

# New fraternity helps community

By Jody Holzworth  
Staff Reporter

Collecting money and cleaning up after floods are just two of the services a new co-ed fraternity at UNL has been performing.

Since October, Alpha Phi Omega has collected money for the Food Bank, helped clean up after this summer's flood in Iowa and spring-cleaned at the People's City Mission.

Lowell Schlenker, a UNL graduate business student, began organizing APO last fall after he was involved with the fraternity at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

APO is currently a petitioning group, which means it is performing activities to receive its charter at UNL next fall, Schlenker said.

"The main focus of Alpha Phi Omega is to provide community service, although we also stress

building friendships," Schlenker said.

UNL's chapter has 18 members. Schlenker said it was important that both men and women be involved in fraternity activities.

"We felt everyone should have the chance to participate," Schlenker said. "By not becoming co-ed, we are cutting half the people out who could make a big difference in our chapter."

APO members do not live in a house together like most fraternities. However, the fraternity has traditions as strong as other members of the Greek system without any exclusiveness, hazing or housing, Schlenker said.

Students who join the fraternity are required to perform at least 15 hours of community service per semester, Schlenker said.

"We want members who are pret-

ty serious about our group," Schlenker said.

The fraternity helped with a Leukemia Society of America fundraiser Sunday. They also serve soup to needy people at The Gathering Place every month.

Schlenker said helping the homeless and needy often was an eye-opening experience.

"APO is insightful," Schlenker said. "We see things in the world you would not normally see."

APO was founded by the Boy Scouts in 1925 and at one time had 600 chapters nationally. Now, APO has more than 300 chapters around the nation. The fraternity existed at UNL for just men from 1935 until it became inactive in 1968 because of student apathy.

APO has been increasing in membership during the past few years, Schlenker said.

# VISION against keeping LETTUCE from debates

From Staff Reports

Members of the VISION Party said Sunday they disagreed with last week's ASUN Electoral Commission decision to keep LETTUCE from participating in ASUN election debates.

Britt Ehlers, VISION first vice-presidential candidate, said it also was unfortunate LETTUCE did not file as a student election group for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska's March 9 election.

Ehlers said he was not sure how well an unofficial debate would sit with the electoral commission.

VISION Campaign Manager Shawntell Hurtgen said there had been no talk of an unofficial debate between the two parties.

"We're up for it," Hurtgen said. "It's nothing we can't do."

Ehlers said LETTUCE's write-in

campaign and a student movement to write in television talk-show host David Letterman were examples that students wanted a change in student government.

"In any case, I believe the emergence of write-in campaigns like LETTUCE ... underscore that students are tired of business-as-usual politics in student government," he said.

Ehlers said VISION was trying to reach out to students who normally would not get involved in student government.

"The VISION party has worked hard to listen to the students of UNL," Ehlers said. "We have visited residence hall floor meetings, greek houses and have phone-banked off-campus students. Our platform, our ideas are a reflection of what the students of UNL want."

## Invited

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The Aggies' streak of three straight Southwest conference titles will come to an end because they also are ineligible to win the conference title. They also cannot appear on television next season. Through 1998, the NCAA will monitor the program but won't impose any additional sanctions.

Texas A&M isn't the first school to give the SWC a black eye. Arkansas left the SWC in 1990 to join the Southeast Conference. Southern Methodist received the death penalty in 1987.

Four other schools have faced NCAA sanctions in recent years, Dykes said.

Dykes said the conference's problems may have been a key in Texas Tech's departure.

"This gave us sort of a bad name nationally," Dykes said.

Dykes' Red Raider football team has finished second in the SWC the last three years. Last year, the school won its first national championship in women's basketball.

““ We have a lot of similarities to the schools of the Big Eight. We're the second-largest city in the Big 12. We have about 25,000 students. We're not in a pro market. —Spike Dykes Texas Tech football coach

Located in Lubbock, the school has an enrollment of 24,285. Texas Tech went 6-6 last season and lost to Oklahoma in the John Hancock Bowl.

