

Nurses Want Recognition As NU Coeds

Omaha Students Live Busy Lives

By PAT PECK
Feature Editor

Students snug and smug in their little world of city and Ag campuses are seemingly unconscious that a large and lively part of their world is located at the corner of 42nd St. and Dewey Avenue, Omaha, sixty miles away.

The University School of Nursing and College of Medicine are acutely conscious of themselves as a part of the University. They are as vitally interested in the athletic squads and social functions of the University as their fellow students in Lincoln.

Med students in white jackets and nurses in crisp uniforms that tread the quiet wards of University Hospital instead of the concrete walks of the campus are college students in as true a sense as those in Lincoln. They may work different hours and sleep less, but they like the same fun and the same food.

Under the new four-year program which was initiated in September by the School of Nursing, students spend two semesters and one summer on the University campus at Lincoln or on the campus of any other accredited college. This four-year program leads to a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

While at the University students are trained in freshman English, six hours; general chemistry, five hours; biology or zoology, six hours; normal nutrition, three or six hours; principles of sociology, three hours; history, six hours; public speaking, three hours; physical education, two hours. In addition students are allowed three hours for an elective, but the second semester of principles of sociology is recommended.

The cultural courses which are begun at the University are supplemented at the School of Nursing by English literature, social organization and educational psychology.

When the student has completed four calendar years she is eligible for a degree and her diploma in nursing.

The first year spent in Omaha is a continuation of the bookwork begun at the University. It is the aim of the School of Nursing to train the student nurses thoroughly in knowledge of duties before they actually begin work on a ward. The freshman student nurse may work in University Hospital, but only four hours a week.

The uniform of the student nurses at the University Hospital is a white and gray-blue striped uniform, a white apron, bib and cap. During the first six months that students spend at the School of Nursing they are on probation and are dubbed "probies." During this period they wear no bib and cap while working at the hospital.

At the end of this probationary period the students receive their bibs and caps from their "big sisters." Student nurses also receive Florence Nightingale lamps at this ceremony.

Joan Mitchell, junior in the School of Nursing, described the ceremony with sparkling eyes. She recalls it as the most thrilling experience for freshman students.

The Florence Nightingale lamp appears on a pin which nurses receive at graduation. The round gold pin is bordered in blue and on it is a banner inscribed, "Semper Fidelis."

Nurses Study, Work
Entrance into the School of Nursing effects a peculiar class standing. The student leaves Lincoln as a sophomore, enters the School of Nursing as a freshman

then skips the sophomore year to become a junior. Most bookwork is over for nurses at the beginning of their second year at University Hospital. Then the number of work hours per week is stepped up to 36. Eight hours of class are included in the schedule.

Hours vary during the second year. Student nurses may work from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. or relief hours from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Senior students have no classes at all and their work week averages 44 hours.

Student nurses get one and one half days off each week, and those days may come anytime. Two weeks on night duty rate nurses a four-day leave.

Facilities housing the University School of Nursing and the College of Medicine include two laboratories, University Hospital and a service unit.

Nursing students are housed in Conkling Hall about a half-block from University Hospital. All nurses live in Conkling Hall, though they are residents of Omaha. Nurses smile as they tell about Marj Jacobsen, who lives one block from University Hospital and stays in Conkling Hall.

Med students who are married and live in Omaha are permitted to live at home. The remainder stay in houses of medical fraternities, Alpha Kappa Kappa, Phi Chi, Nu Sigma Nu and Phi Iho Sigma. The fifth medical fraternity, Phi Delta Epsilon, does not maintain a house.

Hours in Conkling Hall differ somewhat from those in force at Lincoln. Student nurses are required to be in at 10:30 p.m. on week nights and 11 p.m. on weekend nights. Special privileges are given to students to stay out until 12 p.m. on any night and until 1 a.m. on Saturday. Freshmen are allowed five special privileges a month, juniors seven and seniors nine. Privileges are not cumulative. During the interval between Christmas and the end of the year, special privileges are allowed as many special privileges as they wish.

Student Government
Student government is divided at the School of Nursing. One Student Council is composed of student nurses only. Members of the Council are officers of each class plus a class sponsor from each class. Members of the medical fraternities and the School of Nursing are represented on an interschool council.

A third council is made up of one representative from every department surgery, medicine, intern and pediatrics; a nurse from every department; and one student nurse. This group meets to talk over any problems which may arise among doctors, students, nurses or administrative officials or between these groups.

Although work in the hospital is divided into courses and numbered according to usual university procedure, the student nurses have their own method of classifying work. According to their method they spend six weeks in the diet kitchen at University Hospital, ten weeks in surgery, three months in pediatrics and three months in obstetrics.

Student nurses walk six blocks to Dodge County Hospital for their training in psychiatry, communicable diseases and public health. The amount of time spent on public health is only about two weeks. Students spend three months in psychiatry and six weeks in communicable diseases.

The remainder of working time is spent on general ward in University Hospital. According to Patsy Dutton, junior student nurse, work on general ward



IN CONKLING HALL . . . Student nurses relax in the spacious lounge of Conkling Hall to watch TV or chat. All student nurses are required to live in the hall which has a gymnasium and a second lounge on the ground floor. (Daily Nebraskan Photo by Pat Peck.)

teaches responsibility. The student nurse is placed in charge of a ward of 20 persons. It is here that students learn the meaning and practice of responsibility.

