

STARRY SIGHTS



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: THE "UNDERDOG" takes a bow in order to duck beneath a streetlight. Balloon handlers had their hands full navigating the cartoon figure down the windy Lincoln streets.

WHILE BUNDLED UP inside an antique car, a parade participant waves to the crowd. Parade organizers estimated there were 35,000 to 40,000 people gathered to watch the downtown event.

IT'S A BIRD, A BIG RED BIRD, and it was let loose in downtown Lincoln for the Star City Parade. Saturday morning the downtown streets were filled with stars, clowns, bands, cars, animals and especially the big red bird.

SHARON KOLBET/DN

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NATE WAGNER/DN

Cold weather doesn't dampen success of Star City Parade

By JILL ZEMAN
Staff writer

People attempting to drive downtown Saturday encountered quite a roadblock.

More than 3,400 people marched down O Street for this year's Star City Parade. The theme of the 15th annual parade was "A Millennium of Stars."

The parade boasted 68 entrants, with 12 walking units and 20 marching bands from across Nebraska, said Suzi Shugert, executive director of planning for the Star City Parade.

The parade route began at 10th and O streets, traveled down Centennial Mall and M Street, and ended at the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13th St.

Shugert estimated there were about 35,000 to 40,000 spectators at the parade, in addition to those who viewed the parade live on Channel 10/11 KOLN/KGIN.

Attendance for the parade was down from last year, mainly because the weather wasn't as nice, Shugert said.

The parade featured five balloons: Underdog, Mr. Potato Head, a jack in the box, the Statue of Liberty and a space shuttle.

Maneuvering the balloons through downtown can be hard, especially under the O Street skywalk, Shugert said.

Following the parade, 14 awards were given to the best entries.

Mayor Don Wesely declared the

"I think it's great so many people volunteered their Saturday morning to promote community pride."

JESSICA JENKINS
UNL freshman biology major

Statue of Liberty balloon, sponsored by Bryan LGH Hospital, as Best of Parade.

The unique vehicle award was given to the Volkswagen Club of Nebraska, whose entry, "Y2K Bugs," entertained many throughout the route.

Entries were judged by a panel of three adults and three children.

Several citizens had the opportunity to enjoy the parade without having to endure the chilly weather, Shugert said.

Shugert published a press release that offered people a chance to watch the parade from the O Street skywalk.

More than 200 people sent letters to Shugert, and a computer randomly selected 45 people for the prime parade-viewing spots, Shugert said.

Saturday's parade marked the sec-

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