

Marching band increased adequate seating a problem

By Lorraine Hughes

Fans at Memorial Stadium will see and hear a new dimension of UNL's marching band Saturday, according to Robert Fought, new UNL band director.

A 20-girl flag corps will add an "exciting visual element to the band," Fought said. Twenty new band members will increase the volume.

Fought said he thought last year's band did not produce enough sound to fill the stadium. Nebraska previously had one of the smallest bands in the Big 8, he added.

Although enthusiastic about the enlargement of the band, Fought said "it is not an attempt to say bigger is better."

One problem with adding members to the band is seating them when they are not performing.

The athletic dept. which allots \$16,000 in funds for the band, supplies 12 rows of seats, according to Bob Devaney, athletic director.

"Right now the band needs seats and money," Devaney said. "We don't have either."

Band members, with instruments, require more seating space than "the person wearing a coat and maybe carrying a little flask," Fought said.

The band's budget will not be increased despite additional expense, Fought said, because the Athletic Dept. lacks the funds.

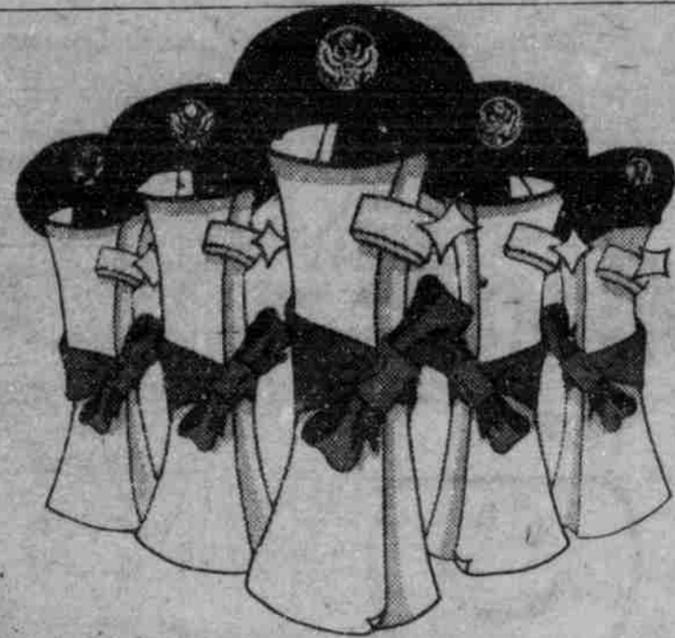
"The Athletic Dept. has had their toes stepped on by what I think are some highly questionable rulings by the NCAA," Fought said.

An NCAA ruling in Chicago three weeks ago limited the number of football players allowed to suit up for home games to 60. This means approximately 40 tickets must be secured for football players to sit in the stadium who previously were on the sideline.

Jack Snider, director of bands, said the Athletic Dept. should not be solely responsible for the band budget.

"We perform for the university probably 100 times a year and the university ought to share in the budget," he said.

The university has agreed that it should support the band, but so far they have given no financial aid, Snider said.



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