

# Fans asked to help homeless

By SARAH BAKER  
Staff Reporter

Instead of just cheering their team to victory this Saturday, some Husker fans will also be donating their time to charity.

Huskies Helping the Homeless gives University of Nebraska-Lincoln students and faculty the chance to donate some time to raise money for the homeless in Nebraska.

The event is being sponsored by the UNL Residence Hall Association and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

Ben Wallace, RHA president, said the groups are trying to recruit more volunteers to collect money.

"We are hoping to get as many people to help as we can, at least 100," Wallace said.

The money will be collected by volunteers stationed around the stadium.

um. The money will be donated to the Matt Talbot Kitchen in Lincoln and the Siena/Francis House in Omaha.

Paul Koch, executive director of the Siena/Francis House, said this program was something new for the shelter.

"We are not an aggressive fundraising organization," Koch said. "This was some new ground for us, and we thought we would try it out."

Koch said most of the shelter's other funding comes from private donors and government programs. He said the money collected will go toward the operations of the shelter.

"We really appreciate the assistance from the UNL student body," Koch said. "ASUN and RHA have been tremendous. Our organization couldn't survive without people like them."

Carrie Pierce, ASUN Student Impact Team chairwoman, said she hopes the volunteers realize how much good they are doing.

"Any chance students get to help the community is an important one,"

## Involvement

Pierce said. "This one is especially important because it is benefiting both the Lincoln and Omaha communities."

Wallace said that as a reward for the volunteers, the person who collects the most money will win two airline tickets to Florida for spring break.

"We are also giving away other prizes, like dinners, to the other high collectors," Wallace said.


Both Wallace and Pierce said they wanted to stress the importance of volunteerism.

"A lot of time, people think volunteerism takes a huge time commitment," Pierce said. "We need to give back what we receive anytime we can."

Wallace said anyone who is still interested in volunteering for the event can still sign up Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

"Anyone who can come out and help when they can would be appreciated," Wallace said.

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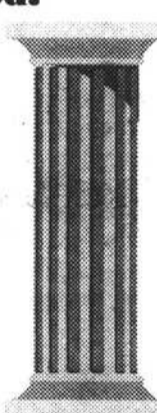
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# Former top judge lauds jury system

By BRIAN CARLSON  
Assignment Reporter

"A jury of your peers, sir, finds you guilty by a count of 60 percent to 40 percent, with a margin of error of plus or minus four points."

Former Nebraska Chief Justice Norman Krivosha posed a question to students who attended his Faculty Fireside Chat Thursday night at Neihardt Residence Hall: Why don't we adopt a justice system based on public opinion polls?

After all, everyone has an opinion.

O.J. Simpson? Guilty, say two-thirds of whites. Innocent, say two-thirds of blacks.

Louise Woodward? Depends on which verdict. Original first-degree murder conviction and life in prison? Too harsh. Later decision by a judge to overturn the verdict? Too lenient.

So say the polls, anyway. "People say, 'My God, what kind of a legal system do we have in America?'" Krivosha said. "Innocent people are found guilty, and guilty people are found innocent."

Objection! Krivosha said. The mere fact that the public may or may not agree with a verdict doesn't mean the justice system is broken, he said.

Beyond a reasonable doubt, Krivosha said, the American justice system, though not perfect, is the best way he knows to promote justice.

American courts' presumption of innocence until proven guilty is essential for ensuring the rights of the accused, he said. But too often, he said, the public is swayed by emotion and fails to insist on the burden of proof.

"We have a tendency to make up our minds too early," he said, "as a result of which it's not that the system's failing, it's that we won't let it

work." Proper functioning of the justice system requires a thorough examination of all the evidence, not cursory glimpses of a couple of news accounts, he said.

"If we start off with a notion about where the trial's going to go, we're always going to be angry with the result when it doesn't go the way we want it to," he said.

Although the public perceives courts as overburdened by rules that prevent justice from being done, those rules make the U.S. justice system fairer than most of those in the rest of the world, Krivosha said.

"The point is, there's a host of rules, and there are reasons for the rules," he said. "The truth is so elusive; who knows what the truth is? My experience in the courtroom is that people honestly lie."

One student questioned whether Krivosha's faith in the American justice system was justified. People bring biases to the jury box that color their verdicts, he said.

But Krivosha said experience had shown him that juries usually stick to the evidence and aren't fooled by emotional appeals.

Often the seemingly unjust verdicts are the ones that receive the most publicity, other students noted. The public doesn't hear about many of the well-conducted trials, they said.

Krivosha said public opinion should defer to the judgments of jurors who spend weeks or months examining the evidence.

Half-baked public opinions on well-publicized cases are akin to a theater critic attending the first ten minutes of a play, leaving, coming back for the end and writing a review, he said.

"It's a pretty good system, and I think we really ought to be careful about wanting to create this justice by polls," he said.

# Walk, run to benefit environment center

By ERIN BEAL  
Staff Reporter

## Involvement

Volunteers are gathering on East Campus on Saturday to walk, run or bike in support of the Environmental Resource Center.

Tiffany Clifton, senior environmental studies major, ERC co-director and a planner of the benefit, said the center is expecting between 150 to 200 volunteers Saturday.

Carol Reed-Klein, also a senior and environmental studies major and ERC co-director, said those participating are asking their friends and family to sponsor them. The 5-kilometer trek begins at the Nebraska East Union and winds around the campus.

The ERC, on the second floor of the Nebraska Union, is an office that provides information about environmental issues for students, faculty and staff, Clifton said.

"It serves as a liaison between the environmental studies program

and the students in that program," she said.

Reed-Klein said the ERC environmental library has a collection of periodicals, books, videos, subject files and other reference materials. Because the ERC is a nonprofit center, it depends on fund raising to supply its resource library with new materials, she said.

Clifton said the proceeds of the fund-raiser will be used to pay for fliers, 35 new books, and operating costs. The center also is planning to use some money raised to inform people about an industrial development planned to be built on Wilderness Park.

Registration for this event will be at noon, and the hike and bike will begin at 1 p.m. Clifton said that if the event goes well, the center plans to make it an annual event. Anyone interested should call (402) 472-8823.

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