

Problems, Change, Growth Signify 98 Year History Of University

**By Eileen Wirth
News Assistant**
Persistent problems coupled with much change and growth have marked the University's 98 year history.

In 1871, when the Hesperian, a monthly campus news and literary magazine, was first published, the University had several hundred students and one building.

Literary Societies
The biggest campus organizations were the literary societies which met on Friday night.

In 1871 Hesperian noted that "the usual sweetness of temper which is observable in girls of the University seems somewhat ruffled when Friday comes around to remind them that the literary societies meet and they can't go. They think boys are 'horrid.' Boys, brace up and be gallant!" Sidewalk chalkers had not yet appeared but all stu-

dents, particularly the young ladies, were admonished to stop writing on the walls.

Social Life Restrictive
Social life might be considered a bit restricted by present day students, but the 1871 collegian could find pleasure in an evening of music, recitations and declamations which closed with a shadow pantomime.

Among the burning issues of the day was prohibition. The Hesperian predicted a glorious future for prohibition but was disappointed when in 1890 the voters turned it down.

"Right may suffer temporary defeat but in the end it will prevail," it told readers. "Thus it will be with prohibition in Nebraska. The late election has only postponed the inevitable for a few years."

Complaints on Library
Students, then as now, complained about the library. In 1878 students were

forbidden to take books from the shelves without permission from the librarians. They could check out books only on Friday afternoon and the library was only open three hours a day. It was not open at all on Saturday.

If a student wanted to read a book in the library he had to make out a written request to the librarian for each book he used.

Students were also forbidden to write notes in the reading room.

Complaints about the amount of work were also common. Several times the Hesperian told readers that Nebraska students had more work and less college spirit than any other school they knew.

The late 1880's saw the rise of intra-class rivalry on campus but "laurels are given to the class that succeeds in turning the laugh rather than muscle." **Campus beautification**

has remained another persistent problem. In 1889 the Hesperian termed the campus the "most unsightly place in the city of Lincoln."

Students complained about the lack of sidewalks which resulted in "walking in mud over the tops of their rubbers" to reach various buildings.

"Surely it should be possible for students to go to class without being put in a state of mind contrary to their religious and philosophical training," the article continued.

Football and Fraternities

Football first came to the campus in 1889. The faculty was requested to donate the \$35 necessary to buy canvas suits for the first eleven.

About this same time fraternities came on the scene. Phi Delta Theta established its Nebraska chapter in 1873 and Sigma Chi followed in 1883. By 1900 there were ten male fraternities and five female (they weren't called sororities until later).

In their early days, fraternities served mainly to break the hold of the literary societies on campus. So disruptive were fraternities considered that Pallasian Literary Society had a constitutional provision barring fraternity men.

Daily Nebraskan Started

In 1895 the Daily Nebraskan was established, one of the oldest campus papers in the country. A 1906 Daily Nebraskan noted that only 13 schools in the country supported a daily paper, among them Harvard and Yale.

To cheer on the football team in its battles with the Omaha YMCA and Doane, the "Rag" held a contest for the best football song and urged the formation of a permanent rooters club.

Parking Problem

Parking is another problem which has been around for awhile. In 1891 the Hesperian called for a greater number of hitching posts on campus even though it might divert funds from other needs.

Early construction at the University included the "new" library (now known as Architectural Hall) and the recently demolished Grant Memorial Hall. A

new set of dairy barns were constructed on the State Farm, now known as East Campus.

World Wars
Students at the University participated in World War I.

During the war, most male students were enrolled in the Student Army Training Corps and moved from their boarding houses and fraternities into barracks.

Peace came just in time for the editor of the Daily Nebraskan to avoid being drafted. Fraternities were suspended from the campus for the last two weeks of the war since their members were all in the army.

Innocents Established

In 1903 the Innocents society was established and became an object of campus controversy for many years.

In 1930 the editor of the Daily Nebraskan attacked the selection system which permitted a majority and minority fraternity faction system to totally dominate the society.

This same editor criticized the Innocents for making a profit of \$67 on green caps which all freshmen were required to buy.

He exposed this as a great campus scandal and drew a great deal of approval from depression stricken students.

Greek vs. Barb

Campus politics in the 1920's, 30's and 40's saw Greek and Barb (as independent students were once known) conflicts which usually resulted in Greek victories.

In 1930 Barbs were given a vote on the Student Council and the election was fought between factions called the blue shirts and the yellow jackets. The minority yellow jackets were elected.

Women Take Over

During World War II most of the male population left the campus for the armed services. Women took over most campus activities including student government. Of the 13 Innocents tapped in 1943, only one returned to school in 1944.

Soldiers in training were housed in Love Memorial Library.

With the return of the veterans in 1946, the campus expanded rapidly. Temporary buildings were set



Photo from the Nebraska State Historical Society.
THE NEW LIBRARY . . . in 1900. Now called Architecture Hall the building is one of the oldest buildings on campus.

up to handle the rush of 9,000 students. This was the same year in which all freshman women and transfer students were required to pass a test on AWS rules.

The 1950's saw panty raids, the beat generation, and a poor football team. Tuition raises and the University budget began to agitate students.

The University began building dormitories to house its rapidly expanding student population. Many of the people, activities and problems present today appeared.

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Photo from the Nebraska State Historical Society.
UNIVERSITY HALL . . . around 1880. This building since demolished was one of the University's original buildings. Ferguson Hall currently occupies its site. Building in the background is the recently destroyed Grant Memorial Hall.

Princess Interviews Scheduled

Interviews for Princess Athena will be held Tuesday, March 21 in the IFC office. Candidates, living units and interview times are:

Patricia Ann Jacobs, Alpha Omicron Pi, 7:00; Nancy Eaton, Delta Delta Delta, 7:05; Darlene Barth, Kappa Delta, 7:10; Trish Sultzbaugh, Gamma Phi Beta, 7:15; Bonnie Miller, Sigma Kappa, 7:20; Janet Trachtenberg, Sigma Delta Tau, 7:25; Kathleen Simmons, Kappa Alpha Theta, 7:30; Chryse Schory, Alpha Chi Omega, 7:35.

Starr Hirschbach, Chi Omega, 7:40; Marcia Mityling, Phi Mu, 7:45; Susan Wise, Alpha Phi, 7:50; Janet Nerison, Pi Beta Phi, 7:55; Ann Albers, Alpha Xi Delta, 8:00; Becky Stone, Kappa Kappa Gamma, 8:05; Ann Boyles, Delta Gamma, 8:10; Shirley Waggoner, Alpha Delta Pi, 8:15 and Jane Bender, Delta Zeta, 8:20.

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'AWS To Take Stronger Role In Campus Affairs'

Outgoing president, Pam Hedgecock sees AWS "taking a stronger role in campus affairs." The organization will emerge a stronger campus voice after the constitutional convention has redefined the role of AWS, she added.

"AWS doesn't necessarily have to be a reactor," she stated, "it can also be an initiator."

Miss Hedgecock cited the extension of freshman hours as an example. AWS did not wait until accosted by the women to extend hours. Instead, it took the

Workers Needed For 'Spring Day'

Interviews for workers for Spring Day will be held Saturday in the Nebraska Union. Interested students are asked to sign up for interview times on a list outside the ASUN office.

SUMMER Work-Study Positions

A variety of summer work-study positions are available on the University of Nebraska Medical Center Campus for eligible students. Openings are available for almost all skills, but particularly for basic science, engineering, business, home economics and business education. Apply through the Financial Aids Office, Administration 205, or write to Miss Vales, Personnel Office, 4215 Emile St., Omaha, Nebr. 68105.

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