

New Ideas Reforge Classes

Grave Robbing Brings Medical School Closure

By Frank Partsch
Senior Staff Writer

The years 1882-91 brought the University a greater enrollment, an expanded faculty and a surge of physical growth, but each of these advances carried with it a number of serious sometimes unusual difficulties.

The revived religious issue, coupled with the suggested innovation of newer educational concepts, led to the development of a number of disagreeing factions within the faculty which culminated in several resignations.

The controversy was stimulated by the arrival of several Harvard and Yale-educated professors "whose liberal standards did not correspond to the mores of a staid religious community," according to Dr. Robert Manley, assistant professor of history.

These men objected to the idea of compulsory chapel and Sunday church attendance and, what was more crucial, the narrow classical education offered by the University. As a result of the disruption of University affairs caused by the faculty's bickering, a hearing of the Board of Regents was held.

Shortly afterward three of the professors resigned.

But the old guard of the University, perhaps learning something from these eastern influences, eventually agreed to modernize the curriculum, and by the late 1880's, more emphasis was given to modern languages and science.

The University at this time was composed of three colleges, the College of Literature, Science and Art, the Industrial College, and the College of Medicine, all located in Lincoln. In addition, the Latin School served as a college preparatory school for students without enough preparation for admission to one of the colleges.

The number of colleges was reduced in 1887 with the death of the College of Medicine under severe criticism from the people of Lincoln, who suspected the medical students and faculty of robbing graves in Wyuka Cemetery to obtain material for anatomical research.

Manley points out that this is a typical reaction of people during this period. Fear, superstition and the belief that man should not disturb the dead resulted in a general opposition to dissection of the human body.

The grave robbing rumors were not lessened by the actions of a mischievous group of students, who draped a large sign across the front of the University Hall reading "Cash for Stiffs."

Further problems encountered by the college of Medicine centered around three opposing philosophies of medication and diagnosis.

Each of the three doctrines demanded representation on the faculty, causing more discord.

The matter was brought to a climax with the arrest of three faculty members for robbing a grave. The college was closed immediately and not reopened until 1902, in Omaha.

Continued student opposition to the required military drill together with the fact that few of the self-supporting students could afford uniforms made the military department a source of friction until General John Pershing's arrival in 1891 created esprit de corps among the "University Cadets."

The extracurricular life of a student of the 80's centered around the literary societies: Paladian, (1871); Adelpian, (1873); Union (1876); and Delian (1889).

Nearly every student was a member of one of these groups. Competition for new members was fierce, according to Louise Pound, writing in THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA 1869-1919.

"It became the custom to buttonhole new students, almost as soon as they entered the institution, and to ask them to join one or the other literary society."

The societies held weekly meetings, which Manley calls "social functions as well as literary programs."

The program included essays, recitations and musical numbers, and usually ended with a debate. Refreshments were served, including doughnuts, apples, popcorn and, rarely, ice cream.

"In the 80's and 90's," says Miss Pound, "the height of elegance was thought to be attained when the more prodigal members went to a local restaurant after the program for oysters."

Manley says that the literary societies played an important part in the development of the individual. Many of the students had been born and raised on pioneer homesteads, and had no training in the social graces.

At the society meetings these students were given an opportunity to meet and converse with their fellow students, both male and female. "Because nearly all of the students worked their way through the University, the feeling of equality was very strong," says Manley.

Sometimes in advance of a gathering, a slate bearing the names of the female members was presented by the official slate bearer to all male members, who scratched their mark beside the girl of their choice — meaning that every girl had an escort to and from the meeting.

In leap years the process was reversed and the women had their turn at "scratching the slate."

The first student newspaper was the HESPERIAN STUDENT, founded in 1871-2. Manley notes with interest that a favorite subject of editorial writers is lack of school spirit. He says the literary societies did a great deal in generating student pride.

The first fraternities to arrive on campus were Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Chi in 1883. By 1888 Howard Caldwell, in his book, "EDUCATION OF NEBRASKA, lists four other "Greek letter houses" and added that "these houses furnish the nearest approach that has yet been made to dormitory living."

