks debate

Fake or real: Decision may be prickly for holidays

TREES from page 1

more than \$140 for a fancy, 16-foot-tall fir.

Those big trees represent 15 to 20 years of grooming and care, Bagley said. Artificial trees, although they require less care, just aren't the same, he said.

"They're kind of a novelty that people get tired of," Bagley said.

Tammi Stock and Becky Lowmack of Crete agreed.

"I always had the fake one at home," Stock said, who will join Lowmack in taking home a real tree for the second year this December.

Lowmack said, although a live tree is messy, it gives her home the holiday atmosphere she loves.

"It isn't Christmas without a real tree," she said.

Nola Rhoades, of 2911 N. Sixth St. said she missed the live trees she used to keep in her home. She now keeps a smaller ceramic tree to save space.

"It just always seems more like Christmas with a real tree in the house," Rhoades said.

But a real tree can be problematic, she said. One holiday night, she and her husband awoke to the sound of rain in their house. They laughed

when they found the "rain" was needles falling off the tree branches and bouncing off wrapped packages underneath the tree, she said.

"By Christmas, we just had the bare branches," she said.

That can be a fire hazard, said Barb Elstun, fire prevention coordinator in the Nebraska Fire Marshal's office. A dry tree can easily catch fire near a heat source or with faulty tree lights.

"Trees need to be taken care of," Elstun said.

Trees should be watered daily so the tree can drink the water, and a fresh cut should be made on the bottom of the tree prior to placing it in its stand, she said.

As for Elstun, she no longer keeps a tree in her home. But if she did get a tree, it would be artificial, she said.

A self-described neat-freak, Elstun "wouldn't want the mess of the needles," she said.

Marian Tritch, who picked up a new artificial tree Thursday at a Kmart Super Center, said an artificial tree is convenient and easy to maintain.

Bob Schraeder, manager of the store at 3300 N. 27th St., said hun-

dreds of Lincoln residents agree with Tritch. The store sold about 500 artificial trees last year, he said, and he expects to sell just as many this year.

"There's a great advantage to an artificial tree," he said. "You pay for it once, and then take it down and put it up year after year."

Kmart's artificial trees range in price from \$14.95 to \$169.95, Schraeder said.

Store shopper Sue Donahoo likes the one-time cost, she said. As an allergy sufferer, it's the only tree she can keep in her north Lincoln home.

Dr. Kirk A. Kinberg, a Lincoln allergy and asthma specialist, said many people who are allergic to mold may experience congestion, a runny nose and sneezing if they bring a live tree into their home.

Mold grows naturally on the branches and trunks of trees, he said.

"An artificial tree is better for those individuals," Kinberg said.

But there's a real tree in the Kinberg home, he said.

He's not allergic, he said, and he loves the tradition.

Hagel to enter Congress as a Senate Deputy Whip

From Staff Reports

Sen.-Elect Chuck Hagel has been named one of the Senate's Deputy Whips for the 105th Congress.

Hagel joins the majority leader, Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott, and the assistant majority leader Oklahoma Sen. Don Nickles. A party's whips gauge support for legislation in Congress and lobby for legislation the leadership is backing.

"I am pleased Chuck Hagel has agreed to serve as a deputy whip during the 105th Congress," Nickles said in a press release. Both Nickles and Lott stumped for Hagel's campaign against Democratic Gov. Ben Nelson.

Hagel, who was assigned to the Senate's Foreign Relations and Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs committees Wednesday, said he was honored to help the Republican leadership.

"I look forward to working with them in successfully moving our agenda of a balanced budget, lower taxes and a smaller federal government through the United States Senate," he said.

"It can only mean good things for Nebraska. It gives us a hefty voice in the Senate."

CHUCK SIGERSON
Nebraska State Republican Party
Chairman

Nebraska State Republican Party Chairman Chuck Sigerson said from his home Thursday night that he couldn't remember a time when Nebraska had a senator in a party leadership role.

Sigerson said Hagel has been labeled a leader by the GOP brass, and that speaks well of a small-state senator.

"It can only mean good things for Nebraska," he said. "It gives us a hefty voice in the Senate."

CORRECTION

A Dec. 3 Daily Nebraskan article about former Nebraska football player Riley Washington incorrectly stated that Deputy County Attorney David Stempson was disqualified from the Washington case because of a conflict of interest stemming from phone calls he made to Jermaine Cole, a witness in the case.

Stempson was disqualified from the case because of a single phone call he received from Cole in August.

UNL's Rolling Storm basketball team seeks volunteers to drive to games

From Staff Reports

Rolling Storm, UNL's wheelchair basketball team, is seeking volunteer drivers for away games during the 1996-97 season.

Shad Dahlgren, a senior general agriculture major, said volunteer drivers must be able to operate a 15-passenger van with a trailer. Volunteers will also be required to

help load and unload the team's gear. Expenses will be paid, with a maximum of \$10 a day for meals.

Dahlgren said the team will travel to such places as Minneapolis, Kansas City and St. Louis.

The team's next trip will be to Minneapolis on Saturday and Sunday.

Those interested in becoming volunteer drivers are encouraged to call Dahlgren at 467-5735.

