

# UNL Nisei graduates gather to give thanks

By Sean McCarthy  
Staff Reporter

After about 50 years, Japanese-American graduates met again at UNL this weekend.

The reunion of about 30 Nisei students kicked off on Friday at Kimball Hall with a forum entitled "The Nisei Experience."

Nisei, second-generation American citizens of Japanese ancestry, were sent to internment camps during World War II. In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt authorized sending 120,000 Japanese Americans to the camps. Of those, 75,000 were Nisei citizens.

During that time, the University of Nebraska was one of the few universities that would accept Nisei students. In 1942, the university accepted 50 Nisei students.

During the event — broadcast on Nebraska Public Radio — the former University of Nebraska-Lincoln students discussed their lives before, during and after their time spent at UNL.

Yuriko Maruyama Adachi, who attended UNL in 1942, described the tight living conditions in the Manzanar Relocation camp in California. While she was in the camp, her family had to share a large room with another family.

Kiyoshi George Hachiya, a graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said many Americans were prejudiced toward the Nisei citizens during World War II.

Hachiya referred to a 1922 U.S.

Supreme Court ruling that rejected the naturalization of Japanese immigrants because they could not assimilate to American culture. After the Pearl Harbor attack, the army classified Japanese Americans as 4-C, or enemies of the United States, he said.

Tom Saburo Miya, who graduated from UNL in 1947, said he also faced prejudice when applying to colleges to escape the internment camps.

"One university wrote, 'Because you're a Jap, you won't be able to go,'" Miya said.

Miya said UNL was the only institution that welcomed him with an enthusiastic letter.

Takuro Stephen Nakae, a mechanical engineering graduate of UNL who came to the university in September 1942, said his experience at the university was invaluable.

Nakae said his time at UNL transformed him from an average farm kid to a sophisticated adult.

"I'm here, mixed with a huge population, and our main thing is to try to survive," Nakae said.

Richard Yukio Morita, who came to UNL to study biology in 1942, said he was grateful for the opportunity to study.

Nakae said the forum was a time to publicly thank the university for welcoming the Nisei. Life at the university was a transformation from their experiences at the internment camps, he said.

"It is like coming from isolation, where you feel forgotten, to a place where people recognize you and treat you as an individual," he said.

# RHA allocates money to 3 areas

By Justin Fisher  
Staff Reporter

The Residence Hall Association passed three bills at its weekly meeting Sunday to allocate money.

One bill, submitted by Pound President Michael Valerien, allocated \$300 for the Cather-Pound-Neihardt Complex's purchase of a sound system. CPN Complex Programs Director Glenn Gray has already devoted \$1,200 for the project.

The remaining cost of the \$1,800 system will be split between Neihardt Council and the Cather-Pound government. The sound system could be used for residence hall-sponsored dances or other ac-

tivities.

The system will be available for the use of Cather, Pound and Neihardt governments, but may be borrowed by other halls.

RHA also allocated money for the purchase of a helium tank for filling helium balloons.

Selleck Senator Phillip Cilliers said owning the \$225 tank would cut RHA's cost of helium per rental to a \$9 refill fee from the \$50 rental price RHA has paid in the past.

Student Action Team chairman Jeremy Vetter said he was concerned the tank might pose a "health or safety hazard because people might use it on themselves."

But RHA president Kris Larson

told the senate that, if necessary, the helium tank could be kept in storage.

RHA also voted to allocate \$100 as part of its sponsorship for 1994 Homecoming events.

In other business, RHA is co-sponsoring the Can-It Food Drive this week.

Volunteers from RHA's Student Action Team and from Cornerstone Church distributed boxes Sunday to residence halls and greek houses.

These boxes, and any canned goods that are donated, will be picked up next Saturday. All donations will be given to the Malone Community Center's Thanksgiving project.

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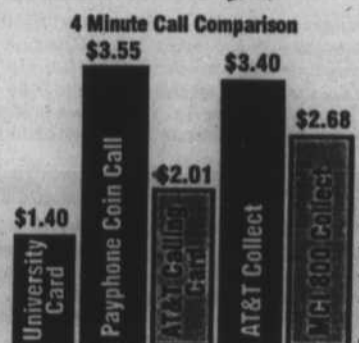
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# Former ASUN leaders meet, recall past issues

By Melanie Brandert  
Staff Reporter

Kent Neumeister remembers a time when UNL students were represented only by a student council.

The first University of Nebraska-Lincoln student government president said the council did not effectively promote students' needs, so students organized a student government in 1965.

Thus, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska was born.

Neumeister was one of 19 former ASUN presidents who returned to campus this weekend for a 30-year reunion. The past presidents attended a variety of events such as Friday's University of Nebraska Board of Regents meeting. They also attended the Chancellor's Brunch and the Nebraska-Kansas football game on Saturday.

Neumeister, who served from 1965 to 1966, said the central task of the first senate was to establish a truly representative government that had the power to pursue students' interests.

"(UNL) never had a student government that represented students' needs," he said. "Working out that relationship was a big issue."

One main issue the first senate

faced was a proposed increase in tuition rates, Neumeister said. The university's budget fell short in 1965, he said, and administrators tried to make up the difference by increasing students' tuition.

ASUN's protest of the increase led administrators to go to the Legislature for the money, said Neumeister, a law professor at the Creighton University School of Law.

"It was one of the first times the student government stood up to the administration," he said. "Student governments in the past could not do it because they didn't have the power, legitimacy or credibility to do it."

Christine Scudder, ASUN president from 1986 to 1987, said budget cuts were again one of the biggest issues the senate encountered that year. But this time the cuts came from the Legislature, which wanted to reduce programs and faculty salaries.

That senate also encountered opposition from the Legislature on the construction of the Campus Recreation Center, Scudder said.

ASUN senators overcame resistance from state senators, who thought that because the university was undergoing budget cuts, the facility was unneeded, said Scudder, a development officer with the University of Nebraska Foundation.

players will look elsewhere.

University of Nebraska President Dennis Smith is expected to present his recommendation to the regents at their Dec. 9 and 10 meetings. Smith will bring with him the report of a task force charged with developing a plan that would implement the new college.

Schulte said a number of students who signed the petition were Omaha natives, but he didn't know the exact count. Those students came to Lincoln because of the quality of the programs, he said.

Now they think those programs could be threatened, he said.

Tory Sigler, an engineering senator for ASUN, said he spoke with several regents last week. Sigler said their approach was cautious.

"They don't want to make a rash decision," Sigler said. "They want to make sure that the education is still there for Omaha."

## Petition

Continued from Page 1

board circulated the petition during the past three weeks.

A letter addressed to UNL engineering students that accompanied the petition listed the following issues:

- A college in Omaha, developed to half the size of the UNL college, would cost more than \$6 million a year to operate. That figure does not include the costs to create it.

- NU's budget, already stretched thin, could not afford the added burden of duplicate programs.

- The added pull on the NU budget would have negative effects on the quality of engineering education and would diminish the value of an NU engineering degree.

- With the reduced quality of education, potential students and em-