

LIVING IN PLUSH PALACES, DYING IN DESOLATE DORMS



by Tim Anderson

Dormitory residents have long used lack of privacy, excess noise, cafeteria food and the general lack of hominess in the dorms as reasons for moving off campus.

UNL students today use the same excuses plus an additional gripe they acquired in March. At that time the Regents approved a dormitory rate increase—from \$940 to \$1,020 a year for double rooms and from \$1,140 to \$1,320 a year for single rooms.

"I'm moving off campus this fall and I'm sure that if I watch it, I can live cheaper," said Dan Worth, Cather freshman.

Worth plans to live with three or four other students and hopes to get a small house.

"There are just too many people here," he said. "I just can't handle all of them. You go down for lunch and you have to stand in a line that looks like you're going to a concert."

However, Worth has found some positive aspects about life in dorms.

"It's real close to classes, all the food's prepared when you want to eat and it's within walking distance of downtown," he said. "I'll have trouble finding a place off campus that will be located so that I can walk to classes, movies, restaurants and stores."

Worth's main reason for leaving the dorm is his class load. "I've got a pretty heavy class schedule next fall and you can't get any studying done here." As an architecture major, he

will need a drawing table, he said, and there is no room for it in the dormitory. He'll have projects to build that he "doesn't want anybody messing with."

Worth's roommate, Terry Reding, also a freshman, said he will probably live in the dorm again next year because of financial aid problems.

Reding, who attended the University on a swimming scholarship, said he wasn't certain if his financial help would allow him to live off campus.

However, he too gets discouraged in the dorm.

"Some days you get rather bored, you look out the window, and all you can see is the football stadium. Oldfather Hall and Hamilton Hall — it makes you feel sort of alienated.

"The food's edible, I guess. If nothing else, it's at least nutritious. I wouldn't buy this stuff in any restaurant," Reding said.

Reding said he had switched over to the dormitory cafeteria from the athletic training table so that he could eat with friends. He couldn't tell any difference in the food, he said.

Phil Porter, another Cather freshman, had few compliments for the dorm. One of his main gripes is limited visitation.

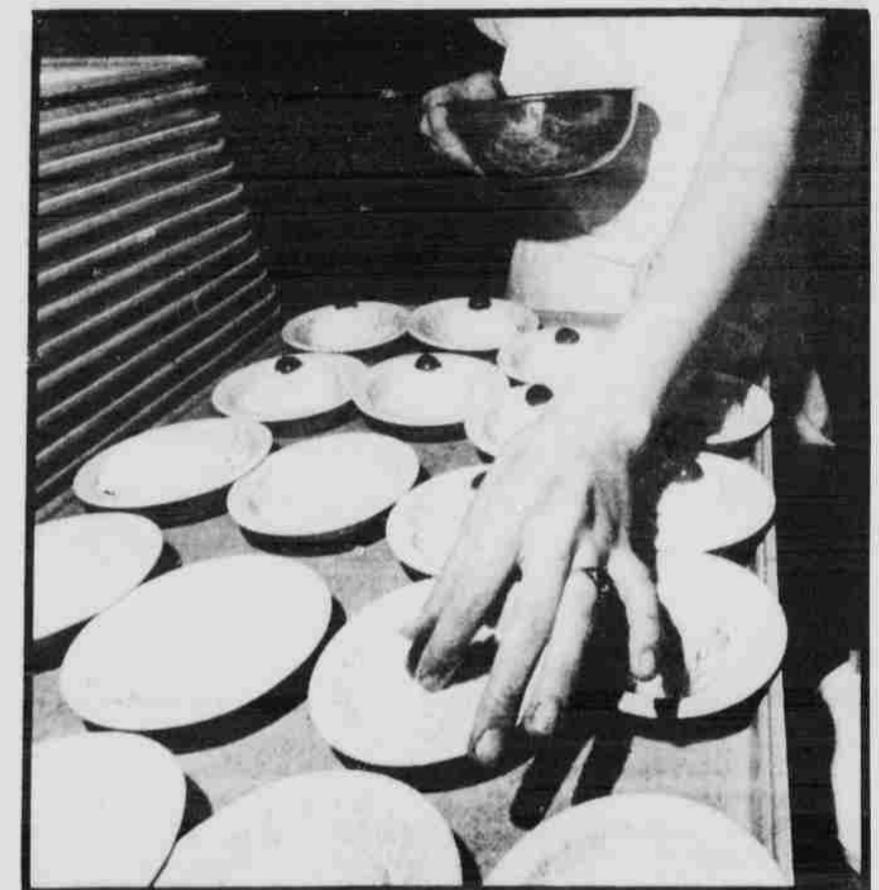
"I've visited some friends of mine at schools in Illinois where they have 24-hour visitation and they don't seem to be having any trouble," Porter said. "I don't see why we shouldn't be able to handle it.

"The food's all right if you haven't eaten anything for about three days before. I get really tired of eating the same thing," he said.

"At least I have a nice view of campus from up here," he added.

Women in the dormitories agreed with the men residents although their reasons were not the same.

"I just don't like that many people in one place," Sandoz



Hall freshman Sara Brandes said. "It just doesn't make the place personal. Half the people in the restroom you don't even know."

"I would just like to see dorms be more homey — maybe some carpeting and sinks in each room or something," Brandes said.

Dorm room is basically adequate as far as she's concerned, except for a storage problem. "My bed is about to come off the floor because of the junk I have piled under it. There just isn't any place to store anything."

Brandes plans to move into a sorority house in the fall. She said she believes this will alleviate most of her dormitory problems.

"Right now I can say 'hi' to about 30 out of the 45 girls on our floor. I would only call about ten of them personal friends," she said. "It's those 15 that I don't even know well enough to speak to that bothers me. I won't have that problem in the house. Also the house is homier."

Brandes' second roommate this year, Cindy Wolfe, also a freshman, agreed. She also will move into a sorority house in the fall.

"I just don't have enough privacy," she said. "I couldn't stand to live in the dorm for more than one year. You just can't get any studying done here."

Wolfe, however, didn't have any major complaints about the food. "It's pretty starchy which really shoots a diet, but usually you can find something offered that you like.

"I think we could probably have visitation more frequently — definitely not 24-hour, but at least more often. I don't see anything wrong with some afternoon hours," Wolfe said.

She also said she favors alcohol in the dorms "as long as everyone says sensible about it."

Pound freshman Mary Johnson agreed that the alcohol proposal would be "better in some ways. If you're 19, there's really no reason to hide it."

Although Johnson said she's sure there is alcohol in the dorms now, she didn't think much would be found during the week.

Johnson said she wants more freedom, so she hasn't signed a dormitory contract for next year—and doesn't plan to.

"I'm going to try to get an apartment with some other girls—I'd go crazy living by myself—but if that doesn't work out, I'll probably try to get back in the dorm."

