

# Those were the days, when yearbooks were . . .

Commentary by John Koopman

Where have all the yearbooks gone? College just isn't the same anymore. There are no yearbooks, no proms, no long, raccoon-skin coats, and 'professors are sometimes called by their first names.

Some small colleges still have yearbooks, but UNL hasn't had anything resembling a yearbook since about 1971.

The earliest yearbook in the archives is dated 1884. The 1884 book was, for some reason was called "The Sombrero." It wasn't called "The Cornhusker" until 1906.

For pure comic literature, the yearbooks of the 1800s take first place. Since they didn't have any photography to speak of, they were forced to write about campus happenings of the year in both poetry and prose. If you think what's written on the bathroom walls of Richards and Burnett halls is funny, you haven't seen anything until you've read a century-old yearbook.

Students had not yet developed the modern students' fervor for Nebraska football. The head of the athletic department was quoted as saying that "any fool can play football, but baseball is a science." Rank him with Neanderthal Man.

Most fans think this could be the year that Nebraska goes undefeated and wins a national championship. But this team may have a long way to go until it can compare with the football team of 1904.

Not only was that Nebraska team undefeated, but it also shut out all of its opponents that season. Never mind the unfaithful among us who would point out that Nebraska played teams like Lincoln High School and the Haskell Indians. To toughen themselves, the schedule was later changed to include the Kirksville Osteopaths.

In the fall of 1901, the Nebraska Hesperian was changed to the Daily Nebraskan, officially became a part of the university. One of its early editors was



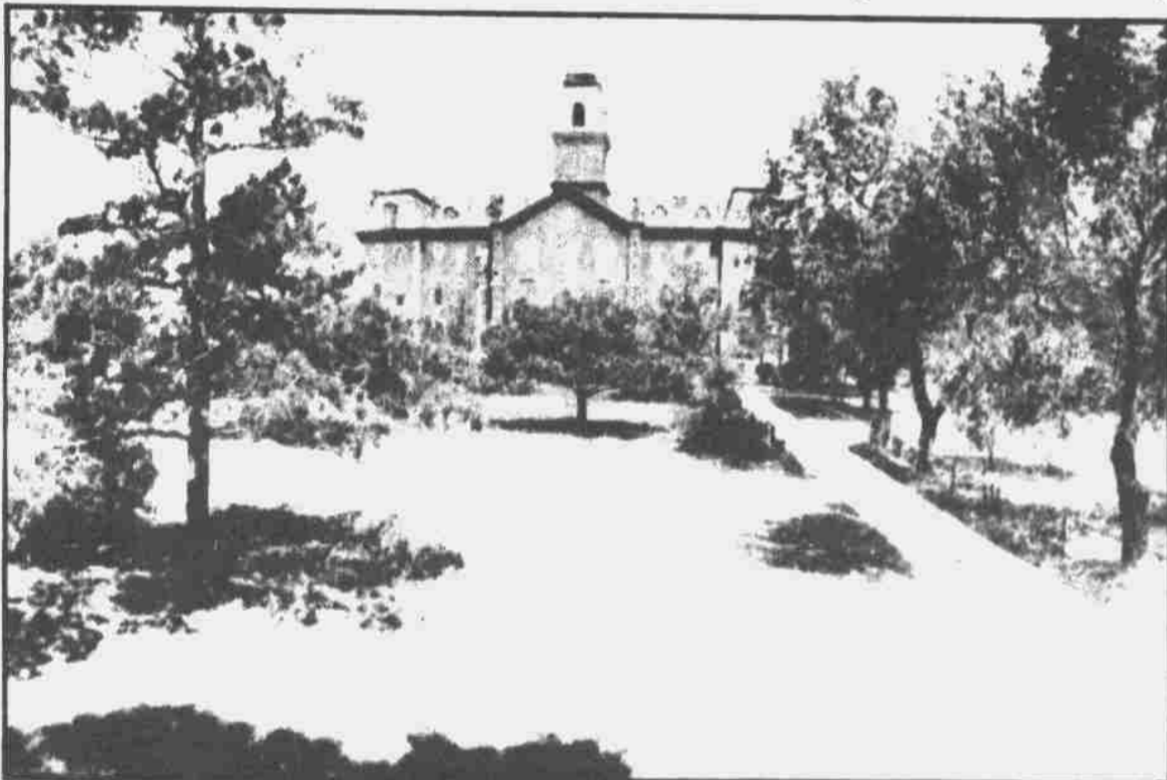
"Rag" Riley. The paper was given the same nickname as the editor and three-quarters of a century later, the name is still with us.

Most of the fraternities and sororities at UNL are old and most are listed in the yearbooks. The Iron Sphinz fraternity and the Mystic Fish sorority are old and most are listed in the yearbooks. The Iron Sphinz fraternity and the Mystic Fish sorority are two that, somehow, didn't survive to present times.

The outlook for the future seemed promising, however: "The future for the University of Nebraska is bright. Being endowed with such rich land grants, the value of which, at the present rapid rate of immigration, will be speedily enhanced, it is almost certain that in the near future the institution will be immensely wealthy - a condition necessary to the successful management of a college destined to be a great center of learning."



Clockwise from top: Students Grafting Apples, Junior Basket Ball Team, University Hall. (Captions from 1904 Sombrero).



Photos from 1904 Sombrero

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## Wedekind . . .

We promoted a resolution on financial aid by the state Legislature and the board of Regents, sent information with students back to their hometowns and sponsored local meetings for discussion, and sponsored a UNL letter-writing campaign last spring.

To answer, then, the question posed in the guest opinion: "Why did ASUN Senate even bother with its resolution?"

First, financial aid is an important and relevant issue to students and the university community and as such it certainly is within the realm of issues that the ASUN Senate and the Government Liaison Committee should deal with, as long as they do so in a responsible and credible manner.

The resolution was an official documentation of the senate's position, authorizing GLC as the official student lobby to speak on behalf of UNL students, and it was a means of relaying information to students.

It is also important to note that state senators and the office staff of our Congress members have expressed their appreciation for the input given. The impact, of course, is difficult to measure. In this particular instance, the veto of the bill in question was overridden and four of our five people in Nebraska's Washington delegation voted to override the veto.

To assume that ASUN was solely responsible for the veto override would certainly be an "illusion of grandeur." I make no such assumption. But I can't help but wonder if some people might question the importance of the financial aid issue if the ASUN Senate and GLC made no effort to voice an opinion about something so close to home as financial aid is here at UNL.

Dan Wedekind  
ASUN president

## Nebraskans' real income shows rise

Nebraska's median family income was slightly below the U.S. average, according to census information compiled by the College of Business Administration's Bureau of Business Research.

Donald Pursell, director of the Bureau of Business Research, found that Nebraska's median family income was below that of Kansas, which had \$19,575, Iowa with \$20,243, Wyoming at \$22,497, and Colorado at \$21,485.

Metropolitan counties had the state's highest median income. Douglas County lead with \$21,629, followed closely by Sarpy and Lancaster counties.