

Cornhusker falls victim to changing times

by Michael (O.J.) Neison

"The idea of a yearbook dying doesn't bother me," said Bill Ganzel, editor of the 1971 *Cornhusker*, "they're obsolete. But the idea of the *Cornhusker* dying bothers me."

The *Cornhusker*, a University student publication since 1905, will be discontinued after this year.

James Horner, chairman of the UNL publications board, said the discontinuation is due to financial problems.

"It all comes down to dollars," he said. "The book has been losing about \$3,000 a year for the last three or four years."

He said the book is "supposed to be self-supporting" but had been unable to "break even." To help remedy the situation, the board had proposed a "fee-check-off" card, he said. The proposal was rejected by UNL Chancellor James Zumberge.

Under the proposed system, a student would be able to include the cost of his yearbook in his tuition payment. The system would be voluntary, said Horner.

"Zumberge has effectively killed the *Cornhusker*,"

said Ganzel. He called the check-off system the yearbook's "last hope."

Jody Beck, editor of the 1972 *Cornhusker*, said the UNL administration "might be sorry the book is gone." She said the University "doesn't realize the public relations value of the book."

Greg Scott, a member of the 1972 *Cornhusker* art staff said he agrees with the board's decision.

"Although I don't think it would have made much of a difference," he said, "I think the Pub board and the Chancellor should have taken a look at this year's book and seen the reaction to it before they decided to cancel it."

The 1972 book will be an "innovation" according to Scott. The book is based on *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.

But an innovative yearbook at UNL is nothing new, according to Beck. She said the *Cornhusker* had consistently been in the "Top 10" of the nation's yearbooks and had won all-American ratings for 10 of the last 11 years of publication.

She said the book had been praised by professionals across the country and had been copied by many other schools.

"We've actually had pages copied exactly by other people. The *Cornhusker* is just a great book - it's a leader," she said.

If the book is so good why can't it sell more than 2,000 copies to a student body of 20,000? According to Ganzel and Beck "change" is the reason.

"The University has changed," said Beck. "People aren't part of the University community like they used to be."

Ganzel said the *Cornhusker* had always covered campus organizations and said the people who were involved in those organizations bought the book.

"Anymore there are many students who just come to the University to study or go to class and then go home," he said. "How do you make a book for someone like that? Why do they want to know about Kosmet Klub or the Tri-Delt Spring Formal?"

The *Cornhusker* had traditionally been filled with pictures of campus organizations and student leaders. But in 1970 the book changed; it contained in-depth articles and emphasized events more than people.

"We tried to broaden our base, to appeal to more students," said Ganzel. "We tried to show what is really happening in the University, not just on the Greek row."

But the change caused problems.

"It was like walking out on your girlfriend or getting a divorce," he said. "The Greeks had been our major readership and they didn't like the change. Many houses threatened not to buy space in the book unless the format was changed back."

He explained that the book was not trying to "blast" the Greeks, but to just "broaden its coverage."

