

Maranatha ministry now reaches UNL students

By Joe Kreizinger

The evangelistic work of Maranatha Ministries International has recently been added to the UNL campus.

Walter Walker, leader of the Lincoln sector of Maranatha, said that this summer UNL became one of 55 campuses across the nation to receive the words of the New Testament through this program.

Walker said college campuses are ideal locations for such projects because they are centers of thought and culture.

Walker said he believes there are thousands of young people "looking for something to throw their lives into."

He does not think his evangelistic work

is radical, he said. He is "reasonably committed" to the group, he said. He added his commitment to "moral excellence" is only a natural response to the Lord.

Delivering the Lord's message to every campus on earth is Maranatha's goal, Walker said. He hopes to teach followers the concept of boldness, which he describes as "an individual taking a stand for something he believes in, regardless of the possible consequences."

Walker, a 1975 graduate of the University of Tennessee, majored in psychology. He said he describes himself at that time as a "disillusioned idealist."

"I began to become a cynic," he said.

"Then I realized that though I had considered myself religious before, I had not, in reality, known the Lord."

Financing for the Lincoln operation came from the central office of Maranatha. Walker said the headquarters, at the University of Florida, allotted several thousand dollars as an initial funding base. Walker hopes the project will be financially supported later through community donations.

The word Maranatha means the Lord cometh. Walker said the name was adopted in 1972, when Bob Weiner, a young evangelist from Chicago, organized the first group, consisting primarily of high school students.

Since the early 1970s, Maranatha has spread across the nation and to several foreign nations, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Israel and Mexico. Maranatha groups are scheduled to be formed in France and Singapore by December.

Walker estimated that 20 to 25 UNL students have already joined the 1,800 students across the nation in this project. He added the overall reception in the Lincoln area has been good.

"People are really listening," Walker said, "I believe a lot of them are really intent. They just have to find the courage within themselves to stand out and make the move."

Walker said he is confident that Maranatha is here to stay in Lincoln, and more people are being taught leadership skills every day. He intends to stay in the Lincoln area until enough leaders have been trained to carry through with the project.

"I project that by the first of next year, I would be able to leave and the project would carry on with the new leadership," he said. "I may then stay around and try to build the membership to higher numbers or go on to a new location. But, as I said before, Maranatha is here to stay, whether I do or not."

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"The best thing about last week, when people were starting to come back, was that we had two banks in the union instead of none," he said.

The Gateway Bank, Swanson said, held onto its union space until Aug. 25. Swanson had contracted for the National Bank of Commerce to take over the same space on Aug. 17.

"We ended up with two banks in that south spot, and had to put NBC in temporary offices," Swanson said. "I had no legal right to move Gateway, so it was just my fault that that happened."

The transition itself wasn't a problem, as Gateway sold all of its existing equipment inside the office to NBC, Swanson said.

"At 4 p.m. Aug. 25, NBC had the keys to the space, and by 4:05 p.m. had scratched Gateway's name off the door and hung their sign up," he said. "They were here till 11 p.m. laying the carpet, and of course opened up Wednesday morning."

The board did a short review of the alcohol policy, but no position was taken on the matter because it is being studied by the chancellor's staff.

The regents' guidelines permit alcohol in limited amounts at approved luncheons and dinners, Swanson said.

"I think it is legislated against the student's, because it requires a major expenditure before you can get a drink," Swanson said.

Board President Maynard Krantz said he would like to see the policy geared more toward student access, but agreed with other board members that any release from the no alcohol stance could start a movement toward a policy that might be too lenient.

