

Drive lets students give back to Lincoln

■ The toy and clothing drive, planned for Sunday, is open to all volunteers.

BY KIM SWEET
Staff writer

Students are invited to hit the streets of Lincoln on Sunday to collect toys and clothes for kids.

The toy and clothing drive, which will benefit the Friendship Home, People's City Mission, St. Monica's substance abuse clinic and the Rape/Spouse Abuse center, is being sponsored by the newly created Students At Large organization.

The organization formed last semester after a group of students got together to feed more than 300 homeless people at local shelters.

The group formally became an organization after the project.

This Sunday, the group is coordinating a campuswide effort to canvass residents of Lincoln for toys, clothing, art materials and food.

John Conley, one of the organizers of the event, said last semester's project went so well the group decided to become official and plan one

project every semester.

After seeing a need in various shelters for children's toys, the group decided on a project to benefit children, Conley said.

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., teams will be given maps of an assigned location of the city they are to collect from.

When they are done collecting items, they are invited to report back to the Nebraska Union for free Pepsi and submarine sandwiches served by Students At Large.

The organization, which is open to all students, helps give its members experience in planning and coordinating a large service project, Conley said.

Conley encouraged students to participate because of the community service the project promotes.

"It's an important part of anyone's life to give back to the community," Conley said.

Students who want to participate simply need to show up to the union at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Conley said community members interested in donating can give food, clothing, toys or anything that would benefit children from toddler-age to high school-age.

Dole urges NATO to do what it takes to win war

DOLE from page 1

Dole said humanitarian concerns and U.S. interests in a stable Europe justified the NATO bombing, which is in its third week.

"There are some people who say, 'Should the United States really get involved in situations like Kosovo?'" she said. "The answer is simple: Where America's national interests and national values intersect, this nation must lead. That includes using military force if necessary."

But Dole sharply criticized the Clinton administration for its strategy in the strikes against Yugoslavia.

By ruling out the possibility of committing U.S. ground forces to the Kosovo conflict, Dole said, Clinton merely allowed Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to doubt U.S. resolve and adjust his strategies in the campaign against Kosovo's ethnic Albanian population.

NATO and the United States must press forward until the Yugoslav forces have been pushed out of Kosovo, all ethnic Albanian refugees are allowed to return to their homes and Yugoslavia allows a NATO peace-keeping force to enter the province and ensure the Kosovars' security, Dole said.

If NATO and the United States cannot summon the will to prevail by any means necessary in the Kosovo conflict, she said, the Western Alliance would suffer a grave failure in the year of its 50th anniversary.

"We risk defeat for NATO and this country and the very American objective of stopping genocide where we can," she said.

Dole said she would leave to visit Kosovo Albanian refugees who have been forced out of the province into neighboring Albania and Macedonia. More than a half million Kosovo Albanians have been forced out of Kosovo by Yugoslav police and army units.

Dole addressed other military and

"Our leaders must say what they mean and mean what they say. Credibility counts."

ELIZABETH DOLE
Republican presidential hopeful

foreign policy issues in her 30-minute speech. She tossed frequent jabs at President Clinton, alluding to the president's credibility in the wake of his Senate impeachment trial.

The United States is coming face-to-face with an array of difficult post-Cold War foreign policy challenges, she said, including sustaining fledgling democracies behind the old Iron Curtain and throughout the world, dealing with Russian defiance at the NATO bombing in Yugoslavia, advancing the Middle East peace process and addressing threats from weapons of mass destruction and terrorists.

All those issues require firm leadership and honesty by the president, she said.

"We protect our freedom best when we have leadership that is clear, credible and capable," she said. "Our friends and adversaries alike must trust our word."

"Our leaders must say what they mean and mean what they say. Credibility counts."

Dole called for increased military spending to improve U.S. forces' readiness and morale. With its defense spending at 3 percent of the gross domestic product, the lowest in 50 years, the United States must boost military spending if it is to maintain its superpower status, Dole said.

"Military budget cuts have turned the Pentagon into a triangle," she said. "I want to build it back up."

