

# Landscapes change with seasons; day of equal sunlight, dark upon us

The sun is rising later and later and the morning air seems clearer and crisper these days. Walks to campus are becoming brisk and invigorating. In the afternoons, the sun is warm on my back but the air is cool and refreshing, like being up on the mountain in June.

In the evening, the sun has been setting earlier and earlier and there is a faint aroma of burning leaves in the air walking home.

Colors and textures seem much more vivid lately. Magnificent clouds swirl and change endlessly in a thousand subtle hues of white and gray as they march imperiously across a pure azure sky. Leaves are beginning to change from green to gold and brown and make the most beautiful lonely sound as they blow down the sidewalk. Sunsets are including glorious shades of purple and orange and red that are impossible for artists or machines to recreate, an inspirational gift from nature.

It's all there before us, the change of seasons, waiting to be seen and felt. But it won't wait for long. Today is the autumnal equinox, the day of equal sunlight and darkness, and it's come to chase it all away.

The sun is over the equator and the days will be getting shorter and colder as the sun travels further and further south. Winter will soon come and the earth will lie dormant and barren — the sun too remote to nourish life.

The squirrels in my neighbor-

hood know this and are busy gathering acorns and growing a thick coat of fur to prepare for it. I watched a flock of birds, starlings or grackles I think they were, flying down F Street in the rain the other day. There were thousands of them and it must have taken 10 minutes for the entire flock to pass overhead. They know this too, and are getting out.

People have a unique strategy for dealing with the approaching winter months. In English we call it the harvest. The word "harvest" comes from the Old English word "haerfest," which means "time of cutting." In Nebraska, the word takes on particular significance this time of year.

## Dyer

The harvest is the greatest thing we do in this state. It feeds the world and is the foundation of our nation's economy. I don't care what anyone says about being an industrialized society, nothing's going to happen in the world if there's no food to eat.

Machines don't make food. The sun and earth manufacture it. Our technology has advanced tremendously over the past 5,000 years, but humans are still basically the same agricultural creatures they were then. And if we are going to survive as a species we're going to need to remember this simple but important fact. Sometimes I wish politicians

would shut up about trying to attract new industries to the state and just let us do what we do best. Farm.

Anyway . . .

In most cultures, the harvest is a time of celebration. It's a time to reaffirm life. It's a time to symbolically prepare for death. The harvest means a lot of different things to a lot of different people.

The harvest smells like the cool moist earth and wood burning in the fireplace and worn flannel shirts to me. It means fresh apples and apple cider from Nebraska City. It means hay-rack rides and hot chocolate. Going for walks in the park, it's an easy time for romantic thoughts to get the best of me, as I listen to the sound of leaves crunching beneath my feet. Breathing the air is absolutely exhilarating and very little seems more important than just experiencing whatever subtle form of beauty each fleeting moment has to offer.

When the harvest moon peaks in my window at night, it reminds me of the night when I was a little boy and my mother and I put up some mulberry jelly. We went outside and looked at the moon when we were done. It was huge and golden. My dad was at a pow wow and my brother Scot was really small then. It's one of my earliest memories of realizing what a wonderful place Nebraska is and feeling glad that that's where my family lives.

It's a feeling I get every year about this time.

The Harvest.

## Association reorganizes Students sponsor events during celebration; Native American panel planned for spring

By Chris Allerheiligen  
Staff Reporter

The beginning of this semester has been busy for the Native American Student Association as they started a new organization under a different name.

Elizabeth Ball, chairperson on the University Program Council Minority Council who is also involved with the student group said students will be meeting to organize a new group on Thursday.

Ball said that there had been problems in the past, but said that now is a "good time to start over (with) new beginnings."

The new group is hoping to sponsor activities in conjunction with Native American Heritage Week to be held Friday through Sept. 30. A discussion panel, film and/or dance are tentatively being planned for Sept. 30.

A discussion panel consisting strictly of Native Americans is also being planned for spring. Ball said the panel will give Native Ameri-

cans the opportunity to speak about their own culture and to approach and squelch myths about Indians.

"There are people who aren't Indians trying to tell others about being Indian," Ball said.

The purpose of the panel, Ball said, is to help educate society as a whole.

"It will be open to not just whites," she said, "but to Blacks, Chicanos . . . it will be open to everyone. We want to demote racism. Ignorance is the key to help promote racism."

The group is hoping to hold a reception after the American Indian Dance Theatre Nov. 20. The reception will be open to the public.

The Multi-Cultural Awareness Center (Indian Center), 1100 Military Road, will be celebrating Nebraska Indian Day Monday. Lincoln Public School eighth graders who are presently studying Nebraska

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