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Jaywalkers outmode automobiles; City Council vacates 14th Street



Students on 14th Street hurry to avoid cars. The street will close to vehicular traffic from "R" to Vine this summer.

Closing date delayed until summer for problem street

(Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series concerning the expansion and development plans of the University. Tomorrow's story deals with the actual plans for future development.)

By Jim Evinger
Senior Staff Writer
The automobile has finally yielded to jaywalkers and cross-walking pedestrians of the University student body.

At five o'clock Tuesday afternoon, a Lincoln city ordinance was scheduled to go into effect vacating 14th Street, which bisects the campus north and south between the Nebraska Union and Administration buildings. The closing runs from R to Vine Streets.

The effects of the action will be felt for the rest of the University's future.

Though the three block long strip will not actually be closed to vehicular traffic until this summer, the acquisition of the property from the City by the University is an initial step in implementing a comprehensive plan of campus expansion and development.

Vacated

According to Robert Obering, city engineer, the city vacated the strip Tuesday, as agreed to between the city and Board of Regents. Only when the city gives the University a deed to the property will the street actually be closed. This is likely to take place this summer, according to Mayor Schwartzkopf's office.

It was University Chancellor Clifford Hardin who testified before the City Council on Jan. 7 that the University needed a definite commitment from the city on its intentions on 14th Street and that closing the street was a matter of urgency.

The University's plans for expansion state the premise that "there can be no sound development of the University that does not include closing 14th, 16th and 17th and some of the cross streets," Hardin testified.

Agreement

The agreement the city and the Board of Regents signed calls for traffic to be handled on an interim basis by routing southbound traffic from 14th Street to 16th Street by way of Vine Street. Northbound traffic will be routed on 10th Street and 17th Street.

The agreement states that the University will not ask for the vacating of 16th and 17th Streets until the scheduled Northeast Radial and Holdrege Bypass are completed.

In the meantime, under the agreement, the University will not object to the creation of special assessment districts to facilitate the resurfacing of 16th Street from Y to R and 17th from Court Street south to R.

The University also agreed to cooperate in the construction of a third traffic lane at the south edge of Vine Street between 14th and 16th Streets.

1920

As vital and recent as the closing of 14th Street is to University expansion plans, several major suggestions made in 1920 regarding future University development and expansion have not yet been accomplished.

Relocation of the Rock Island Railroad, and control and development of the strip from 10th to 17th Streets, between R and Q, for student housing, college shops and other complementary facilities, still remain from 1920 as major objectives today.

In 1926 under the "Seymour plan" the Stadium Mall from the Stadium to 14th Street, the Quadrangle Mall from 12th to 14th Streets, the Library Mall to the Coliseum and the vista from R

Street to the Columns, were created.

The openness and the grand scale of the malls have preserved space for inward expansion of the academic core and maintenance of a pedestrian campus.

In 1964 the University retained the firm of Taylor, Lieberfeld and Heldman, Inc., educational consultants, to undertake a detailed space study of the University, and to determine the needs to accommodate a projected enrollment of 25,000 students.

In 1966 the Houston firm of Caudill, Rowlett Scott, architects, planners, and engineers, was employed by the University to implement the 1964 study through the development of a comprehensive campus planning study.

Improvements

In addition to simply accommodating more students, the designers were made with the intention of improving the physical plant both city and east campuses.

The extensive analysis in the Taylor, Lieberfeld and Heldman report clearly defined the major problems of the University as deficiencies in building space and land, and in campus and urban environments. The problem is complicated by the division of the east and city campuses, and by the amount of land available for the development on east campus.

"The unlimited area for growth on that campus has tended to disperse new development, continuing the pattern of a low density, spacious, almost rural-like character," the Houston firm's report states.

Area

"The city campus is hemmed in on all sides and is beginning to build high-rise buildings in order to provide the necessary facilities," the report continues.

The report cited the inherited grid system of city streets which interlace the campus area, not only fostering circulation problems, but also hindering the possibility of using the valuable right-of-way for building sites and open space for pedestrians.

The environmental deterioration both academic and residence, and the industrial use, including railroad facilities, in the area is another barrier to growth.

Proposals

In seeking to solve these inherent problems Caudill, Rowlett, Scott proposed eight concepts, all of which were based on the idea of either centralized or decentralized concentrations of functions and facilities on the two campuses.

The concept adopted will maintain a unified University on the city campus, with the exception of Agriculture and Home Economics. The College of Law, Dentistry, special agricultural facilities and the department of continuing education are included in the east campus design.

The findings of the Taylor, Lieberfeld and Heldman report were the basis for the adopted concept. Those findings include: 1. An anticipated enrollment of 18,000 students by 1967-68; 20,000 by 1970 and 25,000 during the 70's; 2. A rapid expansion in the graduate and selected professional schools, more than in the undergraduate divisions; 3. Plans should anticipate space for housing up to 50% of the student body, not including requirements for fraternities and sororities, when enrollment reaches 25,000; 4. Space requirements will approximate 6.3 million net square feet, compared to the 3.3 million net square feet available in 1964-1965.

Previous Expansion

In the 1920 expansion, Bessey Hall, Social Sciences and Teachers College buildings were completed.

Draft law expected to decrease number of grad students next fall

By Mark Gordon
Senior Staff Writer

University academic departmental chairmen are anticipating a decreased number of graduate students to be enrolled in their respective departments as the new draft law goes into effect.

