

## Lincoln veterinarians divided on college issue

**Editor's Note:** This is the first of two stories examining whether or not there is a need for a veterinary school in Nebraska.

By Randy Gordon

Does Nebraska need a college offering a doctorate degree in veterinary medicine?

Lincoln veterinarians are evenly divided on the question.

And the UNL administration does not argue pro or con on the establishment of such a school, according to Duane Acker, vice chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"Our overall belief is that we'll put out the information on the situation that becomes available and let Nebraskans decide whether or not they want one," Acker said.

He asked a committee on June 14, 1974 to study the status of veterinary colleges and veterinary students across the nation placing a special emphasis on Nebraska. The committee, headed by Alex Hogg of the Veterinary Science Department and Ralston Graham of the Agriculture Communications Dept., released its report yesterday.

Included in the committee's findings were:

—The estimated cost for establishing a College of Veterinary Medicine ranges from \$30 million to \$50 million.

—A total of 109 Nebraska veterinary students applied in 1974 to the five universities with which NU has agreements. Of those, 16 were accepted.

NU has a Department of Veterinary Science, which conducts research, teaching and educational extension programs. The department offers three years of preveterinarian study. But students must take four years of doctorate work at another university.

NU now has agreements with five Midwest veterinary schools that allow a total of 70 Nebraska students to attend each year while paying resident tuition at the school. NU then pays the difference between the respective universities' resident and non resident tuition.

NU contracts with Iowa State, Colorado

State, Kansas State and Oklahoma State.

In addition, NU has a reciprocal memorandum agreement with Missouri University in which NU pays no fees for students who qualify for admission in veterinary medicine. In exchange, Missouri students can attend UNL to study and the Curtis School of Technical Agriculture for animal technology courses, without paying nonresident fees.

The following are colleges with which NU has agreements, the number of NU students at each and the amount paid yearly by NU for each student.

University	Total no. of NU students	Yr. payment NU for ea. stu.
Kansas State	20	\$4,000
Colorado State	15	\$4,000
Iowa State	23	\$6,500
Oklahoma St.	6	\$7,340
Missouri	6	

Of 10 Lincoln veterinarians polled on the issue, three said the university should establish a college of Veterinary Medicine, three opposed such a move and four said they would support the building of a Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in cooperation with other Midwestern states.

Dr. J. W. Bozarth, said such a college "would be nice to have, but I don't think Nebraskans would stand for having their taxes raised. It is needed, but I don't think we will ever get one."

Dr. Ralph Ebers, a 1957 graduate of Kansas State, disagreed.

"I don't think the state can afford to have all the professional schools, because of its limited population," he said.

NU now offers degrees in the professional sciences of law, medicine and dentistry.

"Instead, I would like to see the university pay the out-state schools what it costs them to educate Nebraska veterinary students. That will help our students gain admission into those other universities," Ebers said.

Dr. Jerry Burkey also said NU does not need the school saying, "there are no states with as narrow a tax base as Nebraska

supporting all the professional schools.

"It is also difficult to hire a qualified staff to handle the expanded enrollment," Burkey said.

Burkey, 1968 Kansas State graduate, said most of the qualified veterinary students eventually get into schools. He said the three students working for him have all been admitted to various universities.

"They were good students and that's what it takes," Burkey said. "A lot of students that would apply at a new Nebraska school wouldn't make it."

Dr. R. W. White, a 1943 graduate of Colorado A & M, supports the establishment of an NU school.

"I believe many students may be eliminated from ever practicing because the present universities don't have room for them," he said.

Dr. Robert Anderson is among the four Lincoln veterinarians who said they favor a regional school. Anderson, a 1953 graduate of Colorado State, said he thought the establishment of an NU College of Veterinary Medicine would "be a utopia."

"But I don't think the state can afford it, because of the limited population base," Anderson said. "Instead, we should have a joint venture with other states or a good trade agreement with other universities."

Dr. R. C. Groff, a 1950 graduate of Kansas State, said an NU school would be good, but that a regional school would be more economically feasible.

"My son had to become a resident of Kansas before he could get into Kansas State for veterinary school," Groff said, "so a solution is definitely needed."

Nine of the veterinarians said the establishment of a veterinary school in Nebraska would not relieve what they called a shortage of veterinarians in rural communities. They cited such things as relatively poor pay (when compared with city income) and long hours as being a major reason for the shortage.

White said he thought a new school might help ease the shortage.

## Lambda Chi returns to UNL

By Greg Wees

During the summer new doors were hung, carpeting was laid and inch-thick paint scraped off walls which echoed the returning voice of Lambda Chi Alpha, absent from the UNL campus for 35 years.

But more than just the inside of the three-story, brick building at 14th and R Sts. was renovated.

According to fraternity president Ed Raines, "hell week" was changed to "help week" as Lambda Chi Alpha abandoned the traditional pledging system in favor of an "associate member" program, the first of its kind at UNL.

Under the new approach, which eliminates hazing, freshman members are included in fraternity activities more than they were as pledges, Raines explained. Associate members also can vote on fraternity matters, he said.

"The associated member system exhibited the potential I thought was needed to sustain a viable fraternity," added Raines.

Theta Chi fraternity last occupied the building, which stood vacant last year because of needed repairs, Raines said.

But the Nebraska Bookstore Inc. bought the land and spent over \$110,000 remodeling the building according to directions from the Lambda Chi Alpha Housing corporation and its officers, said Raines.

The fraternity pays \$1,800 a month rent for nine months of the year to Nebraska Bookstore Inc. and signed a ten-year lease with them, he said.

Dale Schmitz, Nebraska Bookstore

property manager, said the land was bought as insurance in case the University declares eminent domain and takes over the land that Nebraska Bookstore presently occupies. Also, the corporation hopes to make a profit on the long-term lease, Schmitz said.

Last spring two representatives from Lambda Chi Alpha's national office, headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind., contacted students interested in re-establishing the chapter, Raines said.

Officers were elected and a charter application was filed with the NU Board of Regents before the two representatives left, he said.

The fraternity closed at UNL in 1939 because an increasing number of students were leaving the University to fight in WWII and because financial problems brought on by the Depression could not be overcome, Raines said.

The fraternity presently has 38 members but needs two more before it can become an official chapter, Raines said. Until then Lambda Chi Alpha is a colony which also must establish financial stability and draw up bylaws.

Raines said the fraternity nationally ranks second in the total number of colonies and fourth in the total number of official members.

Raines said that Lambda Chi Alpha alumni played a major role in re-establishing a local chapter.

"The national office wanted a chapter in Lincoln for a long time," he said. And with the interest and membership in fraternities increasing, the time was right, he said.