Baylor, which has an enrollment of 12,500, is the only school on the list without a national title.

The Bears' football team has been to a bowl game three out of the past four years.

In all, the Big Eight had a 6-1 record over the four schools in 1993. The only loss came when Missouri lost to Texas A&M 73-0 in College Station.

Despite the SWC's lack of success, Dykes said, the teams are excited at joining the conference.

"It's a chance to extend our credi-

bility," he said. "It's sort of flattering, and it's nice to be included."

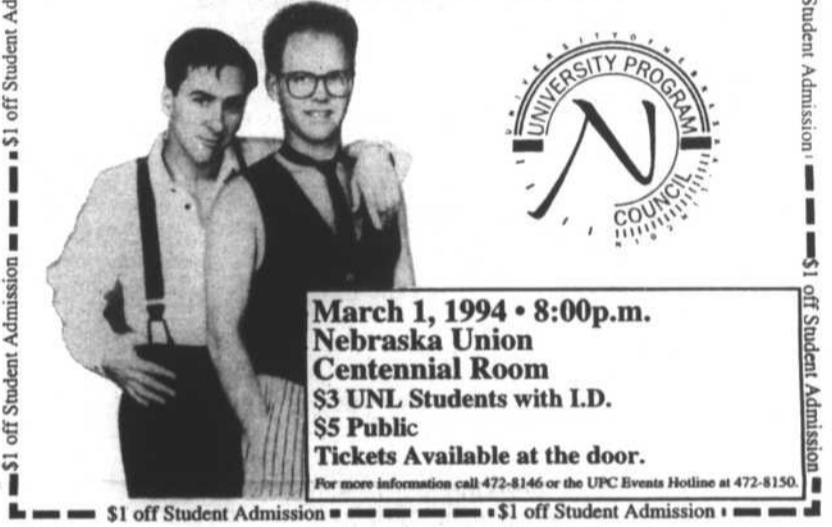
The four schools fit in fairly well in terms of football attendance. They all averaged more than 33,300 in attendance last season. SMU, Texas Christian, Rice and Houston — the four schools that were left out of the merger — all had attendance averages less than 26,255.

Dykes said the Red Raiders' departure from the Southwest Conference was bittersweet.

"I think it's a sad deal for the conference to fall apart," Dykes said. "However, it's a great happening for the university. It brings us a lot of prestige, and it's a great opportunity and privilege for us to join."

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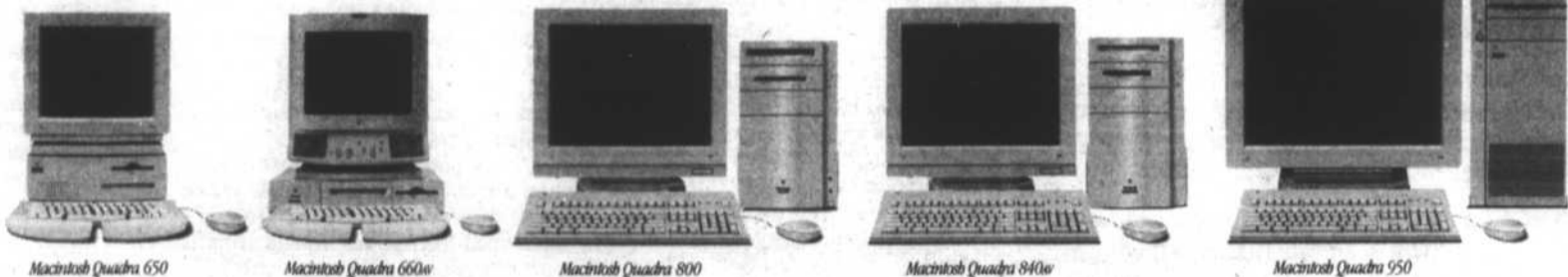
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