

'Great Bicycle Drought' hits dust bowl campus

by Bart Becker

Almost as paralyzing as the Seven Plagues were to ancient Egyptians, the Great Bicycle Drought is keeping more and more bicyclists in modern-day Lincoln planted firmly on the ground.

Like a cloud of locusts the complaint has been in the wind for months now that for the prospective bike buyer there are simply no bicycles

available.

And despite the obvious increase lately in the number of humans practicing the two-wheeled traveling routine, the bicyclists' population may have peaked for the time being. There just ain't no more bicycles.

A call to Dietrich's, 2738 North 48th, a Schwinn dealer, revealed that the shop's entire stock consists of 20-inch children's models.

Despite the 5,600 per day output of the Schwinn company, one of the biggest wheels in the bicycle industry, the local dealer can get no bicycles.

A shop employee, lamenting the lack of supply in the face of a tremendous demand, attributed the depleted supply simply to the "nationwide bike craze."

Before half the year was over the Schwinn company nationally had sold more bikes than its experts had predicted would be sold during the entire year.

The Sears sporting goods department in Lincoln could offer a 24-inch five-speed bike, but the department "can't even order" the popular ten-speed models, said one spokesman. The situation has been similar for about two months.

Sears hopes to have a supply of the speed bikes in stock by the end of October, according to the spokesman, but until then "it just doesn't seem possible."

Wolff Cycle Company, 1831 O St., finds its stock equally drained. The shop has been peddling bicycles in Lincoln for years but has never had such a demand for its product, a spokesman said.

It seems possible that the increased number of two-wheelers and the number of disgruntled walkers might lead to a chain reaction of stolen bikes. But Gail Bade, director of Campus Security and Traffic, indicated there have been few reports of stolen bikes.

He noted further that the problem of bicycle congestion has been handled, barring the peak periods of the day, but the bicycle racks installed over the summer by UNL's maintenance crew.

Gade suggested that the problems encountered by motor vehicle parking shortages have been more pressing than the bicycle hassles so far. Partly because of this, Campus Security has been lenient; in dealing out reprimands to bicyclists riding defective vehicles.

But the Lincoln police force has been stricter. Tickets have been issued to riders for a variety of offenses including failure to stop, reckless handling of their vehicles, and lack of a headlight or other safety feature.

A further plague was thrown upon the Children of Bicycle Tuesday when the City Council unanimously approved a bicycle ordinance which will, among other things, permit the council to regulate the use of arterials by bicyclists during peak traffic hours.

The ordinance does not altogether prohibit bicycle traffic on arterials.

The new ordinance requires bicycles to travel near the right-hand curb of all streets except when attempting a left-hand turn at an intersection. It also extends the geographical area in which bicycle riding on the sidewalk is prohibited.

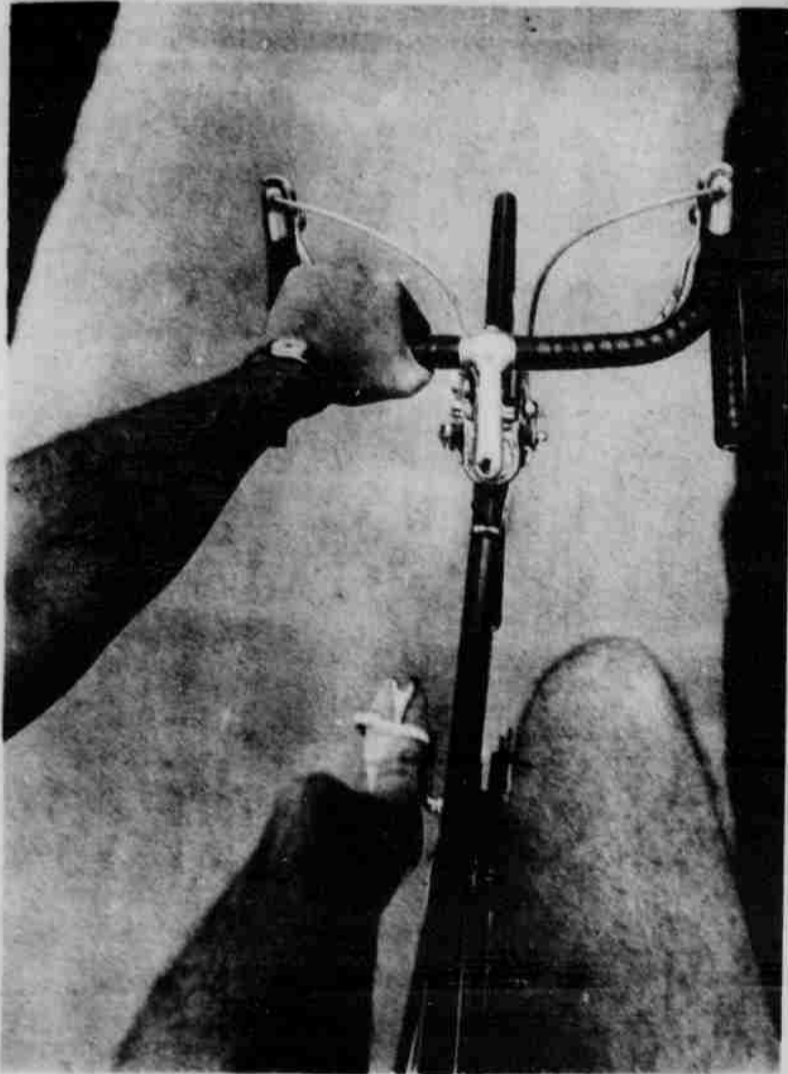
The area defined by the new ordinance is essentially the downtown area. Bicycling on the sidewalk is prohibited, under the ordinance, from the south side of "M" street to the north side of "Q" street and from the west side of 10th street to the east side of 16th street.

