

editorial

85th year continues tradition of changes

As Daily Nebraskan staffs come and go, so changes the look and content of the paper.

Some of the changes have been welcomed, others criticized, by our readers. But all have been made in the spirit of experimentation that college allows us.

This fall marks the beginning of our 85th year of publication, and we don't mean to stop changing now.

The major alteration in this volume of the Daily Nebraskan is a move from five to six columns of advertisements—a move prompted by finances, but one that increases our freedom in available news space.

The new ad format also lets us standardize our column widths, which we hope will make many stories easier to read.

Another change will be found in the magazine supplement begun last semester. Formerly called Midweek, this year's four to eight page pull-out section of in-depth articles is titled Third Dimension.

Under the editorship of Vince Boucher, Third Dimension will run on Wednesday, each week examining a different topic of interest to students.

New features this semester include Theodore Bernstein of the New York Times, whose "Bernstein on Words" column will run at least twice weekly.

Also courtesy of the Times, we are reviving the daily crossword, an addition we're sure will be welcomed by students taking large lecture classes.

For students planning study or travel in Europe this winter or spring, we will publish occasional overseas articles from the Christian Science Monitor news service.

And because this semester we come to the end of International Women's Year and the eve of the Bicentennial, reporters will prepare weekly features on women who played both major and minor roles in the American Revolution.

We'll continue to run Pulitzer prizewinner Don Wright's editorial cartoons, as well as Ralph, staff artist Ron Wheeler's answer to Mary Worth.

Ragtime will continue to provide a look at the campus of 1915, while the San Francisco Chronicle's Arthur Hoppe gives us the last word on foreign and domestic issues.

As the size of the special edition indicates, we

expect this semester's papers to be bigger than ever, and our sports and entertainment sections should expand accordingly.

We also hope to increase our coverage of off-campus news, and are trying to get a daily news-in-brief column covering national and international events.

And since bigger papers require a bigger staff, we've added a third person to our news desk. Twenty full-time reporters will be supervised by news editors Randy Gordon and Lori Demo, while associate news editor Gina Hills will work with sports editor Larry Stunkle and a soon-to-be-hired entertainment editor.

(We wish a parenthetical good luck to Susan Edwards, entertainment editor for the special edition, who has left the Daily Nebraskan to follow up job offers from three Colorado papers.)

At the copy desk, managing editor Stan Linhorst and layout editor Michele Schmal will crack the whip over four hard-working copy editors.

As we begin regular publication Monday, we'll experiment with the design, graphics and format of the Daily Nebraskan. It's a versatile medium, so bear with us a week or so while we try our wings.

We may be 85, but we're not too old to learn new tricks.

Rebecca Brite

Michael Hilligoss:

Vine Street Irregulars

The Vine Street Irregulars have recently come to my attention through a personal acquaintance known within this underground organization by the code name "Yossarian." Having given him my assurance that his anonymity will be preserved it is now possible for me to report to you on the secret operations of this little-known, loose-knit group of rebels within the University.

In this first report I can give only a limited sketch of the objectives and organizational structure of the VSI, but in future columns I will be able to give more details of the charges made by the Vine Street Irregulars against the university and its lackeys.

The VSI, as I have come to understand from Yossarian, is composed of a handful of disillusioned but capable graduate students who are dedicated to freedom of speech and action within graduate life and education at the university.

They are opposed to all forms of academic repression and administrative ripoff. In future reports I will be able to review for you several case studies of these problems that have been compiled by the investigative arm of the VSI.

The group functions through an informal network of interdepartmental contacts. Yossarian tells me that one or two members of the VSI usually can be found in every academic department with a graduate program at UNL. Formal organization apparently is made impossible by the fear (real or imagined) of departmental and university retaliation.

It was with this fear of reprisal heavy on his conscience that Yossarian came to me and asked that I help give the allegations of the VSI against the university widespread publication and discussion.

He is convinced that the majority of graduate students will feel considerable sympathy with the aims of the VSI once the issues have been clearly presented.

Although I could not assure him that UNL students will be responsive, I have agreed to conclude each forthcoming report with Yossarian's concrete proposals for individual student action in support of the Vine Street Irregulars.

Editor's note: Hilligoss is "an old family name" claimed by Michael Hill, a Ph.D. student in geography. His reports from the VSI underground will appear every Wednesday.



The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material published will be based on timeliness and originality. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but may be published under a pen name if requested. Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.

Bruce Nelson:
Cynic's Corner

The first thought of many readers at the sight of "Cynic's Corner" may be, "Isn't there enough cynicism and pessimism already?"

Obviously I don't think so. Cynicism should not be an emotional response but an intellectual attitude toward things, good or bad.

Cynicism began as a school of thought that prospered from 350 B.C. to 500 A.D. Although there is debate over who founded the school—Antisthenes of Athens or Diogenes of Sinope—it is agreed that Diogenes was cynicism's most famous apostle.

He is reputed to have wandered the streets of Athens by day with a lighted candle, looking for a virtuous man. Other stories record that by watching a mouse he found that property is not a prerequisite for happiness.

The cynics believed life should be unfettered by material possessions or conventions.

Manners, courtesy, sexual restraints and all institutions from marriage to government became objects of their derision. Life was best when lived like a dog's. Indeed the word cynic came from either the Greek word for doglike, kynikos, or from the name of their gymnasium, the Cynosarges.

Diogenes, while criticizing the pretensions and institutions of society, put his emphasis on human fallacies. Today we may pride ourselves on being critical but our criticisms, unlike Diogenes's, miss the mark. Most of the things wrong today, as in Diogenes's Athens, stem from the fallacies not of institutions or policies, but of people.

The cynics believed life's ultimate goal should be virtue, not intellectual or sensual pleasure. At the same time they knew man to be motivated by crass selfishness. This led to the cynic's skepticism of "sincere" motives.

We could learn much from these men. We consistently find our ideals betrayed because, unlike the cynics, we put too much faith in people. A little more suspiciousness would help.

Cynics are thought to be miserable and unhappy persons. But that's not necessarily true. It only seems so because cynics make others dissatisfied.

But as H.L. Mencken said of them, "They are themselves among the most comfortable and serene of mammals... For what a cynic believes at least has the merit of being true."

RALPH by Ron Wheeler

HI FOLKS! I'M RALPH CRABTREE. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW ME, I'M THE LOCAL CAMPUS HERO WHO GRACES THE INTERIOR PAGES OF THE RAG (FRESHMEN: THAT'S SHORT FOR DAILY NEBRASKAN) EVERY DAY EXCEPT TUESDAYS WHICH IS A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY FOR JOURNALISTS. I WILL BRING YOU TO TEARS WITH LAUGHTER AS YOU FOLLOW THE HUMOROUS ANTICS OF MY FRIENDS AND I AS WE MAKE LIFE MORE BEARABLE FOR YOU IN THIS GIANT UNIVERSITY. WE WILL LEAVE NO STONES UNTURNED EXCEPT FOR WOMEN LIBBERS (THEY'RE TOO MEAN TO MESS WITH). NOW I'D LIKE TO LEAVE THE REST OF THIS PANEL TO MY FRIEND DURKWOOD FINHEAD.

THANKS A LOT, BLABBERMOUTH.