

College to offer dance, games, learning

STOMP from page 11

"If we could get 30 teams, which I don't think is unreasonable, that would be \$600," Kraeger said. "That would be great."

After the Agriculture Olympics, the Office of Student Involvement will put on its annual Student Involvement Fair from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For the first time in the fair's history it will run before the dance.

"I think having it in conjunction with Prairie Stomp will bring a lot more traffic," said Melissa Hamilton, Involvement Fair coordinator. She said the fair would include about 30 organizations, each of which would have its own information booth to recruit volunteers and new members. The fair will be held on the greenspace next to Prairie Stomp.

Voss said the dance had been very successful in past years. She stressed that it was outside, open to everybody and, most importantly, free.

Agriculture Olympics will raise money from games to help Farm Crisis Hotline

By SHANE ANTHONY
Staff Reporter

Country and city folk alike can go for glory at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Agriculture Olympics today.

The new games, which will benefit the Farm Crisis Hotline, will take place at the soccer/softball fields northeast of the Animal Science Building on East Campus.

Events include a hay bale-stacking contest, a wheelbarrow race, an egg toss, a three-legged feed-sack race, a five-gallon bucket relay, tractor-tire bowling and scarecrow roping. The evening will close with a barnyard-call contest at the Prairie Stomp dance. Keith Gilster, professor of animal science, will judge the contest.

Contestants will compete in teams of four. Anyone may enter, but each team must include at least

one woman. A \$20 entry fee is due before the events begin. Registration opens at 2:30 p.m. and competition starts at 3 p.m. Points from each event will be totaled, and the winning team will receive a \$100 gift certificate to a Lincoln restaurant.

Sigma Alpha, a professional agriculture sorority, is sponsoring the event as a philanthropy, said Misty Roggasch, Sigma Alpha public relations chairwoman. They hope to continue the event every year, she said.

Sigma Alpha will give all money raised during the event to the Farm Crisis Hotline, Roggasch said. She said the hot line, which offers free services including financial advice to farmers, may have to shut off its lines because of a lack of funding.

"We can all relate to that because we're all from ag backgrounds," Roggasch said.

Affluenza cure: Try to spend less

NEW YORK (AP) — Don't take this wrong, but you seem kind of sick.

Sick of working so hard to pay for things you don't even want. Sick of feeling as though the more you buy, the less you have. In short, sick of chasing the greased pig that masquerades as the American Dream.

You say you're willing to pay more for a T-shirt emblazoned with a fashion-forward logo? You say you treat yourself to a shopping trip when you're feeling blue?

Well, you're showing symptoms of affluenza, the epidemic that lends its name to a documentary airing on PBS Monday at 8 p.m. on Channel 13 and Cablevision Channel 12. "Never has so much meant so little to so many," observed host Scott Simon at the outset of a program that traces how, in just 50 years, a nation's penny-saved-is-a-penny-earned frugality has been transformed into consuming mania.

"You can buy happiness," argues an ad for a shopping mall included in the show — "just don't pay retail." Starting to weaken, afflu sufferer? Well, keep your seat. That way, you can't get to your wallet.

The impact of affluenza is keenly felt at the personal level, Simon tells us. Despite more spending power and possessions than Americans could boast of in the 1950s, our current sense of well-being has actually erod-

ed. Our priorities seem out of skew. More of us visit a mall each week than a house of worship. On average, we spend six hours per week shopping, yet only 40 minutes playing with our children. And placing further strains on our family life, a million of us declared bankruptcy last year.

The bad news extends all the way to the global level. Americans make up less than 5 percent of the world's population but use nearly a third of the earth's resources. Since 1950, Americans have used up more of the earth's riches than did everyone who ever lived before that.

Amusing stock footage and dramatized vignettes supplement personal stories from the afflu-afflicted. Testimonials are voiced by experts ranging from champions of voluntary simplicity to free-market Christian fundamentalists.

The most sought-after new consumers are children. A jaw-dropping sequence in "Affluenza" shows the speaker at a marketing conference grandly talking of "branding chil-

dren and owning them."

Commercial messages now routinely penetrate schools as "educational" materials supplied by Tootsie Rolls and Revlon. This is learning? Perhaps students would be better served by a vocabulary lesson that drives home a single word: "enough."

"Affluenza" offers other suggestions.

For starters, avoid the mall and place yourself in domestic quarantine. Read a book, call a friend, bake cookies with the kids.

Imagine the Joneses as the thriftiest, least wasteful people on the block. THEN try to keep up with the Joneses.

"Affluenza" tells us that although no vaccine currently exists, the cure for this plague has already begun as a gentle revolution of people questioning the commercialization of the Good Life.

On this upbeat note, Simon ends the hour. "Affluenza is one malady we can cure by spending less, not more," he said. An argument worth buying.

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CORRECTION

A story in last Friday's paper incorrectly gave the call letters for 101.9 FM, The Edge. The correct letters are KGDE.


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