The new law, passed by the preceding session of Congress, states that men receiving a B.A. degree, completing their first year of graduate work or receiving an advanced degree will be ineligible for deferment after this year.

In preparation for next fall's graduate student enrollment, the University's graduate college and Office of Institutional Research has distributed a 13 question survey to its graduate students.

Draft Survey

"We're surveying the present as nearly as we can the draft status and future plans of each person currently enrolled," said James Olson, dean of the graduate college.

The survey, which Olson expects to be completed by Feb. 5, will indicate the degree objective, marital status, draft status, work assignment and year each graduate student plans to complete his

current degree objective. "I assume we will have a reduction in the number of graduate students here," he said, "since the national reduction of graduate students would have its local application here."

Year's Plan

Although he was unable to say what the precise effect of the new draft law would be, Olson said the survey would "be used as a means to help us plan for next year."

Olson said 2,030 students were enrolled in the graduate college during the first semester of the current academic year.

Although all departmental chairmen are cautiously awaiting next fall, some feel the situation is more critical in their departments.

Mathematics

"The new draft law may cripple the mathematics department because much of our undergraduate teaching is done by graduate assistants," said Edwin Halfar, chairman of the mathematics department.

He said all of the 50 current graduate assistants are involved

in teaching and since only five or six are in the upper age bracket with families, the department is particularly vulnerable.

He said possible alternatives to meet the expected shortage of graduate students include television teaching, larger class or a restriction on the size of the classes.

English

"The new law will threaten us and we're quite apprehensive about what it may do next year," said Dudley Bailey, chairman of the English department.

He said he didn't expect the teaching situation to be affected greatly since the department employs a majority of persons who have already received their master's degrees and aren't likely to be drafted.

He said it's not likely many of the 100 students enrolled in the department's Doctor of Philosophy program would be greatly affected by the law, but "theoretical M.A. program could be called."

"Who knows what's going to happen," Henry Grether, dean of the college of law said "There are a lot of different view-

points, but some of it has to do with what happens in the war from now until next September."

He said all but nine of the 300 law students are males and that he suspected most of them would be classified I-A, although many are enrolled in the ROTC program.

Richard W. Tyler, chairman of the department of romance languages, said the expected shortage of teachers wouldn't be as acute in his department since almost half of the 24 current graduate assistants teaching are girls.

Zoology

Unlike the romance languages, "the law could possibly affect us rather seriously," said Thomas Thorson, chairman of the department of zoology and physiology.

"There is really no place to go since we depend on people applying," he said. "They won't all be taken, but there will probably be more reliance on girls, people beyond draft age and those unsuited for the draft."

ASUN's study of pass / fail system shows changes needed for success

By Jan Parks
Senior Staff Writer

The present pass-fail program is only an initial step toward improving the University's grading system, according to Craig Dreezen, chairman of the asun committee on Education said Tuesday.

Without improvements, the present pass-fail program will continue to be inadequate, he said.

Dreezen noted that only 92 students from the University's student population of 18,000 participated in the pass-fail program last semester, and he said, "the present pass-fail program is not as good as it should be."

Report Prepared

He explained that a pass-fail evaluation report, prepared by the Committee on Education, will be presented to the Student Senate this week to the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Dean of Faculties, and to the college advisory boards.

"The report contains information from questionnaires which were presented to 70 of the 92 students

who were enrolled in the program last semester and to 300 University students who have never participated in the pass-fail program," Dreezen said.

"The purpose of these questionnaires was to find out exactly why more students didn't participate in pass-fail and what students thought about the program."

Electives Used

Responses to the questionnaires showed that 54 per cent of the students not participating in pass-fail indicated that they did not participate because as juniors or seniors (only students of junior standing or above are allowed to participate in pass-fail) they had used most of their elective hours.

Hours that fulfill major, minor, or college requirements are not eligible for the present pass-fail program.

The questionnaires showed that 74 per cent of those who had never taken pass-fail courses were dissatisfied with the present program because the requirements for enrollment in pass-fail are too

strict and because too few courses are offered under the pass-fail program.

Students Dissatisfied

For the same reasons, 57 per cent of the pass-fail participants were dissatisfied. "Nearly all of the students who filled out the gram expanded," Dreezen stated.

Asked about their reaction to taking a pass-fail course, 82 per cent of the participants answered favorably. Most participants said that pass-fail allowed them to learn without worrying about grades, Dreezen said.

"This is the rationale behind pass-fail," Dreezen explained, "to allow students to take personal initiative to learn without fear of sacrificing their grade point average."

System Carries Prestige

Dreezen said that the committee had contacted 25 of the "prestige schools" that had a pass-fail system.

"Most of these schools have more liberal requirements for students to enroll in pass-fail courses," he said, as he pointed out that most of these schools allow sophomores as well as juniors and seniors to participate in the pass-fail program.

The chairman said that the sentiments of most teachers who the committee contacted were in agreement with the need for an expanded pass-fail program.

Expansion Makes Benefits

Dreezen admitted that the University's four point grading system has certain advantages, but he felt that an expanded pass-fail program would be very beneficial, especially in courses such as art and music.

"Too often students are reluctant to compete with music or art majors because they feel that taking courses in these areas will hurt their grade average," Dreezen said, "Consequently many students miss an opportunity to expand their education."