

Pep band will not play at Huskers' first football game

■ A Big 10 Conference policy allows marching bands but prohibits instruments in the stands.

From staff reports

The Huskers won't have the backup of the Nebraska pep band at this weekend's game against Iowa.

Because of a Big 10 Conference policy that

prohibits instruments or noisemakers of any kind in the stands, the pep band won't be accompanying the team to Iowa City for the Saturday game, said Jay Kloecker, director of bands at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

NU band members got the sad news Wednesday that they wouldn't be playing at the game Saturday — the first Husker game of the season.

The pep band usually travels only to Big 12 Conference away games.

This weekend's Big 10 game was an excep-

tion.

"Since this was a special game with a close cross-state rivalry, we thought it would be nice," Kloecker said.

The Big 10 policy allows for marching bands, but the policy on pep bands in the stands has always existed, said Les Steerlege, assistant to the athletic director at the University of Iowa.

The NU pep band will travel to the conference away games, Kloecker said, including the Texas, Kansas and Colorado games.

The NU marching band will perform at the

Sept. 25 game at the University of Missouri. NU's marching band usually travels to away games, said Rose Johnson, administrative assistant to NU Bands.

Kloecker said the pep band was disappointed after finding out Wednesday it would not be able to support the Huskers during Saturday's game.

"They're a good group of people, and they understand that some things are out of their control," Kloecker said. "We're just going to roll with the punches."

DAV Thrift Store *Grand Opening*

New Location: 3830 N. 27th St.
(Across from the new Applebee's.)

50% off*

*Good at both locations.
(1731 O St.)



The doormat to our newest branch.

Internet home banking from National Bank of Commerce.

We're a little lax on the dress code at our new branch, and we can guarantee it's at a convenient location. It's Home Banking on the Internet, and you can do everything from checking your balances and transferring funds, to applying for loans and reviewing your statement. You can even pay your bills with the click of a button. So visit our new branch at www.banknbc.com. We're sure it will be a very short, very pleasant commute.

NBC
National Bank of Commerce
Your Hometown Bank

1248 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508 • (402) 434-4150
Member FDIC • www.banknbc.com

A FIRST COMMERCE company



Audit reveals federal funds for day cares were pirated

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal program that supplies meals to millions of children and adults at day-care centers nationwide was pirated by providers who illegally funneled money into their own pockets, according to an audit released Wednesday.

The Department of Agriculture's program provides about \$1.7 billion annually to serve meals to about 2.4 million children and adults. But after a 2½-year investigation called Operation Kiddie Care, the final audit found severe problems that have sparked criminal investigations in 14 states.

Auditors discovered illegal activities such as sponsors setting up fictitious day-care centers with fake names for children, putting no-show relatives on the payroll and extorting funds from legitimate day-care facilities.

So far, 44 people have been charged with defrauding the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and 28 have been convicted. The convictions resulted in orders for \$18,000 in fines, \$4.2 million in restitution and \$1.1 million in forfeited assets.

Inspector General Roger Viadero, who issued the audit, has characterized the fraud as taking food out of the mouths of children.

"The (program) is an example of a well-intentioned program which, when left in the hands of some disreputable individuals, can result in millions of dollars being diverted from the children the program is intended to benefit," Viadero said.

Under the program, the federal government distributes funding to intermediaries, who are called sponsors. The sponsors spend part of the money for administrative costs and are supposed to pass along the rest to day-care centers for meals.

In one of the worst cases, Kyung Ho Moon and Wan Hee Moon, hus-

band-and-wife owners of Pacific Asian American Family Care Inc. in Long Beach, Calif., pleaded guilty to funneling payments to non-existent workers and bogus businesses.

Wan Hee Moon had spent a decade overseeing the program in Southern California as a manager at the state Department of Education. She was fired after being charged.

She was sentenced to three years in prison and her husband was given two years. They were ordered to pay \$2.2 million in restitution, and they forfeited four properties, including a house that sold for \$415,000.

In other cases, audits of years 1996 and 1997 revealed shoddy record-keeping and oversight that allowed problems to fester for years without required state-level audits.

Shirley Watkins, undersecretary of agriculture, said federal administrators are working more closely with sponsors to correct the problems. In many cases, the local providers lacked technical expertise to file the required paperwork, so they are receiving training, she said.

"You have some sponsors who are just bad actors, and we need to get them out of the program," she said.

In California, which had 19 of the 44 criminal indictments, officials at the state Department of Education have reorganized their staff and are hiring five more auditors to keep closer tabs on the sponsors. Officials are also going to start estimating where financial problems might crop up to catch them ahead of time.

"I'm totally committed to making improvements in our program so that these types of things are caught early on and that we deal severely with agencies that do commit fraud," said Glenn Ostapeck, who was hired as director of audits after federal investigators had completed most of their work.

Beer festival to benefit Capital Humane Society

From staff reports

The opportunity for students to sample more than 50 types of international beer takes place tonight.

The Fifth Annual International Beer Festival, which will serve a variety of beers and microbrews, will be held from 7:30 to 10 p.m., at the Blue Heron Wine Bar and Bistro, 48th Street and Highway 2.

The beer festival will be held to benefit the Capital Humane Society.

Brad Schmitz, general manager of the Blue Heron, said the ticket price of \$21.30, which includes tax, can be purchased at the door or by calling the Blue Heron at (402) 421-

9555.

"It seemed like a fair price since we are serving more expensive beer," he said. "The food is not pretzels, peanuts and popcorn."

Besides serving the beer samples, the Blue Heron also will serve Polish sausage, a Cajun snack mix, hot wings and a meat and cheese tray.

Schmitz said he expects about 100 people will attend the event but said he will not allow more than 150 people in the door.

"We chose the Humane Society to bring some positive attention to a community service that doesn't get enough attention," Schmitz said. "Our goal is to raise \$1,000 for them."

www.dailyneb.com