



Photo by Kathy Graff

Robert Rowe, or Husker Bob as he is more widely known, shows off some of his Big Red collection.

Husker Bob ageless

BY MARLENE BURBACH

A man, older than the typical bar-hopping crowd, was on the dance floor at P.O. Pears bar, 322 S. 9th St., Friday night. He may have been a few years older than the rest, but he seemed to fit in. He was popular with the women, dancing and conversing. Yes, he seemed to be well known among this younger group.

He is easily identified. Dressed in red and white, wearing a white cap with a red "N" on it, dancing and laughing, notorious Husker Bob was the center of attention.

Although Husker Bob is obviously older than most of the patrons at P.O. Pears, he will not say how much older. He recently celebrated his birthday on June 25. "I am 49 and holding," said Nebraska's superfan. "Age really doesn't matter to me. A lot of people don't believe me when I do tell them (his age)," Husker Bob said.

Robert L. Rowe became known as Husker Bob seven years ago at Nebraska's first home football game.

It began with a hat

He decided to go "where the action was," so he headed for the field boundary fence, threw his hat onto the Memorial Stadium field and went over the fence after it. After retrieving his hat he ran across the field and joined the band. The next game was a replay of the same shenanigans. The band members had taken a liking to him and asked him to join them at the games.

"Once, someone asked 'How are you doing, Husker,' and from that I got my name," Rowe said. "After that, one thing just lead to another."

Husker Bob has now branched out. He avidly follows and supports all the sports events offered by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"I haven't missed a Nebraska football game in seven years and I try to attend the other meets as often as I can," he said.

Good physical condition is important to Husker Bob.

"That is one thing I do for myself."

He jogs everyday to stay in shape and says he enjoys dancing. He has participated in a dance-a-thon and a jog-a-thon. When the sports schedule unfolds, Husker Bob plans to be in such good condition that he can make his traditional run from the southwest corner of the stadium, circle the "N" in the center of the field and exit through the northeast corner.

During the summer, Husker Bob says he enjoys sitting back and "catching some sun." He hooks his stereo speakers up outside and relaxes in a lawn chair in back of his apartment at 1114 G. St.

Lives the big red life

His apartment decor is unique. Two of the living room walls are covered with Nebraska posters and pictures which were given to him. A third wall has shelves filled with his collection of Big Red hats. On his television is his bright red wig and beside it a red telephone.

"My name is listed under Husker Bob on page 251 of the phone book," he said. The phone company suggested he list it as Husker Bob Rowe as well as Robert L. Rowe.

The Husker Bob Rowe has caused more than one change in the life of Robert L. Rowe.

"I am in the public's eye more. I meet a lot of people and I am always making so many new friends," he said.

Husker Bob maybe have become one year older with his June 25 birthday, but his activity schedule for the games hasn't changed.

"I enjoy being Husker Bob and a lot of people get enjoyment out of it. I may never stop doing it no matter how old I get."

NOW officer: ERA failed because of education, power

BY DIANNE LUTZI

The Equal Rights Amendment would judge all people for any specific job or role on the capability of the person and also gives them privacy, said Deb Staley, president of Lincoln chapter of NOW, the National Organization of Women.

The amendment as proposed states "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

Ms. Staley said that ERA was not ratified because of education and power. People did not understand why the nation needed ERA, Ms. Staley said. Sex has never been used as a protection for rights and that's what ERA would do, Ms. Staley said.

ERA would also threaten corporations, and politics are controlled by white males, Ms. Staley said. They have the power base and don't want to lose it, Ms. Staley said.

Ms. Staley said she thinks ERA was not ratified because people have a fear of the unknown and misunderstand ERA.

ERA was proposed in the 1930s and every year after that, said Dr. Helen Moore, associate professor of sociology at UN-L. "This is not the end," Dr. Moore said. "It will be proposed again and ratified."

ERA is a tame amendment, stating that women are to be treated equal to men, and it will pass, Dr. Moore said.

Women's groups will apply pressure during the upcoming election and in 1984, Dr. Moore said.

At the Democratic Party's National Conference in Philadelphia, Eleanor Smeal, president of NOW, said that after a 10-year battle, ratification of ERA was defeated. Dr. Moore said Ms. Smeal's statement was a "political reality."

Some of the reasons ERA was not ratified,

Dr. Moore said, were that some states have never ratified ERA since the 1930s, and people would rather have a state right instead of a federal right, Dr. Moore said.

