

Coeds may gain 'Innocents'

by Ken Kirk

Don't be surprised if you see men tackling women on campus next spring.

The Innocents Society, the senior male honor society, which initiates members by tackling them, may open up to women for the first time in its 70-year history.

The society has unanimously adopted a constitution change, which would strike the word "male" and replace it with "person" in its constitution.

However, the final decision rests with the executive committee of the Innocents alumni

association composed of Marvin Stromer, Bon Inness and James Pittenger, UNL ticket manager. The committee must approve all constitutional changes.

Mike Berns, Innocents president, said: "I assume it's going to change, but it could go either way."

Pittenger said he would not comment on the issue or contact either Stromer or Inness until he received additional information on the change.

Berns said a vote to allow women in next year's membership narrowly was defeated. He said the constitution change also was voted upon last year, but defeated.

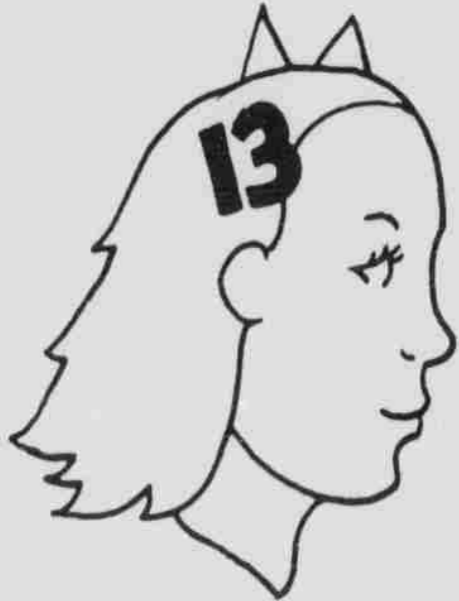
Next year's Innocents will be tackled next week and announced May 5 at the spring football game. Innocents traditionally has had 13 members, but a constitutional change in 1970 removed this restriction.

Innocents now is open to junior males with at least 3.0 grade point average, although a unanimous vote opens the door for someone with a lower average.

Berns said Innocents looks for people who have accomplished something for UNL. The Innocents receive nominations for future members from deans, administrators and organization advisors. Those nominated are sent applications, then the applications are screened and voted upon by the members.

According to Berns, Innocents was once a powerful organization which chose cheerleaders, organized the cheering section, regulated the wearing of freshman caps and coordinated the preservation of campus tradition with other universities.

This year's Innocents sponsored a fall voter registration drive. And with Mortar Boards sponsor Masters Week each year.



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Help Line aids voters

Students planning to vote in the May 1, city general election can find out their precinct number and polling place by calling the UNL Help Line, 472-3311.

The same information is available at the County Election Commissioner's office at the County City Building, 555 So. 10 St. Persons wanting additional information may call the office at 475-5611.

A Help Line spokesman said the service doesn't have a complete list of Lincoln precincts but does have information about those which surround the University.



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