

# UNL one of four without 24-hour visitation rights

By Joe Hudson

UNL remains one of four Big 8 Conference schools not offering 24-hour coeducational visitation option to undergraduate residence hall dwellers, a Daily Nebraskan survey revealed.

The NU Board of Regents Feb. 14 turned down a proposal allowing certain residence hall floors to experiment with 24-hour visitation.

The Universities of Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Kansas State University allow 24-hour visitation in certain residence halls.

UNL, along with the University of Missouri, Oklahoma State University and Iowa State University offers limited visitation to undergraduates.

An undergraduate hoping to attend school in Nebraska and live in a dormitory with 24-hour visitation also will not find his wishes fulfilled in any of the outstate four colleges.

Nebraska Wesleyan University has one residence hall with visitation from noon to midnight. The other four residence halls, however, are open 24 hours to escorted visitors, said Karen McCammond, Wesleyan Associate Dean of Students.

The open visitation policy has been in effect since Fall 1975, McCammond said. Because most students are required to live on campus, she said, the dormitories are full.

#### Outstate colleges have tighter limits

Chadron, Peru, Kearney and Wayne State Colleges have tighter limits on visitation than UNL.

Kearney State and Peru State cut off visitation at midnight on weekends. Wayne State allows coeducational visitors until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights, while Chadron State ends visitation at 11 p.m. weekends.

Visiting hours at UNL may vary among residence halls within the following limits established by the regents two years ago, according to UNL Housing Director Richard Armstrong:

-zero hours visitation. Currently, only one floor of women has adopted this policy.

-zero to eight hours weekdays and zero to 14 hours weekends. These hours must fall between 10 a.m. and 2 a.m.

-zero to 14 hours all week. These hours also must fall

between 10 and 2 a.m.

Individual floors may vote to reduce, but not expand, hours which have been adopted by the entire residence hall, Armstrong said. Twenty-four hour visitation is allowed only in one section of Selleck Quadrangle, which is reserved for graduate students, he added.

Security policies vary at the four Big 8 schools with 24-hour visitation, but visitors of the opposite sex usually must have an escort to be allowed onto a floor.

#### CU limits only two halls

At Colorado (CU), half the residence halls are coeducational and visitation hours are limited only in parts of two of them, according to Dan Daniels, CU Student Housing director.

Daniels said any visitor of the opposite sex must wait in the lobby for an escort before gaining access to a floor. After midnight, when doors are locked, the visitor must show identification and state the name of the person he is visiting to stay in the lobby of the dorm, he said.

Kansas (KU) and Kansas State (KSU) leave it up to the individual residence halls to set visitation hours. Escorts are required at KU, while the dormitory residents at KSU decide how to screen out potential trespassers, according to their respective housing directors.

Only freshmen at Oklahoma (OU) are denied 24-hour visitation options, said Dave Schrage, OU Residential Program director.

Options for upperclassmen include visitation hours from 11 a.m. until midnight, a 24-hour downstairs visitation lounge, 24-hour visitation and lounge, or 24-hour coeducational floors.

Officials at the four universities offering 24-hour visitation said their respective governing boards have the ultimate decision on visitation privileges. Most added, however, that the boards normally went along with administration proposals which usually were drafted with student consent.

#### Open visitation has problems

"The Board of Regents feels it has other things to worry about that are more important than visitation," said KSU Housing Director Tom Frith. "They let the president and vice-president run the university."

Open visitation isn't without its problems, according to CU's Daniels. Demand for single rooms has risen since

24-hour visitation originated in 1970, Daniels said. Roommates split up over squabbles of how to use the room during those areas with formally forbidden hours, he said.

Despite security precautions, Daniels said, trespassers occasionally slip into the residence halls.

"The largest number of incidents (like petty theft, people hassling others) are created by people who aren't guests and may not even be students," Daniels said.

KU Housing Director J. J. Wilson said students have taken 24-hour visitation "with a great deal of reasonableness," but that a trespassing problem existed two years ago. Security was tightened to solve the problem, Wilson said.

All Big 8 housing directors reported residence halls are at least 95 per cent full, regardless of visitation rights.

Big 8 schools not offering 24-hour visitation have set visitation hours a bit less liberal than those at UNL.

Iowa State dormitories must close their doors by 2 a.m. on weekends and 1 a.m. on weekdays. Oklahoma State cuts off visitation at 1 a.m. on weekends and 11:30 during the week, while Missouri residence halls must be closed by 12:30 a.m. weekends and 11 p.m. weekdays.

Creighton University has co-educational visitation from noon to 2 a.m. weekends and until 1 a.m. weekdays. Two dormitories now are coeducational either by floor or by wing, and next semester two more residence halls will house both men and women, said Father Mike Sheridan, Creighton vice-president for student affairs.

## Correction

If the case of UNL student Ken Donner's claim against the university is denied by the State Claims Board, he may appeal to Lancaster County District Court. It was incorrectly reported in Monday's Daily Nebraskan that the suit would go to Lancaster County Court, which is not connected with the District Court. The story also incorrectly stated that the State Claims Board could send the case to the municipal small claims court. Donner, a sophomore engineering major from Wisner, is seeking \$25 in damages because his tropical fish and plants died as the result of what he called excessive heat in his residence hall room during Thanksgiving vacation last semester.

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