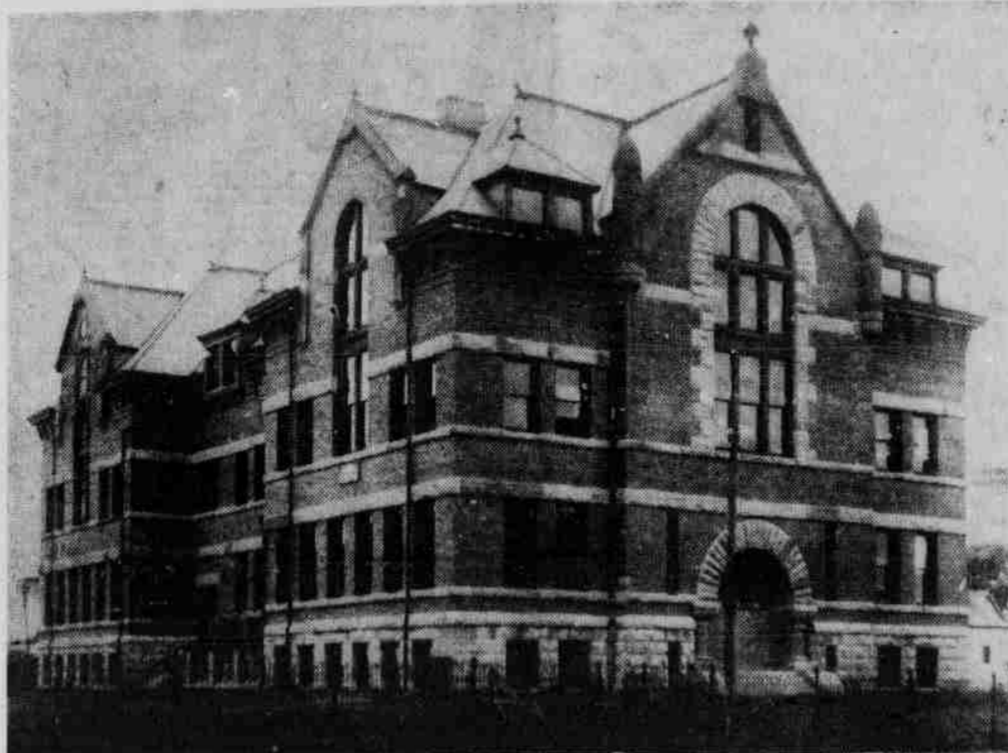
Kappa Kappa Gamma colonized at the University in 1884, at the invitation of the Sigma Chis, making it the first sorority. Other houses organized during this period were Kappa Alpha Theta (1887), Delta Gamma (1887) and Beta Theta Pi (1888.)

The "Greek letter houses" were immediately condemned by the powerful literary societies as being undemocratic. The Hesperian was especially harsh in its criticism of the Greeks and a spirited contest ensued for control of the paper. In 1887, Laura Mills, a Kappa Kappa Gamma, became the first Greek associate editor of the paper.

