

# "Uke" Enthusiasm Re-Hits Campus

As the gentle, sweet flowing strains of "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue" flow out of every conceivable place on campus, students are kept quite aware of the latest fad at the University—ukeles.

It's not a preparation for a mass migration to the Ozarks. It's not an extension of a program of Cousin Minny Pearl. Nor is it a "Return to the Simple Life" movement. It's just plain uke playing. And owners and players of the instruments become very indignant if anyone even hints about the oddness of them.

About a month old now, the fad still finds students purchasing the things in soaring amounts. One music store in Lincoln has sold more than a gross of the novelties since Christmas.

**No Limits**  
There don't seem to be any limits or qualifications for a person to learn to play it. One of the instruction books starts out: "Almost anybody can learn to play the ukulele." However, when one ambitious young freshman tried to learn to play, her unloyal roommate, after hearing the unearthly sounds for two weeks, concluded that there are exceptions. It is well that the book includes the word "almost," she concluded.

The ambitions of the players seem to be extremely high. All feel that they will, in the near future, be able to win an amateur night at some small town theatre. Since the cost of traveling to a different town would probably far exceed the booty

three. The Alpha Chi's have two and all the others one.

But the coeds don't have a monopoly on them. Nine of them are found in the Sammy house. The DU's claim six of them, and the Phi Gams have five fellows with them. The Kappa Sig house has four, and the Phi Psi's, Betas, TKE's and Sig Chi's all have three. Very few of the fraternities do not have them.

Various kinds of the instruments are floating around. They range from an almost cream colored type to ones with ivory on them against a darker background. Regardless of the color or appearance, all sound approximately the same, especially when the repertoire of numbers is limited so often to "Five Foot Two" and "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean," the first piece of the instruction books.

One rather amusing time comes when two people decide to play a number together. Then, of course, the two instruments must be turned together. And that is where the trouble comes in. The owners of the instruments may know how to hold, strum and play the "theme" song, chances are they have no idea how to tune it. After winding and unwinding the strings up and down, the result is generally horrible—especially when the two commence to play.

"My Dog Has Fleas" is what most players TRY to tune the four strings to. That too, has its variations. For music, the players use everything from "playing by ear," to books and using old music that has the uke



**FIVE FOOT TWO, EYES OF BLUE**—Ukulele players, and hopeful strum out tunes on just a few of many ukes available on campus. Pictured are: (l. to r.) Esther Zorinsky, John Dick, Betty Pells, Mary Lou Flaherty, Gerry Kirk, Jeanne Smith, Bud Gerhart, Paul Galter and Elliot Wagner.

of the prize (last or first), it is suggested that the potential maestros stick to the local contests.

Despite the advertised simplicity of learning the contraptions, there are two specifications—(these are for the sole purpose of protecting the player) 1. Tone deafness (that way you can be immune to the sounds that all others must hear); and 2. Insurance on the first finger of the right hand.

**Classrooms Left Out**  
So far, the only place barren of the heavenly sounds are the classrooms. Strangely enough, the School of Music has not yet mailed invitations to the uke players asking them to become majors in the art of music. More than likely, the letters would offer compensation if they would keep out of the department.

As for the distribution of the noise-making boxes, the DG's must find the music the most soothing for they have 16 of them in the houses. Only two of all the sororities, the Tri Deltas and the Thetas, lack having at least one of the ukes. The Kappa Deltas have four of them, and the Gamma Phis, the AOP's and the Alpha Phis have

chords above the music. Some of the copies of "Ain't She Sweet," "Mississippi Mud," "Darktown Strutters' Ball," "Margie," "Show Me the Way to Go Home" and others have the chords above them. These are songs frequently played by the uke fiends. Also, most songs of the Gay Nineties can be played on the instruments. Many folk songs and most cowboy songs are also popular for this instrument.

Several of the music stores now have tiny cases for the little gems, but as yet, these are lacking from the campus. The uke players become extremely hurt when someone asks them to play a piece, and then say "But, I didn't recognize it." Contrary to what a lot of people think, the uke merely plays chords which harmonize to the actual music and which accompany singers. This is true in most cases, and because of this, it is possible to acquire a large repertoire in not too long a time.

The only consolation for the uke "haters" is that there are only two months left. But in that time, from all present indications, many will be converted to the "uke appreciating" side.

# Single Rag Issue Costs Two-Thirds of One Penny

Whenever a student picks up an issue of The Daily Nebraskan, it is costing him a mere two-thirds of one cent.

At the all-University poll on April 26 students will decide whether having the present size campus paper is worth one and one-third cent each issue. That is the amount of increase necessary for The Daily Nebraskan to continue in its present full size.

The 50 cents a semester students pay for the paper, which is included in the tuition—fee "package" paid by all students, is insufficient to pay for the full size paper. The enlargement of The Daily Nebraskan this semester has more than doubled the cost of production. The total raise asked to meet the cost is \$1 a semester.

