

# Vanity—thy name is woman

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Sex: female  
Occupation: student  
Address: University of Nebraska  
Look at the 1969 version of the college coed.

Her skirts are shorter than those of the 1871 version, so there is more of her to see. Liquid eye liner and roll-on blusher help her greet the world with a prettier face. Listen to the 1969 coed talk.

**WOMEN HAVE** always had a tendency toward loquaciousness — that has not changed since 1871. The difference is in what is being said.



NU's earliest Sunshine Girl? Well, maybe not, but this young lass seems to be jubilant over the Cornhusker performance anyway.

"Progressive logomachy (the game of anagrams), social chat and music passed away the afternoon" for coeds attending a 1902 tea party. This phrase "social chat," always coupled with coeds, appears often in early issues of the *Daily Nebraskan*.

In 1969, the coed's "social chat" — sometimes flavored with four-letter words — may rise above trivia.

In the opinion of Barbara Ahlschwede, director of Women's Residence Hall, more coeds are questioning why they are here and where they are going.

"I had one girl who left school just because she felt that the education she was getting was not what she wanted. She was in good standing academically, but she was questioning the quality of her education," she said.

When Miss Ahlschwede was a freshman at the University — she graduated last spring — she says that most coeds were not questioning the quality of their education.

"Oh well, I'll get my man or I'll get my degree" seemed to be the prevalent attitude, she said.

**OF COURSE** there are still some husband hunters around, she says. But Miss Ahlschwede also feels that more freshman women are coming to the

University with career goals in mind.

Contrast this with the attitude expressed in a coed's doggerel and preserved in the Nov. 19, 1954 edition of the *Daily Nebraskan*.

Classrooms bore me, textbooks floor me.

Most professors make me ill.

I really wish that they'd ignore me.

Of Academics I've had my fill.

But college life has many branches.

And who says "Beggars can't be choosers?"

On social life I'll stake my chances.

And leave classrooms to the losers.

Ah! Social life — to heck with college!

To heck with studying — it drives me mad.

And if I fail to gain some knowledge

I shall return and take Biz Ad.

When classes began that first fall semester in 1871, there were 52 women among the 130 students enrolled. Last fall's count numbered 6,910 females among the 19,150 students. These figures include both Lincoln campuses, graduate school and the medical school in Omaha, but not the

University of Nebraska at Omaha.

In both 1871 and 1968, about 40 per cent of the students were female. So the proportion of coeds in the University population has not changed, but their role within the University has.

"She is taking a more active part in campus life," said Miss Ahlschwede. "It is coming to the point where a coed's status in regard to hours and living on or off campus is placed on a more equal basis with the college male."

In 1964, freshmen had 9 o'clock hours, sophomores and juniors had to be in at 10:30 and seniors at 11:00 on week nights.

A coed leaving the dorm after 7 p.m. had to sign out indicating where she was going and when she would return.

Now, sophomores, juniors and seniors are on the key system and a proposal is being considered to experiment with no hours in one women's living unit.

In 1950, 64 per cent of the coeds were majoring in the "safe fields" of teaching, nursing or home economics. These fields attracted about 50 per cent of the coeds last fall.

Some fields gaining women majors during this period include dentistry, law, pharmacy, engineering and business administration.

**FEMININE INTEREST** in these areas are encouraged by heads of the various departments.

James S. Blackman, associate dean of the college of engineering, says that coeds are "very welcome" and even "sought after." All of the engineering departments have had women students enrolled at one time or another, he added.

Murlin Hodgell, director of the school of architecture, said that there are many opportunities for women in architecture — especially in areas such as city planning.

The long labs, night work and the 160 undergraduate hours required for a degree discourage some coeds from enrolling, he said.

Coeds are exploring new areas and requesting courses that will be useful to them.



Vaulting the ages, women's physical education classes have become more educating, less physical, in the last century. One wonders if, however, the track team hasn't suffered?

The personal defense course offered by the Women's Physical Education Department for the first time this fall is the result of one such request. The course teaches a girl how to defend herself as well as the basics in judo and karate.

This is quite a change from the wand drills and marching exercises, on which physical education courses were based in the early 1900's.

Another campus trend is the large number of married women attending the University. About 1,200 coeds, which is four times the number in 1959, are not husband hunting because they already have their man.

The possibility of a coed marrying and continuing with her education "was never thought of" when she was in school, said one alum of the class of 1930.

She commented on the more liberal attitude of students attending the University now.

"When I was in school, the majority of the girls did not smoke. Each

sorority house had a special smoking room for those who did," she said.

In the area of women's government, the last three years have been a revolution. AWS was completely reorganized last year and now stresses programs over rules.

What does the 1969 coed have to look forward to after graduation?