The media has also hyped-up some issues on ERA which are not a part of the ERA amendment, Dr. Moore said. The public believes issues like homosexual marriages, women in the military service, and unisex bathrooms will be a part of the amendment, Dr. Moore said. ERA has been muddied with unrelated issues, Dr. Moore said.

Organizations and groups opposed to ERA are bringing in more controversial information, said Linda Robinson Rutz, chair of the Lincoln Commission on the Status of Women. She thinks that many people don't have correct information about ERA and don't understand the procedures.

ERA is not a seven-year issue, it's a forever issue, said Ms. Rutz. ERA members want to continue awareness of what ERA stands for and change the attitudes of those who are against it, Ms. Rutz said. The nation has progressed, Ms. Rutz said, but changing attitudes is hard.

The Womens Commission is continuing to support ERA and help those who want more information on ERA, Ms. Rutz said. The failure to ratify ERA will affect welfare clients indirectly, said Mary Boschult, assistant director of the Lancaster Welfare Department. When husbands leave their wives, the women often have no job skills, Ms. Boschult said. Women are not paid equally for the same jobs as men, Ms. Boschult said.

Also, 85 to 90 percent of the Aid to Dependent Children households are headed by women on welfare, Ms. Boschult said. These women are single or widowed and live in homes throughout Lincoln, Ms. Boschult said. ERA would help protect women's rights in jobs and housing, Ms. Boschult said.

Fellman's financial disclosure awaited

OMAHA (AP) — Richard Fellman, Democratic candidate for the 2nd Congressional District, has yet to file a financial disclosure document required by federal law of those seeking election to Congress, according to the chairman of the Douglas County Republican Party.

Chuck Sigerson said in a news release Tuesday that Fellman is more than 50 days late and should file the form immediately, "or tell the people of the 2nd Congressional Dis-

trict what it is that he is hiding from their view."

Fellman said the form, mailed to him earlier this year by the clerk of the House of Representatives, was laid aside during the primary election campaign and then "merely overlooked."

"I have absolutely nothing to hide," Fellman said. "I will file it within the next few days. I thank them for the reminder."

Lincoln's wet wonders ready to take their mark

BY PAT MASTERS

Weary and exhausted after a 100-mile bike ride home from a Grand Island swim meet, the Lincoln Aquatics team continues to prepare for the Great Plains Invitational July 23-25 in Lincoln.

Lincoln Aquatics coach Rich Rodenburg said 15 of the 50 swimmers who competed rode bikes home with him along Highway 34. The bikes were packed in a van the swimmers took to Grand Island.

The morning after the 100-mile bike trek the swimmers were practicing again at Woods Memorial Pool on 33rd and J streets.

Rodenburg said about 50 of the club's 100 swimmers will compete in the 18th annual invitational. A strong contingent of Nebraska swimmers will compete against swimmers from Iowa and Kansas at the invitational meet. Rodenburg said he expects the biggest challenges to come from the Omaha Westside swimmers and those from Bellevue.

"But, we're going to give it a heck of a try," Rodenburg said.

At least five swimmers from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln varsity teams will compete. Rodenburg said three outstanding freshmen — Rick Gilbertson, Matt Rye and Aaron Drake — will be swimming in the meet.

At the Big Eight meet last year Gilbertson won the 400 individual medley. Rye walked off with the first place medal in the 200 meter breaststroke.

Rodenburg said two sister swimmers from the woman's team, Renee Sullivan and Tamara Sullivan, should also be competing.

At the invitational meet the swimmers are divided into age groups — the youngest group is eight and under and the oldest is the masters division for swimmers over 25.

In each event swimmers are classified as A or B swimmers depending on their fastest times this year. Rodenburg said only 15 percent of the swimmers compete in the faster A division.

Rodenburg said the invitational meet is highlighted with the presentation of the Lambert trophy, awarded to the swimmer with the best time in the 200 meter freestyle. The trophy is named after an outstanding Lincoln swimmer, Cliff Lambert, who died in the Korean War.

Rodenburg said that last year's winner, UN-L swimmer Dave Achtemeier, may return this year to defend his title.

SUMMER NEBRASKAN

The Summer Nebraskan is a student newspaper published each Thursday as a laboratory project by School of Journalism classes in Advertising, Editing, Photography and Reporting.

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