Law & Order

A look at crime on campus and in the community

FRAUD

Lincoln police arrested two men Wednesday night for using a Missouri man's credit card to buy stereo equipment.

Michael Olsson of Kansas City lost his wallet and credit card on Nov. 9 when he was in Lincoln for the Nebraska-Missouri football game, Sgt. Terry Sherrill said.

That same day, two men alleg-

edly used the card to buy more than \$1,000 of stereo equipment at Stereo West, Sherrill said.

After investigating, police found the clerk who made the sale. In a police lineup, the clerk identified Walter Osmon, 39, and Larry Welch, 21, as the men who used the card, Sherrill said.

Osmon and Welch were arrested at 8:30 Wednesday night and jailed.

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1997 Student Assistant Selection Information Sessions

Tuesday, December 3, 1996
3 p.m. - CPN Blue TV Lounge

Friday, December 6, 1996
3:30 p.m. - Nebraska Union Georgian Suite

Sunday, December 8, 1996
9 p.m. - Harper Food Service 24 Hour Study Room
9 p.m. - Selleck Hall Large CDR

Wednesday, December 11, 1996
7 p.m. - Abel Hall Ballroom
7 p.m. - Burr Hall Dirt Room

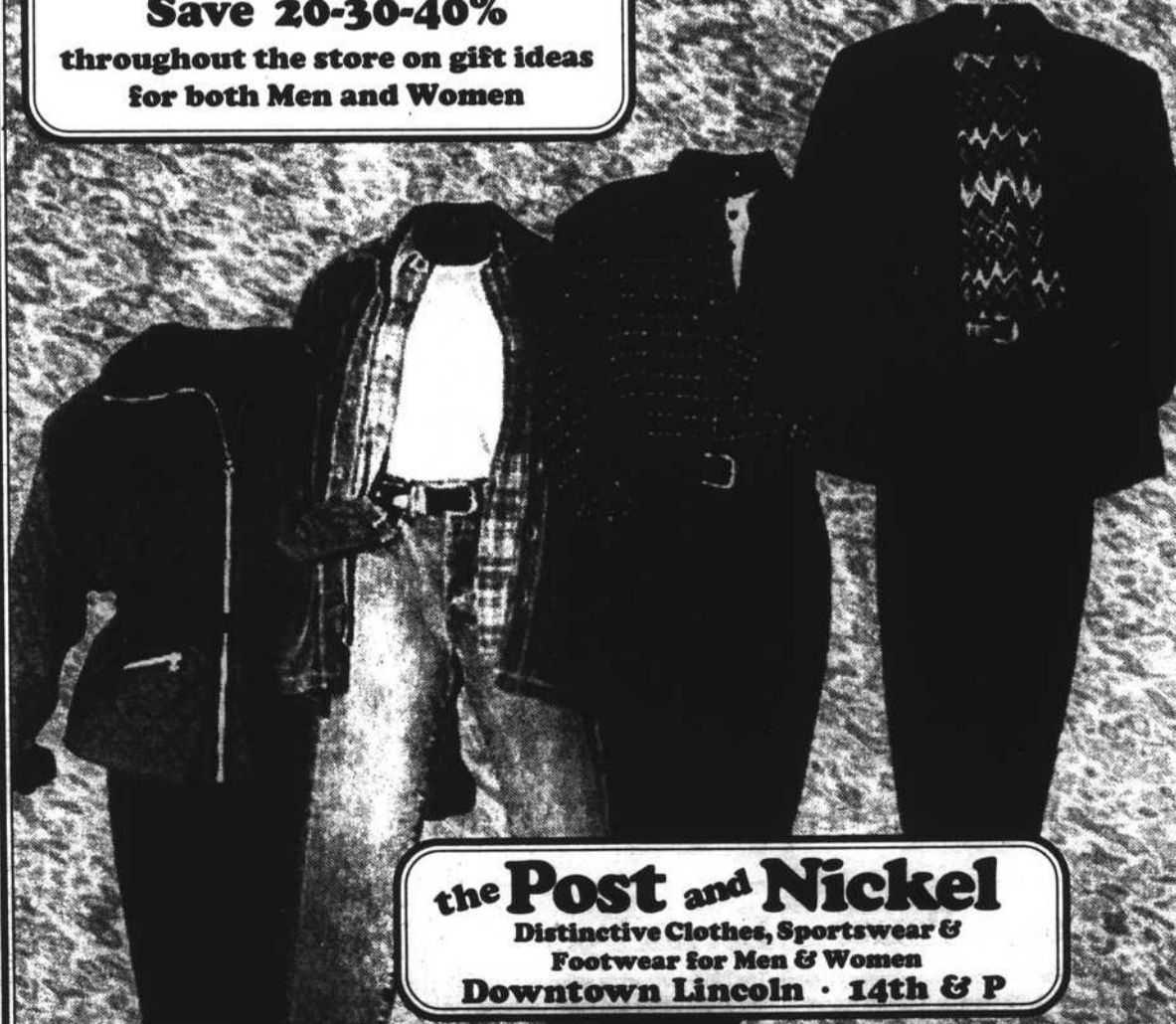
Monday, January 13, 1997
7 p.m. - Nebraska Union Georgian Suite

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