**Choice**  
If the students decide by vote that they are willing to pay one and one-third cent per issue, which is \$1 a semester, the paper will continue in its present size; if majority vote against the increase the paper will again be tabloid.

When the committee on student publications was organized last fall, it was concerned with the problem of making the campus newspaper representative of all interests on the campus.

In order to achieve this, the

committee decided to enlarge the paper to its present seven columns. With the added space the committee felt that more adequate coverage of news and views of the student body could be had.

If sufficient funds are available next fall, additional improvements in the paper will be made. An increase in the number of pictures is planned, and it is possible that wire service will be added to bring students more news of national affairs.

**\$4,000 Deficit**  
The increased costs have caused an estimated loss of more than \$4,000. This deficit is being met by money earned by the paper in previous years and deposited in the student publication fund.

Organizations which depend chiefly upon The Daily Nebraskan for the all-important publicity, comment that the increased coverage is appreciated. Staff members know how difficult it is even to mention the many activities which take place on a university campus when there is not sufficient space. And adequate coverage is impossible in a tabloid paper.

The price of the increase is the cost of ten cents a semester. Whether students decide the newspaper is worth this, will be decided April 26.

# City Campus Offers Housing To 800 Rodent 'Boarders'

BY JERRY BAILEY.

Animals are not a monopoly of the Ag campus. The University houses collections of livestock in the basement of several city campus buildings.

The animals are the white rats, mice, rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters used in scientific research. The rodents number 800.

Perhaps best-known is the collection in Bessey hall, kept for the benefit of the zoology department. Aside from the pickled-in-formaldehyde collection, some white rats are maintained at the present time for such classes as parasitology. Insufficient space keeps the number of animal boarders low.

**Rat Mentality.**

In the depth of the Social Sciences building, W. J. Arnold, assistant professor of psychology, is studying the mentality of rats. He maintains a maze and other equipment that is commonly used in experimenting with animal psychology. Arnold's current research deals with the effect of X-ray radiation on the brains of rats.

He cooperates with Dr. J. Marshall Neely, who exposes the rats to the necessary X-rays. Arnold states that research in this line has not been carried on long enough for observers to reach any conclusions.

**Pharmacy Collection.**

The largest collection of rodents is housed beneath the pharmacy building. A quick census discloses that something like 600 white rats, 200 white mice, five guinea pigs, nine rabbits, and four hamsters are being used by the physiology and pharmacology departments at the present time. The count of the prolific rodents changes rapidly.

Master of the caged world is John Ernst, who has a full-time job caring for the animals. He was hired in 1947 and has been busy since, undisturbed except by a few professors and a handful of students. When full classes work with animals, the rats and their kindred are removed from the cage department for study.

**Cocker Spaniel.**

Ernst's full-time companion is his cocker spaniel "Captain." At one time, according to his master, Captain cornered a rat that had escaped from its cage, and held it unharmed until it could be re-caged.

In addition to being caretaker in the rat department, John Ernst raises pigeons for a hobby. He works with both the homing and "oriental frill" types of show birds. Ernst has participated in pigeon shows across the nation and is a member of six pigeon-fancier's organizations. A boyhood hobby of raising guinea pigs helped prepare him for his

present job.

**Rat Studies.**

Among experiments currently being carried on with the rats are studies of vitamin diets, glandular studies and observations on the effect of antihistone on rats. The last, a recently-discovered drug that combats a desire for alcohol, is being studied by Dr. Harold Holck, professor of pharmacology.

Care and feeding of the laboratory menagerie is very strictly carried out. As proof of sanitation procedure, Ernst proudly states that no diseases or parasites have appeared among his charges.

Unique among the many animals are the four hamsters, sometimes called "little golden bears." Like bears, they hibernate. Hamsters stand out because they are completely odorless, a quality which adds much to their lovability.

All in all, things are pretty quiet with John Ernst, his dog, and his 800 rodents.

**Beef Researcher to Speak At Annual Feeders' Day**

Plans are nearing completion for another Feeders' day at Ag college Friday, April 21. There will be programs for both men and women.

Prof. William J. Loeffel, chairman of the animal husbandry department, who is in charge of arrangements, said highlight of the event for the men will be a talk by Dr. R. T. Clark. Dr. Clark is in charge of beef cattle research in the U. S. department of agriculture at Washington, D. C. He is slated to speak during the afternoon at an indoor meeting.

The evening of Feeders' day will be highlighted by the honoring of Sam McKelvie, Valentine publisher and rancher. McKelvie who is also a former governor of Nebraska, will be honored by the Block and Bridle club's Honors Day banquet.

**X-Disease Talk**

The morning Feeders' day session will open at 9:15. Speakers include C. T. Blinn, T. W. Dowse, C. H. Adams, John Matushima and L. E. Hanson, all researchers in the animal husbandry department.