The ordinance also puts the brakes on sidewalk bicycle traffic on Havelock Avenue from 61st to 63rd street, on 48th street from Baldwin to Madison, on the west side of

48th from Prescott to Cooper, On prescott from 47th to 48th and on the west side of 66th from Holdrege to Fairfax.

The ordinance further indicates that any person operating a bicycle on a sidewalk does so at his own risk and must yield the right of way to traffic and pedestrians.

The balance seems to be shifting to stricter regulations on bicyclists as more and more enthusiasts take to the people-powered machines. But unless the public tires of two-wheelers or the bicycle manufacturers can get intogear on production it looks as if the cyclists' frame of reference will remain at the rim of the traffic pattern.



Continued from page 1.

circumvent CSL authority by going directly to the Regents, he added.

Interim Chancellor C. Peter Magrath has sent a letter of President D. B. Varner supporting the position of CSL on an executive fraternity council, Eldridge said.

The Council's next meeting will be Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. An open forum for 30 minutes will be held at the beginning of each CSL meeting to hear any complaints or questions from the University community.

The Council currently has 13 members with two members from the Office of Student Affairs expected to be appointed next week. The eight student members were appointed by ASUN last spring. The chairman and faculty members were appointed by the Chancellor.

In the next few weeks, the Council will discuss the drug committee report submitted

last spring, a report on student disciplinary procedures and begin work on a Code of Student Discipline.

Members of CSL are: chairman, Franklin E. Eldridge, associate dean of the College of Agriculture; Hazel Anthony, associate dean of the College of Home Economics; Ely Meyerson, interim executive dean of Student Affairs; Roy G. Arnold, assistant professor of food science and technology and John W. Goebel, assistant professor of business law.

j & d conoco

We do Volkswagen engine work

See us now for that winter tune-up

1401 South St. 435-9042

COME IN & CHECK IT OUT



- Over 450 Posters
- Sculptured Candles
- Incense in 50 Flavors
- Old World Jewelry
- Silver Rings & Earrings
- Printed T-Shirts (From Superman to Mickey Mouse)

118 N. 14th. / Phone 432-9897



MANTRA

84 C

MORE HORROR!
MORE SCREAMS!
MORE FRIGHT!

FRANKENSTEIN'S BLOODY TERROR

GP

ALL NEW! ALL COLOR

— ISSUE No. 2 —
"FIVE BLOODY GRAVES"

when you enter
**Private World
Beauty Salon**
something beautiful
happens.



423-2725

Over your
depth in
literature?



are
lifesavers

Cliff's Notes have been "lifesavers" for millions of students by helping them understand difficult literature assignments. Be prepared. Get the ones you need now and use them as you study.

Nearly 200 titles... always available at your dealer's.



Lincoln, Nebraska 68501