

Editorial

Involvement is the key to a diversified education

"What does it take to get people involved around here?"

I wish I knew. And I wish I'd had a better answer to that question this week. Monday, I was interviewed by Maureen Salter, a research assistant for Random House — the big publishing company. You might have seen her on campus talking to students during her visit to UNL. Salter works for Lisa Birnbach of "The Preppy Handbook" fame.

Now, before that puts any of you off, let me explain the reason for the visit. Random House commissioned Birnbach and her assistants to do a serious book which will describe what the "top" 250 colleges in America are really like. Most of you have flicked through the "Selective Guide to Colleges" or other such guides which do nothing more than belittle any university that isn't Ivy League. The portrayals in such guides make even the better schools look pitiful at best.

So what could I tell this researcher about our university that would accurately portray its character? She seemed to have a pretty good idea of what Nebraska

is like after being here fewer than 24 hours. In Salter's words, UNL is "extremely conservative," "heterogeneous" and "probably a nice place to spend four years."

Somehow, her impressions were right on the mark.

But after I thought about it, they aren't particularly something we should be eager to see in print. She quickly noticed that students seem to go with the flow and perceived that it would take a lot to get them to act on anything. Sad, but true. I was embarrassed to admit how true that is.

She asked, "What do people get excited about?" and "What do people do?" The answers: football and tuition increases, and study or go to the bars.

It's not that there aren't better things to do here. It's just that most people don't look for them.

I guess her interview stayed with me because I won't be here after May 7, but a lot of you will. So suppose you had been asked, "What's it like to spend four years here?" Would you have anything to

Heavy-duty research results in real scoop on campus halls

Once again I've gotten the real scoop, as they say in the journalism field. That's what a reporter/columnist is supposed to do — dig out the "real story."

This week, despite horrendous pressure from finals, projects and nice weather, I have done some heavy research into the annals of the city campus at UNL, pouring over history books and logs. I have always wondered who the buildings on this campus were named for. I would



Monica Osterbuhr

think to myself, "Just who were these people?"

The curious thing is that some of these buildings are not as old as they are purported to be. Employees who have worked here for many years or ancient alumni will try to tell you that some of these buildings have been standing for more than 40 years and were named for prominent university figures from way back. In some respects, this was true. What I have found is, that in other respects, that is not the real story.

What is astonishing is that this campus is named largely for famous figures in the entertainment industry. This is Celebrity Campus, U.S.A. (We've got a movie crew here now filming "In Terms of Endearment" this very week-end.)

For a starter, did you know that Avery Hall is named after Avery Schreiber, of the comedy team Burns and Screiber? And no less, the Old Temple Building was named for Shirley Temple. Wait until you hear this: Hamilton Hall was named after actor George Hamilton.

The very ornate, colonial style Andrews Hall was named after actress Julie Andrews and was built soon after her appearance in "The Sound of Music," which was, by the way, filmed near the bluffs of Omaha, not in Europe. And actress Anne Bancroft is the namesake for Bancroft Hall.

Get this — the real truth is that Smith Hall was named after one of Charlie's Angels, Jaclyn Smith. And when the new addition for Love Library was built on the north, the naming committee chose to continue with the name "Love," not merely for the sake of tradition, but, in honor of, you guessed it, Mike Love

of the Beach Boys.

For you old Playboy fans, Benton Hall was named in honor of Barbie Benton. And Richards Hall is a tribute to the famous musician of the 1960's, "Little Richard."

A nose for news is not something that a person inherits. I worked hard to find that Mabel Lee, for whom the hall was named, is the grandmother of the late Bruce Lee, karate champ and movie star. And, is it a coincidence that the Recreation Field is named after Sally Field?

What really stumped me was the pre-occupation our founding fathers had with the name "Dean." Who is this "Dean" guy? His name is on every door, nook and cranny. There's Architecture Dean, Engineer Dean, Nursing Dean, Business Dean. I felt from the beginning that it had to be a toss-up between James and Jimmy Dean. If your choice was mine, and you tend to sway toward the person who now makes pork sausage, you are right. It's Jimmy Dean, famous for his hit, "Big John."

