

Streakers contrasted with war protesters

Why do people streak, and why do hundreds gather to watch?

There are a number of reasons, according to Jerry Cloyd, UNL associate professor of sociology.

"Some people join a crowd simply because there is a crowd, and they wonder what's happening. A small number of them simply want to look at people in the nude, but a more widespread reason, at the present time, is that these people (streakers) are breaking the rules.

"People get a vicarious pleasure in watching someone break the law. It's an element of protest," he said. Cloyd compared streaking with the war protests of 1970.

"The war protesters were calling on higher authority for specific changes, which implies more

faith in the central government. The streaking crowds are expressive, showing dissatisfaction with higher authority," he said.

Herbert Howe, director of the UNL Psychological Consultation Center, says he believes streaking crowds have something in common.

"Earlier, the war protest movement gave people something to share, a common experience. Many students are concerned about things like exams and money problems and feel like they're alone with these problems.

"Also, students have just gone through a rather long, dull winter. The streaking is interesting and exciting. It's like why there are 70,000 people in the stadium during football season. It's fun and the place to be. There's almost a carnival type atmosphere

about the whole thing," he said.

Howe agrees there are several reasons for streaking.

"There is a risk to it. Some people gamble, some drive too fast, some skydive. Streaking is a mildly taboo thing to do," he said.

"There is also an incredible amount of social pressure involved. An article appeared in the *Lincoln Journal* wondering why University students weren't streaking, and the next day, we were bombarded by streakers. It's the thing to do."

Howe said he also believes streaking is a safe way for students to violate social norms.

Howe said streaking will end when the news media stop reporting it.

ROTC ranks, regalia not for men only

Not all ROTC uniforms at UNL are being worn by men. Women too are filling the ranks in ever increasing numbers, according to ROTC officials.

"Woman enlistment in our ROTC program has shown a boom from two enrollees to 12 this year," said Air Force Capt. Thomas D. Phillips. "And next year will be even better. We're corresponding with 40 girls."

He said three women joined the Naval Science ROTC program this year, and six entered Army ROTC. He cited opportunities for travel, commission and management as reasons why women join.

"The Air Force ROTC program provides me with an escape from the stereotyped woman's job," said UNL sophomore Mary Stoughton. "The military will allow me a higher executive job in law enforcement than I could find in civilian life."

Women in Air Force (WAF) work in Air Force jobs, except combat flying duty, from which they are restricted by law. Generally, WAF are assigned, administered, trained, and always paid under the same policies and procedures as men. This includes attending field training at an Air Force base the summer prior to their junior year.

Field training was described by junior Jan Joseph, as "six weeks of endless pressure." Women ate, drilled and competed with their counterparts from 5:30 a.m. until sundown. Work in the rifle range was optional, she said, but some of the women became expert marksmen.

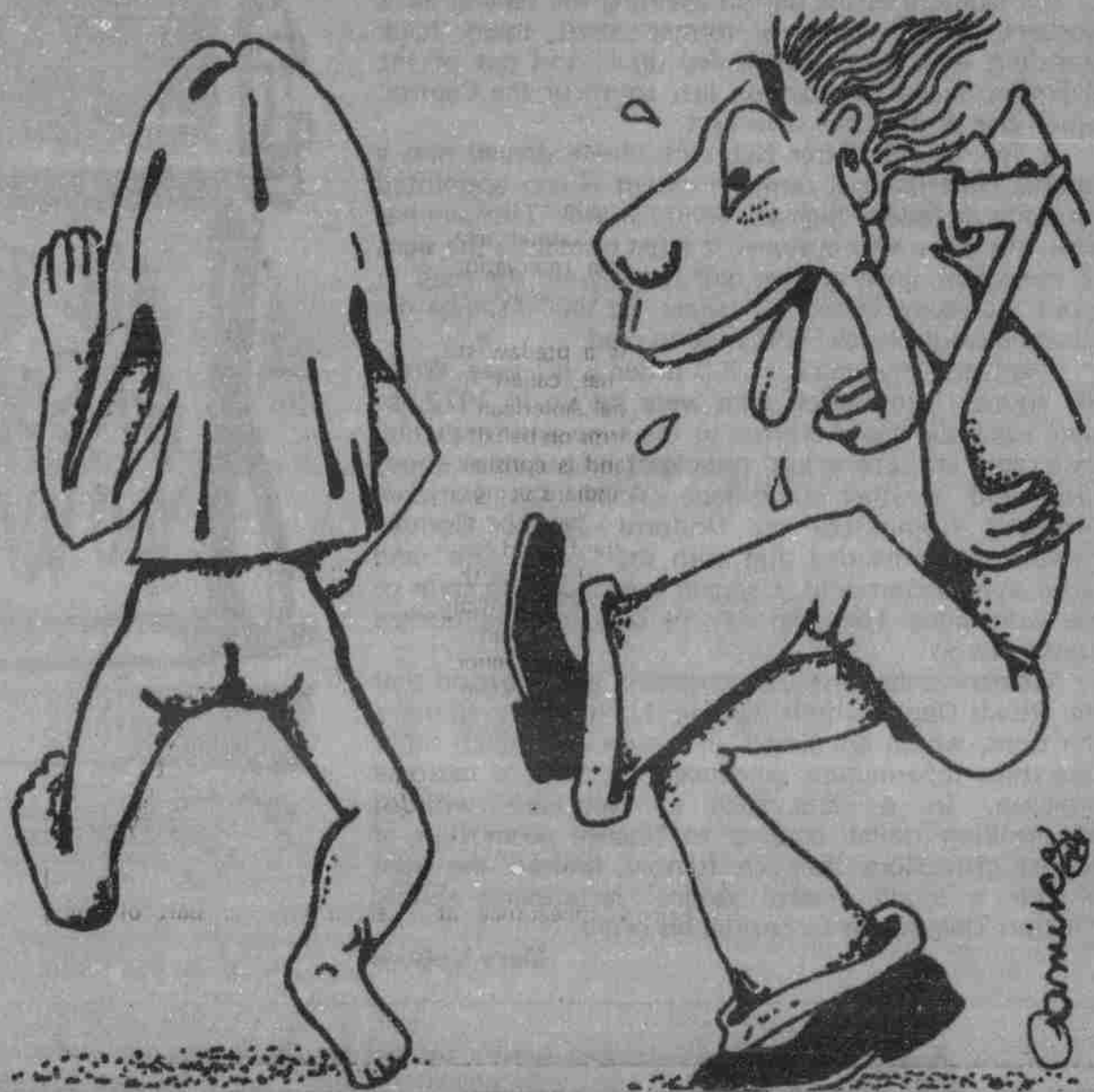
A survival training program was also optional for women. Joseph, who participated, said it dealt with food gathering and construction of fires and shelters. Some caught rattlesnakes which they skinned and cooked.

Joseph said by the end of the first week, everyone realized the flight would have to work together. "We all cooperated, regardless of sex. We couldn't afford to have personal differences."

When asked what he thought of women in ROTC, senior Leonard Ormsby replied, "As far as females in the service go, if they can do everything a man can do—fine. But there is no reason why they should receive extra benefits. Let me give you an example. Last spring women rode in jeeps while we men ran alongside."

However, the ROTC Physical Fitness Code stipulates that women at field training camp must be able to run 1.5 miles in 12 minutes, the same as the men.

"If you want a job badly enough, you conform," said Joseph. "I'm 26, divorced and have two sons. Only a few months ago I was on welfare. ROTC has guaranteed me a job—soon I'll be making about \$9,000 a year when I graduate. ROTC's been the best thing that's happened to me yet."



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