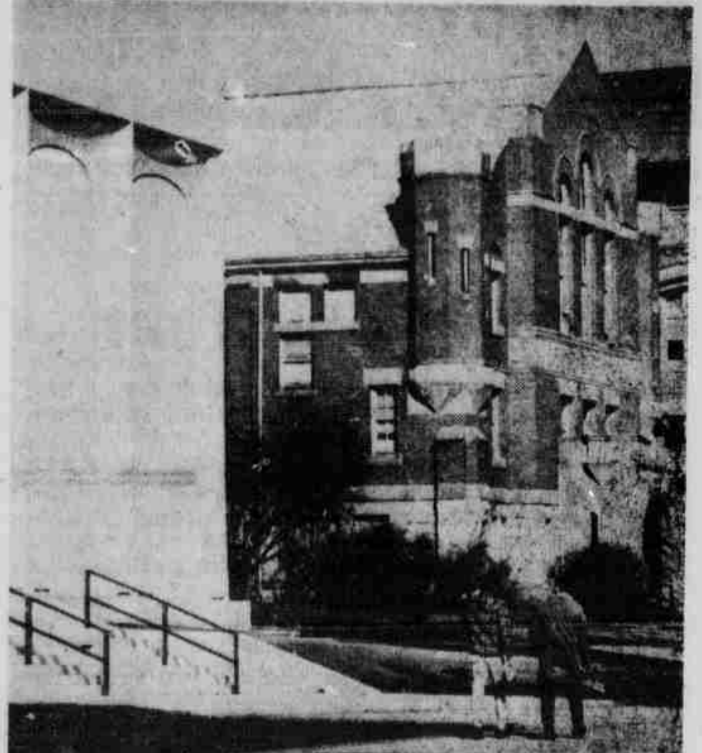
Class pride came with the adoption of a game called "canebreak," in which the members of the freshman and sophomore classes battled with no holds barred for 15 minutes for the possession of a cane. If the freshmen were victorious, they had the privilege of carrying canes throughout the year. The game sometimes assumed riot proportions, and it was not unusual for several participants to be knocked unconscious during the festivities.

The people of Lincoln, as expressed through the local newspapers, were shocked when the young ladies appeared

Continued on Page 3



NEVER AN ELGIN FACTORY — The first Nebraska Hall was not first an Elgin factory as was the present Nebraska Hall. It was built in 1888 on a plot of ground that is now faculty parking across from Avery Lab. It was razed four years ago. The building housed the Industrial college which included physics, chemistry, zoology, and agriculture.



IN SHADOW OF PROGRESS — Who would have dreamed when Grant Memorial was built for \$20,000 in 1888 the then-outstanding building would stand only 20 yards from a 2½ million dollar gallery some 70 years later?

Daily Nebraskan

Vol. 77, No. 62

The Daily Nebraskan

Friday, February 21, 1964

New Program Established—

Interest In Latin America Causes Innovation In Study

By Mike Keedy
Junior Staff Writer

A Latin American program is being established by the College of Arts and Sciences, Dean Walter Miltzer revealed yesterday.

"A growing interest in this field, coupled with the contributions of Latin America," said Dr. Roberto Esquenazi-

Mayo, associate professor of romance languages, "has helped precipitate this innovation."

Dr. Gene Hardy, assistant professor of English, stressed that the program would not involve any new courses at present.

"Instead," he said, "it will coordinate Latin American courses in several departments. These include Latin American history, politics, anthropology, geography, literature and art."

"The departments involved, each of which has jurisdiction over its specific field, will in effect coordinate in forming an inter-disciplinary minor," indicated Bernard Rosen, associate professor of sociology.

Professor Norman Stewart, secretary of the committee which is helping to head the program, said, "We don't want relations with Latin America to develop out of ignorance."

He noted further that many issues are decided in the American public's mind out of rumor and word-of-mouth misconceptions.

Other members of the coordinating committee are Alex Edelmann, David Kelley, Michael Meyer, and Bernard Rosen.

Departments of anthropology, art, geography, history, journalism, political science and romance languages are cooperating to initiate the conceived program.

Esquenazi indicated that a student participating will major in a specific field as usual, drawing a strong minor from

courses in at least three of the departments involved.

"In addition to the required courses taken at the University," he continued, "students chosen by the committee will spend a full year of study in Mexico City, at El Colegio de Mexico."

The committee indicated that the students will make the trek on a full scholarship basis, with all expenses paid including a round-trip ticket.

"The students' tuition and insurance will also be covered," indicated Esquenazi, "as well as a \$1200 sum for the ten-month trip."

Alex Edelmann, associate professor of political science,

cited the fact that although his department appeared to have more weakness than

Ex-Grid Star Naviaux Joins Boston Coaches

Former university of Nebraska football star, Larry Naviaux, has been named to the coaching staff at Boston University.

"The native Nebraskan will take up duties as offensive backfield coach this spring. Naviaux played halfback for Nebraska and aided with the freshmen after graduation. The past three seasons he has been on the backfield staff at Southwestern Louisiana University.

many of the others participating, new courses may be instigated within the near future.