Some of the buildings were misnomers, however. This was due, according to records, to typographical errors. The committees for development and naming of buildings listed names on the voting ballots in script, that is, they were handwritten. This resulted in some serious typographical misinterpretations that, unfortunately, stuck.

For example, Howell Theatre was a misnomer. According to committee records, it was supposed to be called Powell Theatre. This was in honor of the late actor Dick Powell, who hosted the "Dick Powell Theatre" in the late 1950's.

The most exciting information, it seems, is that Woods Art Building should have been *Wood* — named for a late relative of our very own Daily Nebraskan columnist and journalist David Wood. Natalie Wood was the person for whom the building was named. The decision to name the building was done after the filming of "West Side Story," shot in a downtown Lincoln alley near the site of the old Gold's Building in the late 1950's.

The most exciting information I uncovered, is the data on Burnett Hall, monument to the great Carol Burnett. Which brings to mind a fitting closing remark: "I'm so glad we had this time together, just to have a laugh or sing a song. Seems we just get started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say 'so long.'" Have a good summer.



say? Would you have more to show for your time than a diploma?

Unfortunately, a lot of people won't because they don't take the time to put any of themselves into this university.

Advice time. If you feel like you're only a number here, one nine-digit number among 23,000 others, it's your own fault. Involvement is what makes a person and a university a success; if it's lacking, it shows. Maureen Salter, it shows. It shows in the ASUN election voter turnout. It shows in the disrespect between Greeks and non-Greeks, minority students and

traditional, white Nebraskans. It shows too much here.

It's maddening to hear anyone who promotes his views labeled a radical or extremist. It's frustrating to see students turn their backs on others who stimulate thought. And it really gets old to see students slammed as "resume paddlers" because they chair events so we'll have events to attend.

Do yourself a favor. Get involved while there's time. Four years go by too fast.

Margie Honz

Letters

'Robbery' correct crime classification

Concerning Meredith Campbell's letter (Daily Nebraskan, April 27), as an employee of the university police department, I wish to clarify something that did not set well with me. I resent the implication that the officers of our department are incapable of classifying a crime, as insinuated by the statement, "... and a crime called robbery in which a woman was bound, gagged, dragged into the stairwell in Love North Basement and disrobed." It was clearly explained to Campbell by officer Fey why this horrendous incident was classified as such. She apparently felt no need to pass on this information since the partial version was more successful in making our department sound moronic.

One of my responsibilities is the processing of the Uniform Crime Report for our department. Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide law enforcement program which provides a national view of crime based on submission of police statistics by agencies across the nation to the FBI (ours first passing through the Nebraska Crime Commission).

Standard definitions of crimes have been developed to be used by all contributors, the more heinous crimes classified in the following order of severity: 1) Homicide, 2) Forcible Rape, 3) Robbery, 4) Felony Assault, 5) Burglary, 6) Larceny-Theft, 7) Motor Vehicle Theft and 8) Arson.

What Campbell failed to mention was that the woman was actually robbed and was not, in fact, raped. As a woman, I'm not saying that I would choose what happened to her as being preferable to being robbed. I would not. However, to prosecute a criminal, an actual robbery will stick far better than an attempted anything, or what is deemed in the eyes of the law as being a "lesser" offense. Unfortunately, no criminal classification exists for degradation or humiliation, the effects of which can be far worse than any material possession taken from you. But these facts are not the fault of our officers. They do the best they can and they do exceptional work.

Sharman Joseph
university police department

Protection, not tickets

I am writing with much concern about the effectiveness of the university police department. A student might wonder how useful the police really are as he pays \$70 for tickets and tow bills.

Recently, my car was the victim of a hit-and-run accident in Parking Area 1 north of Cather Hall. After reporting this to UNL police, the officer at the scene, "threw his hands into the air" because there was really "nothing they could do." Basically, I (State Farm Insurance) was stuck.

I often wonder if we are protected on this campus. I've heard of people being attacked on campus during early morning hours, but all I've seen at that early hour is police ticketing and towing cars at 2 a.m. in restricted lots that normally sit vacant at night and all weekend.

Rob Huebner
freshman, broadcasting

Daily Nebraskan

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