Schedules at the School of Nursing are crowded. At a time when students in Lincoln are dreaming about Christmas vacation, only freshman nursing students are looking forward to vacation. Freshmen get two weeks off at Christmas and two weeks in summer; after that they get one day off during the holiday season. Juniors get one month off in summer and senior students may either take a month's vacation or get out that much earlier.

Student Fun Too
Crowded though the schedule may be, no one can accuse campus life at the School of Nursing of being all work and no play. Each medical fraternity and each class of student nurses has a bowling team. This year lab technicians are included for the first time. Competition functions along the same lines as intramurals in Lincoln.

The School of Nursing has a basketball team competing with schools of nursing and girls basketball teams. The team plays in the gymnasium in the basement of Conkling Hall. The basement lounge overlooks the basketball floor.

The gym doubles as a location for Campus Capers held each fall at the School. The program is similar to a combination of Coed Follies and Kosmet Klub Fall Revue on the Lincoln campus. Each medical fraternity and class of student nurses prepares a skit and competes for the traveling trophy awarded to first place winner each year. The skit competition is followed with a dance.

Choruses from the College of Medicine and the School of Nursing compete in the Ivy Day Sing

at Lincoln and for the first time this year the School of Nursing chorus, under the direction of Eta Davis, came to Lincoln to participate in the Messiah.

Student nurses purchased Cornhuskers this year sufficient to enter a candidate in competition for Cornhusker beauty queen. This is the first year a candidate from the Omaha campus has entered the contest.

Universal topics of clothing and dating are as much a part of life at the School of Nursing as at any college. But discussions may vary somewhat. Dating depends on work schedules.

Freshmen have every weekend off and their dating activities are much as on the Lincoln campus. Upperclassmen date when they are not working.

One of the nicest things about the turn of duty in the diet kitchen seems to be that the student nurses have evenings free.

Student nurses date med students, home-town fellows, service men and students from Lincoln. One of the complaints, uttered with sidelong glances at med students, is, "They're all married when they get this far."

A change in ruling now allows senior nurses to marry in February of their senior year. By special permission there will be one Christmas wedding among the student nurses this year. Married women will be allowed to live out side Conkling Hall this year.

Wardrobe Problem
The problem of clothes is different for student nurses than for coeds on the Lincoln campus. Omaha coeds are issued six uniforms, 11 bibs, 11 aprons and three caps, made by the hospital and laundered by it free.

The freshman student, who attend classes nearly all the time, needs the same number of casual clothes as a Lincoln coed. From the end of her freshman year un-

til the end of her nursing career the nurse virtually lives in her uniform.

In addition to clothes, dates and work hours, the student nurse has studying to think about during part of her training. The library is located in one wing of the University Hospital. Plus the long room where the shelves are filled with textbooks, there is the Philip Moe room, a sunporch at one end of the library. This room has been outfitted with comfortable chairs and attractive drapes, by the Student Council. The Council also contributed new magazines, recent fiction, travel, and biographies to fill bookshelves in the room.

Copies of The Daily Nebraskan are sent to the Omaha campus, but students have their own mimeographed publication called The Pulse. This is published by the Public Relations Department, headed by Tom Coleman, Assistant Director of Public Relations for the University and head of the College of Medicine office. He is assisted by Betsy Thomsen, 1951 graduate of the School of Journalism.

The Pulse is issued weekly and contains notes on activities of the Lincoln campus as well as goings on at the Omaha campus.

The School of Nursing and the College of Medicine are acutely conscious of being a part of the University. They are intensely interested in activities on the Lincoln campus since a great many of them attended college at Lincoln.

Omaha students are eager to strengthen the bond between students of the two campuses. One of the leaders in this movement is Patsy Dutton, junior nursing student and president of the State Student Nurses Association, covering 11 hospitals.

Students on the Omaha campus



IN THE NURSERY . . . Nurse Bonnie Schaffer holds a baby behind the glass of the nursery where proud parents come to see their offspring. The incubators are also kept in this room. (Daily Nebraskan Photo by Pat Peck.)



IN PUBLIC RELATIONS . . . Sneaking a preview of The Daily Nebraskan in the publicity office are (left to right) Tom Coleman, director; Betsy Thomsen, assistant; Joan Mitchell and Patsy Dutton, student nurses. (Daily Nebraskan Photo by Pat Peck.)

seem to want more knowledge of what is happening on the Lincoln campus and want to be known as a part of the University.

The crowning injury suffered by the Omaha branch is to be identified with the University of Omaha. "Please," they remind us, "We are the OMAHA CAMPUS of the University of NEBRASKA."

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IN GENERAL WARD . . . Dr. G. Schumuk, student nurse Joan Mitchell, Dr. V. Vorh, and Dr. E. Rosenlof (left to right) view a patient in one of the wards at University Hospital. The wards hold twenty patients. (Daily Nebraskan Photo by Pat Peck.)



IN SURGERY WARD . . . Esth Finn, left, and Lu Keating prepare to move a rolling cart of equipment into the ward for use. The cart is mounted on noiseless rubber wheels and kept near the entrance to the ward. (Daily Nebraskan Photo by Pat Peck.)