"Even though at present there is no program for a major course of study, even now we offer as many courses in the realm of a minor as several other schools do for major programs," Esquenazi said.

"The indicated desire on the students' part to have their horizons broadened is heartening," he concluded.

Applications for the new program must be submitted by March 15. The program will get into full swing this June.

Officials, Students Conflict

Chicago (CPS) — A long-simmering conflict over alleged discriminatory admissions policies at Northwestern University has erupted into a full-scale war.

Combatants are the Daily Northwestern, the student Human Relations Committee (HRC), and Northwestern Director of Admissions C. William Reiley.

The Northwestern Student Senate last Thursday, by a vote of 19-4, passed a resolution which censured Reiley's actions towards students involved in the controversy. The Senate resolution stated that Reiley's action were "totally unbecoming an admissions officer of a great university... a man committing such alleged behavior has no place in such a position."

Charges of religious discrimination in Northwestern admissions policies were made public in the Jan. 30 issue of the Daily Northwestern. In the story, members of the HRC said figures indicate that percentages of students of several religious groups attending the school have not changed for seven years.

Reiley denied the HRC accusations. He stated that Northwestern has not asked questions about religion on its applications since 1956. He told the Daily Northwestern that the university has no records of an applicant's religion. Said Reiley, "You can come over to the office and check our records."

On Feb. 12, Daily News Editor Al From phoned the admissions office for permission to see the records. Reiley is said to have threatened From with the withdrawal of scholarship aid.

Members of the HRC took action Feb. 12. They filed a complaint with Vice-President and Dean of Faculties Payson Wild based on the treatment they received in Reiley's office. Wild said he was "extremely sorry" and was investigating the incident.

BBC Analyst On Africa; 'Europe Out Too Soon'

"Europeans came too late, stayed too short a time, and left too soon for the techniques of government to be firm in Africa," said Colin Jackson, British Broadcasting Company analyst, in a speech sponsored last night by the political science department of the University.

Speaking on "Trends and Problems in Africa," Jackson said that, while in India the British government had been there for 250 years before it became a nation the Europeans had, for the most part, only been in Africa since the end of the last century. Thus the Africans could not be fully educated to the responsibility of government.

"What Americans and Britons should do," said Jackson, is to encourage the African people to change as they want."

"The visits of Chou-en-Lai to Ghana and of Khrushchev to parts of Africa have brought up the question of a Communist take-over in Africa."

"Actually, I believe that communism is one of the smallest threats in Africa," Jackson said, "because in Africa there is plenty of land and little chance of malnutrition which could provide a basis for communism."

Two other reasons given for Jackson's belief that Communism will not take over Africa are the tribal influence which is very strong in Africa and "the wonderful sense of humor of the African people; they don't take themselves too seriously."

Speaking on specific coun-

tries, Jackson said that there is no reason for Ghana to be in the mess it is now. "Nkruma has betrayed himself and Africa," remarked Jackson, "and the world asks if this police state is the result of giving Africans their independence."

Nigeria is an encouraging story," said Jackson. "This country of 40 million people is to Americans and British in Africa as India is to them in Asia." He said his Nigerian friends strike him as being "comfortable," that is, people who are from a large country with many resources. "Their Prime Minister, Abubakar Balewa, is one of the most distinguished men of the Commonwealth."

Jackson thinks that Uganda, Tanganyika, and Kenya should join in an East African confederation of some sort so that they would not have to call in the British to help them out during army revolutions.

In talking about the Union of South Africa and its position of apartheid, Jackson struck a less encouraging note.

"It is almost impossible to be optimistic about South Africa," said Jackson, "because the white Africans believe they can establish a separate administration which assures white supremacy. Johannesburg is a city of fear, with locked doors and barred windows. I don't see how the Mau-Mau terror a thousand times over is to be avoided in South Africa."

In a final analysis Jackson quoted Dr. Albert Schweitzer

as saying "I don't forget that a piano has black and white keys and if you want music you must play them together." Jackson said that this applied in Africa where white and black must work together for progress.



COLIN JACKSON