Scholarships created

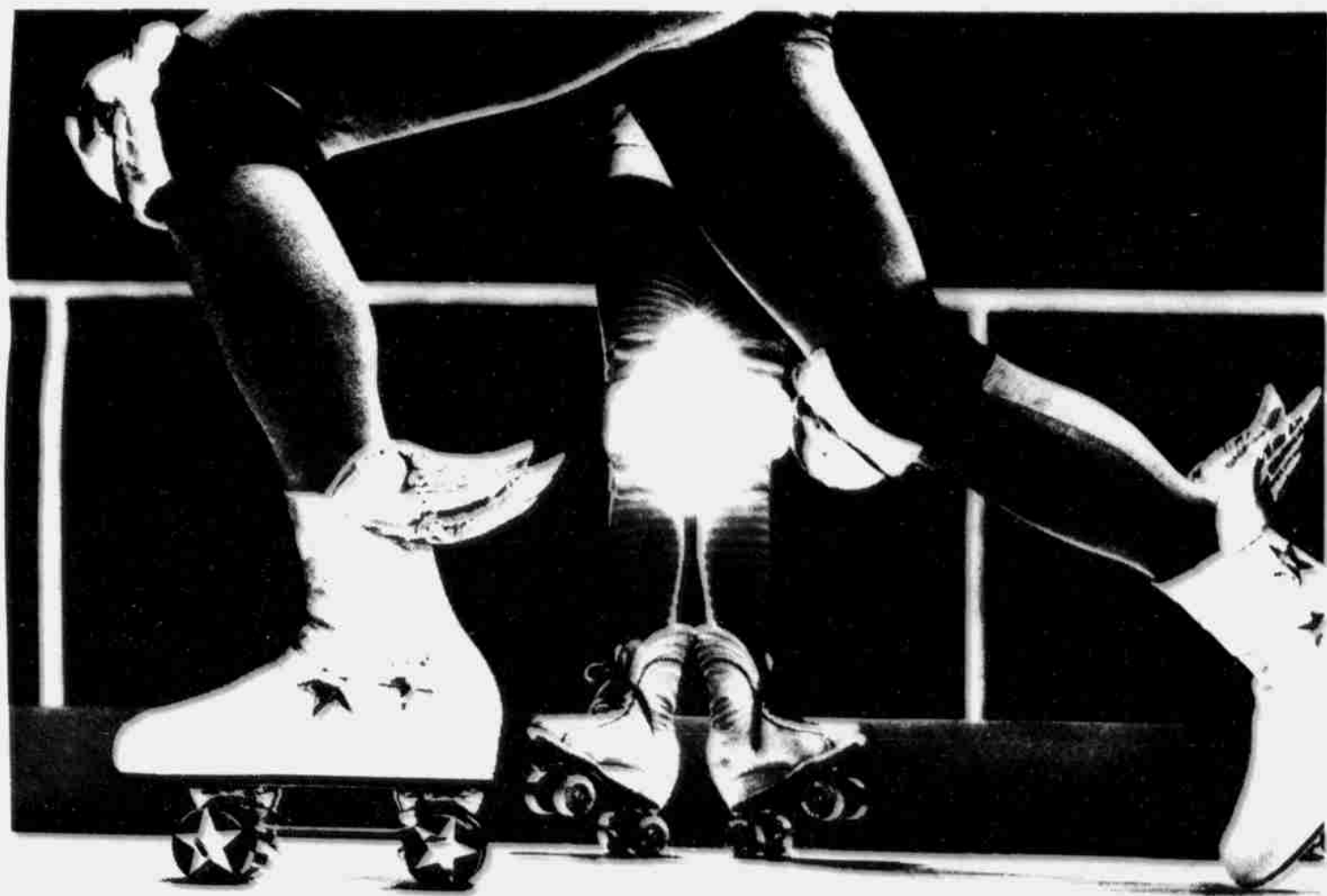
The estate of Frank Wheeler, an Omaha casualty insurance businessman for more than a half century, has given \$200,000 to the NU Foundation to support scholarships on all three campuses.

The Frank and Marie T. Wheeler Scholars will be selected on the basis of need, academic achievements and career potential.

Selections of both graduate and undergraduate students will be made by the Systems Scholarship Committee, consisting of financial aids officers from the NU Medical Center, UNO and UNL.

Wheeler, who died February 19, 1980, came to Omaha in 1928 from Waco, Texas with his wife Marie. He was employed by the Lion Bonding Company and National Surety Company, and the Fell & Pinkerton Insurance Company, the latter until 1942, when he formed his own insurance firm, Frank Wheeler Insurance Company.

In 1977, he sold his company to Alexander and Alexander. He and his wife, who died in 1964, had no children.



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