She also called for the construction of a strategic missile defense sys-

tem to protect against nuclear missiles launched by rogue states or terrorists.

"We can keep the peace and pursue our commitments only through strength," she said.

Dole also criticized Clinton's policy on China, which has come under attack because of continued human rights abuses by China and alleged Chinese acquisitions of top-secret U.S. defense technology.

While the United States should continue to engage China economically and politically, it must not ignore human rights abuses and breaches of U.S. national security, Dole said.

She called on the United States to continue supporting Taiwan, a sensitive issue because Beijing claims Taiwan is by rights part of China. Dole stopped short of a firm policy on Taiwan though, saying she needed more time to study the issue.

Dole drew the most raucous applause of the evening with her response to a midshipman's question about why a missile defense system should be a national priority ahead of improving education.

"If indeed we are vulnerable to attacks by rogue nations, we won't be able to do much about education," she said.

Despite the applause, Dole quickly spoke up to say that she supported efforts to restore quality in public schools. But those efforts should be focused at the local level, she said, not in the federal bureaucracies in Washington.

Irreverence reigns supreme!

A four-hour Monty Marathon



MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS

6 p.m. (5 MT) Saturday
Channel 16 EduCable
a service of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications



Ad made possible by Nebraskans for Public Television

Students behind Lil' Red bring NU national victory

RED from page 1

He had been to only one football game. However, instead of watching the team play, Post was focused on Lil' Red during the entire game.

After attending an informative meeting, Post, now a senior broadcasting major, auditioned to be one of the mascots and was selected for the following semester. Now, he will be finishing his fourth year as UNL's mascot and is credited with making Lil' Red what he is today.

John Sandrich, who is also a Lil' Red mascot, has been performing with Post for three years.

"Brad just made Lil' Red blow up," Sandrich said. "That's what it comes down to. Lil' Red's popularity just went through the roof when Brad started."

Sandrich, who has been a mascot since 1996, said his friends told him he should audition because of his hyperactive nature.

"I wasn't a big sports athletic guy, but when I came to Nebraska, I just fell in love with Lil' Red," he said.

Lil' Red became a new addition to NU athletics in 1993 when it was determined that volleyball games needed something to create enthusiasm among the audience.

"Nebraska was willing to introduce another mascot but wanted it to be different from Herbie," Post said. "Nebraska had a willingness to do something different and it worked out for them."

Since Post started, he said, many different students have come and gone as Lil' Red.

Post said much dedication is needed in order to succeed as a mascot.

"It's pretty demanding on your time and your body," Post said.

When inside, the costume towers at least 2 feet higher than both Post and Sandrich, and allows them at least a foot on every side for movement.

When performing, Sandrich said, the majority of what he does is ad libbing.

"I wasn't a big sports athletic guy, but when I came to Nebraska, I just fell in love with Lil' Red."

JOHN SANDRICH
Lil' Red performer

"That's what Lil' Red is all about," he said. "It is reacting to the crowd."

Emily Pyeatt, a junior film studies major, and Bryan O'Donnell, a junior communication studies major, are the other students performing as Lil' Red.

Pyeatt said she is filled with Husker pride and spirit when she is performing.

"Lil' Red has that presence and crowd appeal," she said.

Sandrich said his favorite part of being Lil' Red is seeing the expression on children's faces and being able to make them happy.

"It's cool to be in Lil' Red because you have the opportunity to make anyone's day," he said.

Post said that no matter how bad of a day he is having, the minute he steps into the costume and interacts with the audience, he can't help but be happy.

"Lil' Red is so universal," Post said. "It is just entertaining people and really making their day."



NU Softball at NU Softball Complex

Sat., April 17
NU vs. Texas Tech at Noon, 2 pm

Sun., April 11
NU vs. Baylor at Noon, 2 pm

Call 472-3111 for ticket information.

SOFTBALL STUDENT PROMOTIONS:

- Come to 4 NU softball home games and register to win a free trip sponsored by Pella Windows
- Register for a chance to win a \$300 book scholarship

Corp. Sponsors