In addition to the speech by Clark, the afternoon session will feature a discussion of X-disease by Dr. Carl Olson, jr., head of the animal pathology department.

Other speakers will include Prof. Marvel L. Baker, associate director of the Nebraska experiment stations, on the effective use of pasture in beef cattle production, and Prof. M. A. Alexander, on sheep breeding research.

Home processing of lard will be featured during the women's portion of the Feeders' day program.

Miss Florence Atwood, state home extension leader, said the meeting is designed to encourage women to use the abundant Nebraska product in their own kitchens, with instructions for practice use.

**Discussion Speakers**

Speakers at the discussion will

include Charles Adams, Dr. Josephine Brooks and a representative of a meat packing firm from Omaha.

How to remodel old furniture into household assets will be demonstrated by Miss Evelyn Metzger, assistant professor of home economics.

The reasons Nebraskans should be proud of their state will be outlined by Mrs. C. Petrus Peterson of Lincoln. She will present a talk on "There is No Place Like Nebraska."

Music will be furnished for the program by Ag college students under the direction of Mrs. Aitmas Tullis.

**Finance Students To Vie for Prizes**

Two hundred and fifty finance students from fifty universities are competing for prizes totaling \$900. They are being offered by the Pierre A. DuVal Foundation.

The prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$100 will be awarded on the basis of greatest appreciation and best dividend return for the investment of a theoretical \$25,000 over a one-year period.

"A careful study of the first reports made by students indicates that the majority possess more than a theoretical knowledge of investments," said Pierre A. DuVal, president of DuVal's Consensus, the "Reader's Digest of Financial Advisory Services."

Among the institutions represented in the contest are Harvard, New York University, Yale, University of Southern California, Princeton and many others.

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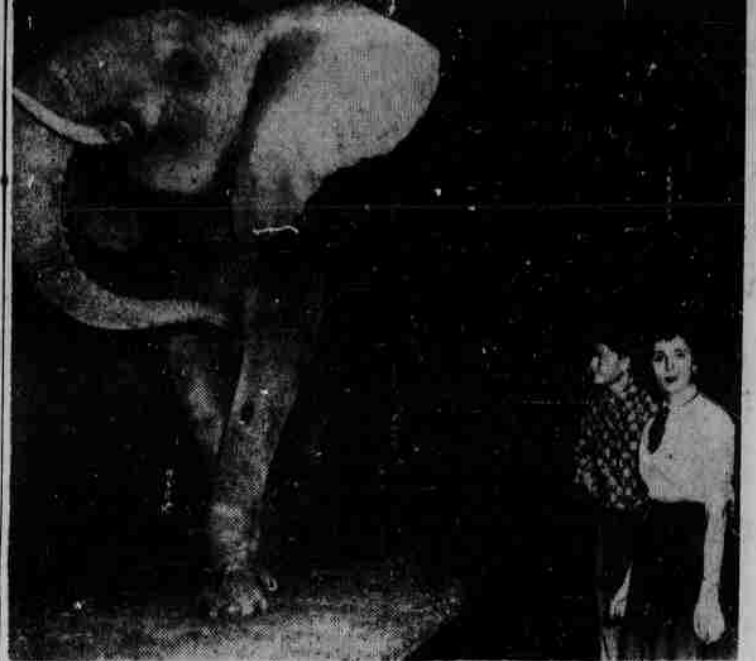
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**WHITE ELEPHANTS**—Bill Dugan and Pat Beechan seem puzzled as to thinking up a sales campaign to get rid of a "white elephant." However, the two will not have such a big problem, in managing the sales campaign for Builders' 1950 Calendars. The remainder of the Calendars, which were not sold at the first of the year, were put on sale Tuesday for half price. They are selling at two for 98 cents or 50 cents each. They are on sale at a booth in the Union lobby.

# New Sigma Tau Officers Named

New officers of Sigma Tau, honorary engineering fraternity were elected last month.

Serving as the new president is James Stoddard. Ed Bartunek was elected to the position of vice president. Sid McVicker Nolan Jones will hold positions of recording secretary and corresponding secretary respectively. Historian is Clarence Cunningham.

Retiring president of the honorary engineering organization is Kent Tiller.

**Students Receive Pay at Connecticut**

A new wage rate schedule for students which ranges from 55 cents to 75 cents an hour, and which will be retroactive to Feb. 1, has been announced by the placement office at the University of Connecticut.

According to the placement office announcement, the new schedule does not mean that every student on the campus will receive a pay increase since no additional funds for the student payroll are available in the current budget. Any increases given to students will be apportioned from money already allocated to various departments.

Based on job analyses, the rate set for each job is a minimum so that a department head may vary the date up to the assigned amount. The new rate schedule does not affect the number of hours a student may work per week.

Even the Nebraska coaches paid to watch the two teams in action, Coach Bill Glassford said. The proceeds of the game will go into the grants-in-aid fund which pays tuition for athletes.

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