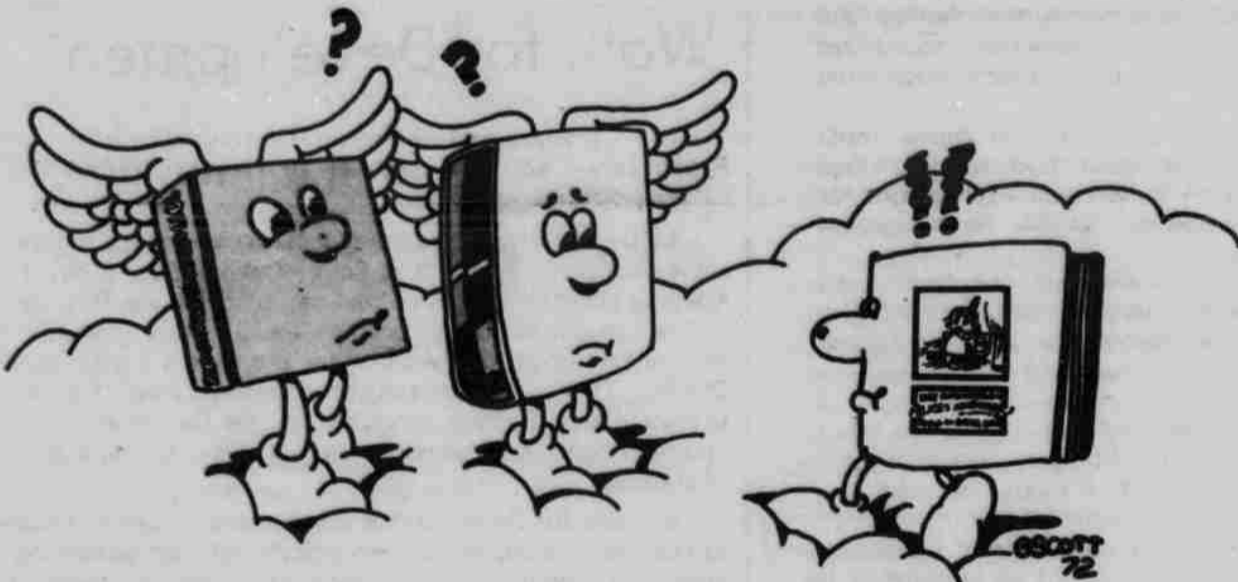
"They got turned off in the process of us trying to turn on other people," Ganzel said.

Even if the new format discouraged students from buying the book, the staff felt they still could not change to a different style.

"If students are used to a progressive book going back to something else would kill it," said Beck.

Ganzel said the book could not change because "if we have lost a group that has been buying it for years we can't get them back again."

Alternatives to the yearbook have been proposed. Beck said many universities have gone to a quarterly magazine format. Scott and Ganzel also advocated a magazine. However there are currently no definite plans for such a publication, and the only thing that appears definite is the *Cornhusker's* demise.



'Ritzy' commune avoids sex roles

by Randy Beam

"A lot call us the ritziest commune they know of--and I might say it's probably true."

The speaker is teletype operator Toni Hilliard.

Since last August she and her husband Stephen, an associate English professor, have lived in a rather off-beat community.

Along with eight others--four men and four women--they share a three-story house at 19th and B Streets.

In some ways, their community parallels modern social structure. In others it's different.

Toni said the average income for the men living in the mansion tends to be higher than the women, although salaries, in general, are large. Four of the men are University professors, the fifth operates the Lincoln Free School. Of the women, two are "working girls" a third is a University instructor, and the other two are students.

The average age for the women is about 24, she said. The men average around 30.

As in many communal living situations, the work is divided equally. There is no

job definition along sexual lines.

"There was a tendency at first not to make the smaller women mow the lawn," Stephen said, "but we're over that now."

Toni said the egalitarian set-up between the sexes is what interested her most in their community living experiment.

The idea for such a community originated among four members of the group, she explained.

They had considered trying communal living for some time, when "this house came along and captured our imaginations. It made what we'd been talking about a reality."

"Actually the house is rather special," Toni said.

Built in 1917, it once belonged to a Nebraska state senator. Much of the interior woodwork is solid cherrywood. Recently, the group bought several thousand dollars worth of rugs for the place, she said.

And it's large--seven bedrooms, a ballroom, a living room, two pantries, a dining room, drawing room, kitchen and recreation room.

For convenience, one member of the group bought the house, although all are

involved in its operation.

Rent varies depending both on what an individual can afford and how much space he or she uses.

Each person pays about \$45 a month for food. All the buying is then handled by one person per month.

"We live pretty high off the hog," Stephen said. "I suppose we could live a lot cheaper, but we don't really have any desire to do so."

He said that although it's not true communal living, because everyone keeps their own bank account after living expenses are taken care of, it comes closer than any other living experience he's had. Stephen said when he lived, first as a bachelor, and then married to Toni, it gradually became easy for him to isolate himself from others.

Community living, he said, keeps you from doing that. "It keeps you from shutting yourself off."

But at times, continuously being in close contact with the others can strain relations. It really forces one, to cope with the different life styles, he said.

Turn to Page 6.