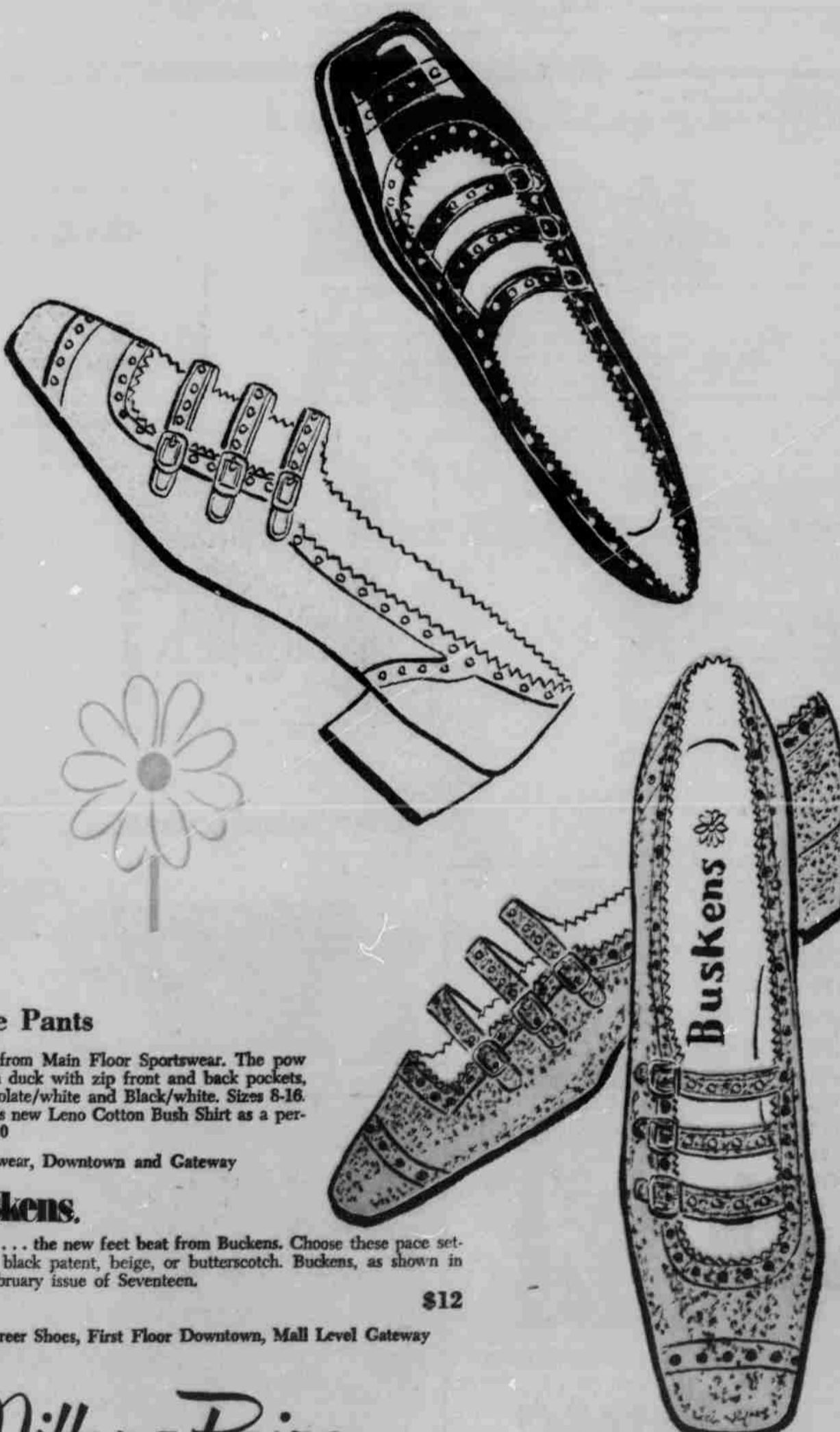
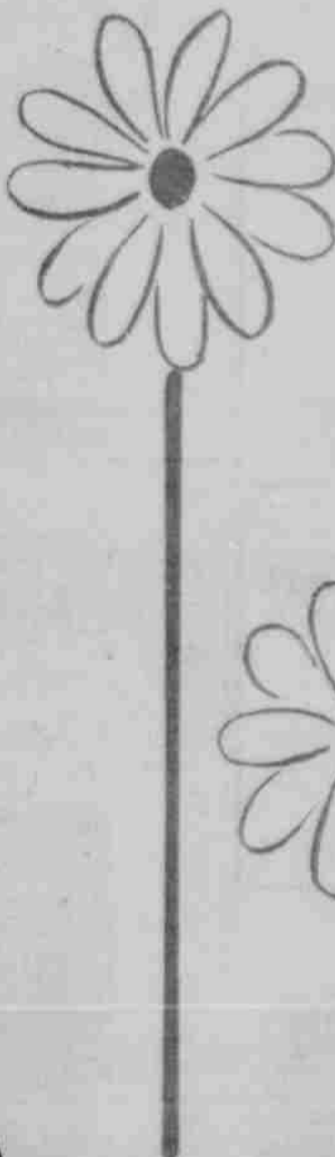
Frank M. Hallgren, director of placement, says that each year he is noticing a "greater eagerness on the part of companies to hire young women."

**THE TRADITIONAL** prejudices against women in careers have weakened, he said. This is partly because the law discourages job discrimination on the basis of sex and partly because prospective employers are more appreciative of a woman's abilities.

University of Nebraska coeds have come a long way in the last 100 years. Look at the 1969 version. Listen to her talk. See what she is doing.



An early women's P.E. class is apparently practicing their anti-riot tactics, or the proper way to hold a broom when sweeping.



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