

Breckenridge takes library job

By Ken Merlin
School of Journalism

Wednesday marked the first time in 29 years the job of director of the UNL library system has been vacant.

Adam Breckenridge, a political science professor, took office as acting director Aug. 1 following the resignation of John Heussman who went on leave May 31.

Mrs. Frank Lundy, an associate director, was director during the two month interim. Her husband was director of libraries for 27 years prior to Heussman's appointment in 1971.

Last week the Summer

Nebraskan interviewed former directors Lundy and Heussman, and acting director Breckenridge, about the growth of the library system since 1968 and the upcoming period of transition of possibly a year before a permanent director can be found.

Director's job

The director of libraries' job is primarily one of providing quality service to library patrons, according to all three men. A combination of factors mentioned which effect the quality of service were the presence of adequate resources, a professionally-trained staff, understanding of the system on

the part of the patron, and cooperation between the patron and the staff to make the system work and to improve it.

Storage space became a problem as early as 1968 according to a staff reply to a patron's complaint posted on the Undergraduate Library "suggestion board."

Suggestion: "This Library system stinks. Why don't you put all your goods in one god-damn building so we wouldn't have to run all over town."

Staff reply

Reply: "In 1968 we were allocated six and a half million

dollars as part of a larger Construction Bill covering many other state services. When this Bill was vetoed by the governor, Love Library attempted to pass our portion of the bill separately. Regretfully, the Supreme Court of Nebraska decided that this was unconstitutional . . .

"Now, under the present governor, we received only three and a half million, not nearly enough to build a central library adequate for the current growth rate. So late in 1968 part of the Dewey collection was moved to C.Y. Thompson and to the Law Annex. Last summer we were finally compelled to begin moving the entire Dewey collection to the third floor of Nebraska Hall.

"In about 18 months (written as of May 3, 1973) most of the Dewey books will go back once again to Love . . . In other words, we believe in the concept of a central library for most of the collection which should properly stand together. We only wish the original addition had been completed so that we could be more successful!

"On the other hand, the branch libraries are a great convenience for the departments which have them. The Undergraduate Library, incidentally, was never intended to be a substitute for Love Library, but a kind of bridge leading to it.

Lundy, who was director during the struggle for expansion of the library program said the \$6.5 million request lacked the enthusiastic support of the administration and the Board of Regents.

Look at Big 8

"I took a very careful look at schools in the Big Eight and their library commitments in terms of the number of Ph.D. programs.

"Graduate level programs," he said, "multiply the resources needed to support them geometrically.

"In terms of the number of Ph.D. programs, size and quality of faculty and library budgets, we had the weakest library program in the Big Eight to say nothing of the Big Ten.

"We were spreading \$2 million across a system which needed \$5.5 million a year" to keep pace with schools of comparable growth rate in the country, he said.

"The expansion of the library was planned along with architects and consultants based on 40 Ph.D. programs and enough space to house a staff who were cramped even then in Love.

Cut in half

"The proposed building was ultimately cut in half and what you see going up now (Love addition) won't meet the needs for the next 15 to 18 years as planned. We'll need another building in eight years which will cost a lot more in the end," he said.

The frustration of patrons and staff alike climaxed shortly after Lundy's retirement in 1971.

"People on the desk began taking all kinds of criticism.

Faculty members were rude and unpleasant. As a result, one-third of the professional staff quit," he said.

The faculty chose to complain at a time when their support was needed to convince the administration that more funds were necessary to provide a quality program, he said.

Quite frustrated

Heussman noted that patrons continued to feel "quite frustrated" during his administration. As director he increased service to patrons by organizing the central reference department on the second floor of Love Library and provided slide-tape presentations for use in freshman English classes explaining the use of the library.

Heussman resigned the \$26,100 job to take a staff position as a library systems analyst creating the current vacancy.

Concerning the appointment of Breckenridge to a one-year term as acting director, Heussman said "I feel he's in a position to bring a new perspective to the job and that he'll make an important contribution during this transitional period."

No comment

The 57-year-old Breckenridge has served 15 of his 25 years at the University in administrative jobs, first as chairman of the political science department from 1953-55; then as Dean of Faculties (a position which no longer exists) for 11 years during which, in 1962, he was given the joint position of Vice Chancellor of International Programs in Turkey and Latin America. He continued as vice chancellor until 1968 when he returned to full-time teaching and his latest appointment as acting director.

Breckenridge gave a "no comment" to questions regarding the internal operation of the library system such as budgeting for new books and renovation of the present Love Library facility.

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State legislative action campus alcohol source ?

By Nancy Stohs
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If alcohol is to be allowed on the University campus, it looks like the 1974 Legislature will have to take the bill.

Since the Board of Regents defeated UNL Chancellor James Zumberge's alcohol proposal in June, state Young Democrat officer Blane Osterman has

rebounded by contracting the support of several state senators.

But according to Sen. Steve Fowler, one pledged supporter: "In an election year, it (passage) would be difficult. A surprising amount of negative reaction came up to the Regents' proposal, and I'm afraid it would come up again."

The defeated proposal allowed

consumption of liquor in campus living units and select campus facilities such as the Union and the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on a trial year basis.

Fowler said there is probably a better chance for passage by the Legislature because of its "general willingness to have minors drink," referring to the recent lowering of the majority age.

But he said he is worried about parent reaction.

So far, there has been only minimal discussion between Osterman, Fowler and several other senators. Osterman said he will meet with the senators in September to start blue printing a bill "which will be very similar to Zumberge's."

He said both the University and state Young Democrats will support the bill.

Osterman is first district Young Democrats chairman and state organizational chairman.

Earlier in July, Mark Hoeger, ASUN first vice president, said, UNL students "probably won't go back to the Regents with a liquor proposal for awhile."

Second session enrollment makes '73 program largest

An enrollment of 5,333 students in the second Summer Session at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln makes the 1973 summer program the largest in the University's history.

A total of 13,363 students enrolled in courses this summer at UNL. The first session enrollment totalled 6,916, while 860 were in a 3-week pre-session and 254 in an 8-week session.

The 1973 summer program exceeded the previous high of 13,120 student who enrolled for summer study in 1971. Last year the summer enrollment at UNL was 12,806.

"There are still a few programs yet to be counted and the record summer enrollment may reach as high as 13,500 when everyone has been recorded," said William Sesow, assistant director of Summer Sessions.

Last paper for summer

This is the last issue of the SUMMER NEBRASKAN, the campus newspaper published for summer school students.

It was published weekly during the first five-week session and four times during the second session.

This summer the editor was Ken Kirk and the business manager Mitch Mohanna, both senior journalism majors.

THE SUMMER NEBRASKAN is supervised by the School of Journalism and is independent of the Daily Nebraskan, the campus newspaper during the fall and spring semesters.

The Daily Nebraskan will begin regular publication this fall on August 30, but a special edition will appear Aug. 27, the first day of the fall semester.