

The exodus

The UNL College of Law was given a much needed shot in the arm when ground finally was broken on East Campus for the college's new building. But law students now are justifiably indisposed that another malady threatens to weaken the college. The problem: four of its best professors have been granted 1-year leaves of absence, and at least one says he will not return to the University known for its football team, academic mediocrity and low faculty salaries.

Other problems plague the Law College, some of which are outlined in a Page 1 story in today's *Daily Nebraskan*. But of all the inadequacies—most of which center on too little money allocated to meet too many needs—the most exasperating worry of the college is getting and keeping a good faculty.

The Law College, of course, is hardly alone in its plight with finances and defecting professors. But it's unfortunate that one of the University's most established and most revered postgraduate programs must serve as a stepping stone to better universities and bigger salaries.

State and University officials should take a closer look at what the college has done for the state and the University, considering its budget allows only for 18 professors for about 450 students. Of all Nebraska lawyers outside of Omaha, 80% reportedly are graduates of the UNL Law College. And although one professor offered a somewhat myopic view that Nebraska "traditionally has been a good law school," the college sporadically has done well in national competition during the past 20 years.

The remedy to the professors' exodus apparently is more money. Obviously, more campaigning for funds and more lobbying for votes is needed. And the persons best suited for this are the law students and faculty themselves.

Mary Voboril



Victorian castles polluting city

Two of the most impressive buildings in Lincoln are ignored by visitors and by the city government. The grand old castles on 19th and D streets and 20th and F streets, once dignified relics of robber baron capitalism, are now deteriorating, unnecessarily, in their golden years.

The state of these two houses represents a form of pollution as offensive, if not as obvious, as the poisoning of the air and water. It's the area where economics, sociology and politics come together to form a problem that is insoluble now, but wouldn't be if people cared.

One person who does care is Dave Murphy. Murphy, a Lincoln architect and a UNL graduate, has combined his vocation with a love of history and a fondness for trivia. The result is an extensive file on Lincoln's new remaining reminders of its 19th Century.

keith landgren
desperate
remedies

There aren't many of those relics left, surprisingly, but there could be. Lincoln's position as a seat of government and as the economic center of southeast Nebraska led a number of wealthy businessmen to build homes in Lincoln, particularly south and east of the Capitol.

One of those businessmen was John R. Clark. Clark came to Nebraska from Ohio after he resigned his commission with the Union Army. He went to work for the old First National Bank of Lincoln and rose quickly in the organization. When he became vice president, he bought four lots at the corner of 20th and F streets, and in 1887 a drawing of a house at that corner appeared in a pamphlet called *Lincoln Illustrated and Lincoln's Growth*. The house is still standing, and Murphy lives in it.

He describes the house as the only example of the Queen Anne style architecture left in Lincoln. He isn't sure the Queen Anne is good architecture: it's gaudy, complex and confused, but the Clark house is a living page from architectural history.

Well, not exactly living, for the building deteriorated steadily throughout the 20th Century. Sometime after World War II it was broken into apartments, a few changes were made in the arrangement of rooms and the roof went bad. Structurally, however, it remains sound.

Not far from Clark's house (and on a most important ridge) is the Phillips castle. Captain Holo Phillips, a Burlington Railroad executive, built it shortly before 1890. The large house at 1845 D was constructed of Colorado sandstone, and Phillips reportedly had a spur from the main Burlington line laid for its construction.

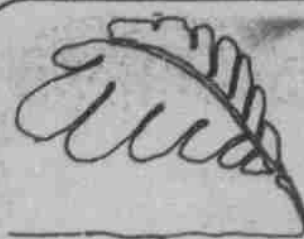
The Phillips castle and the curious little carriage house on the lot are Romanesque architecture, a style used in homes in the Victorian era (and in cathedrals during the Middle Ages). The castle isn't the only Romanesque, or Richardsonian, house in Nebraska; it's the best, though. It's been forced through periodic identity crises, as a nursing home and as a fraternity house. It's an apartment building now and each of the changes has taken its toll, slowly chipping away at the integrity of the architect's skill.

The ridge the two homes are on is important to Lincoln's history. Formed by the confluence of Salt Creek and Antelope Creek, it was the site of three Capitols, including the present one, and most of the important early architecture in Lincoln. The lowlands on either side of the ridge were in the floodplains of the creeks and were thus left to less affluent folks.

As Lincoln grew, the wealth moved east, across Antelope Creek and Capitol Parkway. The Capitol area was left to apartment dwellers and the grand old mansions of the area became anachronisms, expensive to maintain, highly taxed, ill suited for any use but as mansions. Many of them were demolished during the move east.

What can be done to stop the rest, especially the two castles, from going the same route? Right now, very little. The government pretends they are still luxurious homes, so they are taxed on their assessed value, not on their income producing ability. And they aren't very good as multiple dwellings: grand stairways and carriage houses are out of place in apartments.

Murphy believes some sort of allowance should be made for old houses. Assuming government ownership is unlikely (and it is, as long as they are seen as property and not as art) some property tax allowance for 19th Century buildings might be the best solution. But it's extremely urgent some changes be made, for a city without a past is a city without character. Those old homes are Lincoln's past.



to the editor

Letters appear in the *Daily Nebraskan* at the editor's discretion. A letter's appearance is based on its timeliness, originality, coherence and interest. All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. Use of such letters will be determined by the editor. Brevity is encouraged. All letters are subject to condensation and editing.

O Henry!

Dear editor,

Time should be taken to commend the efforts of outgoing ASUN president Ann Henry, first vice president Mark Hoeger and second vice president Sue Overing. The executive positions of ASUN are usually thankless jobs. No one really realizes what the office of ASUN president and other executive positions involves. They include numerous senate meetings, special sessions and other student-faculty related groups and committees.

With the lack of interest of many students and senators who resigned, Henry, Hoeger and Overing have done an exceptional job. Henry has devoted most of her time and efforts to ASUN and has been instrumental in drafting the alcohol and visitation proposals. All in all, the 1973-74 ASUN Senate introduced many proposals and took action for the benefit of the students' academic life and living conditions. Henry, as president of this group, along with Hoeger and Overing should be thanked and commended for their efforts and hard work.

Concerned student

Straight on hate

Editor's note: The following letter refers to a comment made in a story about a fight between gay persons and "straights" at a Lincoln bar. The bar referred to in the letter is in Omaha.

Dear editor,

I am writing in regards to the comments by Shellee Botts about "Omaha's woman hater" (*Daily Nebraskan*, Feb. 22).

I think Botts doesn't know a damn thing. I'm a straight girl who works the bar, and I don't recall her name but she's probably one of the women who usually causes trouble every weekend and has to be thrown out bodily.

There are quite a few straights come down there but many never come back after many of the drunken dyke brawls.

If Botts wants to make comments about the gay activists' behavior at the Lincoln coffeehouse, I find that very childish and immature.

For five years I've been around gays, and I'm finding that somebody better grow up and bring the gay community together and not throw it apart.

Stoney Taitee