

gary seacrest sports

Tony Williams came to the University this fall as a freshman with a driving ambition: he wanted to be one of the three male members of the Husker Yell Squad.

To prepare for the cheerleading tryouts in March, Williams went to all the football games except the road games at Oklahoma and Hawaii, attended all the home basketball games and even submitted new cheers to the Yell Squad. "I really wanted it bad," said Williams, who was a cheerleader while attending high school in Omaha.

But he wasn't chosen in the tryouts to fill the one male vacancy on the Yell Squad and under the present rules he won't get another change to try out since only freshmen are eligible to become new members of the squad.

A similar fate has occurred to other students, but Williams and other students are further upset because all the male cheerleaders are now from the same fraternity (Theta Xi) and six of the eight female cheerleaders are members of sororities. Williams argues that the present selection system (where selected cheerleaders and the Yell Squad's to faculty advisors are the only ones voting) inbreeds a Greek dominance of the squad.

Williams is proposing that the selection committee be widened to include people outside the Yell Squad, the male membership be increased and tryouts be opened to sophomores and juniors as well as freshmen.

But his proposals are meeting with resistance from Yell Squad officials. William Tuning, one of the Yell Squad's faculty sponsors, said, "We don't see a better system at the moment."

Tuning, an assistant professor of physical education, had the following points in rebuttal to the proposed changes:

--People outside the Yell Squad are not normally qualified to pick the best cheerleaders. "Eight to 10 years ago outside people--like members of Mortar Board and Innocents Society--were involved in the selection process," he said. "But it didn't work because they didn't know what they were judging and they finally asked to be relieved."

--The squad could not be enlarged because it would increase costs as well as hinder the performance of the squad. He said the squad has a limited budget

from its sponsor, the athletic department, and added, "We think we get a better performance out of 11 people than 22 people."

--Allowing sophomores and juniors to try out would limit the squad's effectiveness since cheerleading is a difficult job that is best suited to a three-year stint. "Sophomores spend the first year learning the job," he said. "By the time they are juniors they are productive members and by the time they are seniors they are really productive and good teachers."

Tuning denied the present selection system discriminates against non-Greeks. "We take the best people as we see them," he said.

Why do Greeks dominate the squad?

"The Greeks care more," Tuning answered. "They push their members to try out. Any time you have an organization pushing something you are going to have better results than individual effort."

This is not the first time the membership selection of the Yell Squad has been attacked. The squad has also come under attack because of the quality of its game performances or lack of.

Obviously the Yell Squad could use some changes. But change is such a conservative and traditional institution only comes slowly.

It seems improbable that someone outside Yell Squad could not pick a good cheerleader. It also seems odd in this age of equality to have three males

and eight females on the squad. And finally, it seems a gross injustice to limit tryouts to freshmen. Surely it doesn't take three years to learn to shout, "Go Big Red."

Probably one of the most astute comments was made by an opposing Big Eight football coach who said, "The only things wrong with the Nebraska football team is its cheerleaders."

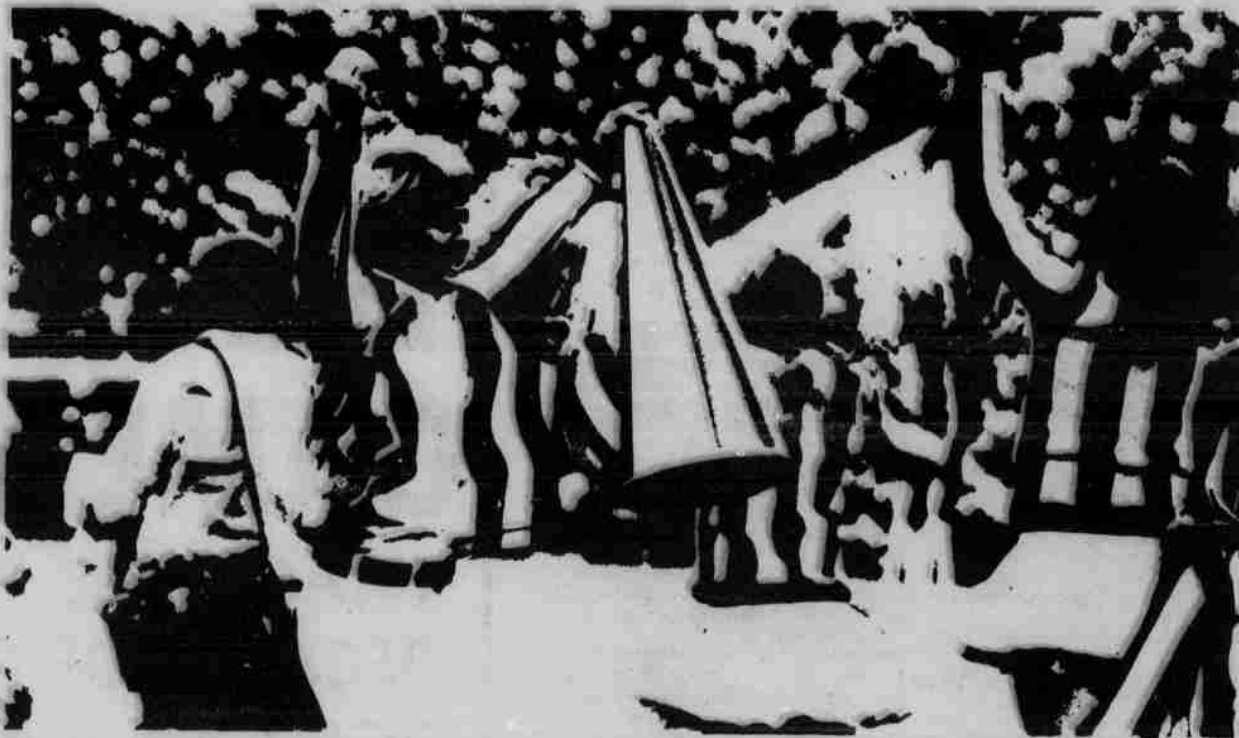
Here is a joke with some local interest:

Once upon a time there was a UNL professor who was such a genius that he had trouble communicating with people. In order to solve his communication problem, he sought treatment from a doctor, who had invented a machine that could lower people's intelligence.

The doctor strapped the professor into a special chair and turned on the machine. As the machine started lowering the professor's IQ, the doctor was called out of the room to take a phone call from his verbose wife. The wife talked on and on and when the doctor finally returned the machine had lowered the professor's IQ to 45.

The doctor was frantic and immediately turned off the machine. "Say something," the doctor commanded to the patient. "Say anything so I know you're alive and have intelligence."

"G-o B-i-g R-e-d," mumbled the patient.



Tracksters eye comeback after relay disappointment

After a lackluster performance at the recent Kansas Relays, the Nebraska track team sets its sights this weekend on the final leg of the 1972 relay circuit--the Drake Relays in Des Moines.

The Huskers will enter four relay teams--the mile, two-mile, sprint medley and distance medley--as well as Horace Levy in the 100-yard dash.

The Huskers will be trying to come back from a poor performance last week at the Kansas Relays where they managed only fourth-place finishes in the mile and two-mile relays, despite the fact that the mile team ran a season best of 3:08.6.

Two former Husker standouts--miler Greg Carlberg and sprinter Charlie Green--will also compete in the meet.

County drops Rodgers charge

PLATTSMOUTH--Cass County Att. James Begley said Thursday a charge of possession of marijuana would not be filed against Nebraska football star Johnny Rodgers due to a lack of evidence.

Rodgers and a companion, 20-year old John H. Grant of Omaha, were arrested April 22 on Interstate 80 near Greenwood on suspicion of possession of marijuana. Rodgers was a passenger in Grant's car, which was stopped by the State Patrol for speeding.

The court found Grant guilty and fined him \$100 and costs on a charge of possession less than one ounce of marijuana. Grant was also assessed \$42 in costs for speeding 87 miles per hour.

Rodgers, an All-American flanker, has two other court appearances scheduled for May in Lincoln's Municipal Court on traffic charges of running a red light and driving on a suspended license.

Soccer club seeks identity

by Kent Seacrest

Eric Davies, like Bob Devaney, has a Nebraska football team. But if Devaney's team ever played Davies' squad it would be one of the most unusual games ever played.

The reason is that Devaney's football is the American-style and Davies' football is the Association-style, or in other words, soccer--the world's most popular sport.

The Huskers' other football team, better known as the UNL soccer club, is a unique squad. Its 24 players consist of under-graduate and graduate students and one assistant professor of botany--player-coach Davies. Its members also come from all over the world. Nine countries are represented: the United States, Jamaica, Peru, Colombia, Turkey, Germany, Ethiopia, Nigeria and England.

"We've got many nationalities on the club and they all play a different style of soccer," Davies said. "The team is roughly half Americans and half foreigners. Generally speaking, the American players are stronger, healthier and more competitive. However, the foreign players have better soccer skills."

The soccer club receives no funds from the UNL Athletic Department and before this year the team supported itself. "But finally somebody came to our rescue," Davies said. "Corn Cobs, the Council on Student Life and especially the Recreation

and Intramurals Department have been very kind in helping support the team this year. But we still don't have a regular budget."

The other problem facing the club is lack of recognition. "Most people don't even know a soccer club exists on this campus," Davies remarked. "We are plagued with an identity crisis."

But despite these problems the club has managed to compile an 11-5-4 record over their fall-spring season.

During the recent Big Eight soccer tournament, the Huskers won their first tournament game in their four-year history by defeating Iowa State. The UNL club finished seventh in the conference tournament.

Davies believes Nebraska will be the host for next year's Big Eight soccer tournament.

"Next year we'd really like to have a good team to represent Nebraska in the tournament," Davies said. "This year we can beat the local college teams, but we just can't beat the Big Eight schools. We may have the biggest stadium (Memorial Stadium) in the Big Eight, but we also have one of the worst teams in the conference."

This Sunday at 2 p.m. the football club will play the Omaha Internationals, a semi-pro team. The game will be played at Peter Pan Park because the other Big Red football team has spring football practice in Memorial Stadium.