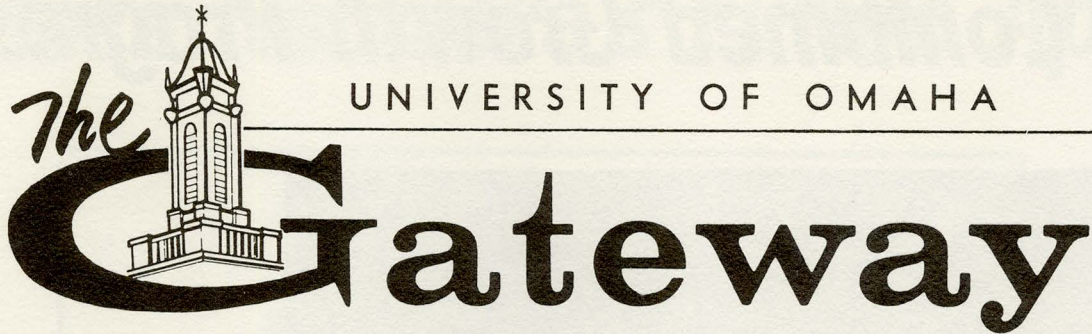


Typical Problems, Triumphs Mark OU History



SPECIAL ISSUE

JUNE 30, 1968

Page 1



Nine Presidents Have Led OU

Since its beginning in 1908, the University of Omaha has had nine presidents, all of whom have contributed to the growth and advancement of the University.

The founder and first president was Dr. Daniel E. Jenkins who served without salary for the first 11 years. The Board of Directors voted him an annual salary of \$4,000 in 1919.

Jenkins had many good offers to leave for better positions, but he turned them down. He found happiness here, serving where it was needed, even with "odds against him", wrote the Rev. Charles Herron, a member of the first faculty.

Dr. Karl F. Wettstone had a short term as president from 1927 to 1928. He left after a year because the school was not standardized in accordance with the requirements of in North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, due to financial difficulties. OU was not accredited until 1939.

The third president, Dr. Ernest Wesley Emery, served from 1928 to 1930. Wesley believed in a strong, aggressive athletic program and more funds for buildings, equipment and endowments.

Dr. W. Gilbert James served as acting president at three different times. While Dr. Jenkins was on leave of absence in 1926 and 1927, and again in 1928 and 1930-31. James, whose fields were English and speech, came to the University in 1919 as dean of the college.

Dr. William E. Sealock, president from 1932 to 1936, was the first president of the municipal university and is credited with rais-

ing a mediocre faculty staff to a superior status.

His refusal to condone an alleged campus spy ring to report possible communist activity of faculty members resulted in his ouster by Regents, Regent and faculty resignations, student protests and calls for investigation.

The sixth president of the University, Rowland Haynes, served from 1936 to 1948. He was responsible for the expansion of the School of Adult Education, and the creation of the College of Applied Arts and Sciences. He also introduced accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Dr. Milo Bail, seventh president of the University, served from 1948 to 1964. At this time enrollment increased by two-thirds, the Fieldhouse, Gene Epley Library, Applied Arts Building, and Student Center were completed, and the Colleges of Business Administration Education and Adult Education were established.

Dr. Leland Traywick became president following Bail but left in 1966. Traywick fought hard to win a 2 mill increase for OU which was denied in a city election.

The ninth and current president of OU, Dr. Kirk Naylor, faced with University financial problems, began and successfully accomplished the merger between OU and the University of Nebraska giving OU the chance to grow and expand. Working closely with Chancellor Hardin, Dr. Naylor will continue to supervise progress for the good of Nebraska University students.

Campus Student Unrest Hit OU Decades Ago

"... the student body held two mass meetings. A student committee was appointed to investigate an alleged spy system. On May 29 another mass meeting was held by the students. At this assembly the existence of a spy system was confirmed by the President of the University."

Sound like a story out of yesterday's paper doesn't it? Actually this was taken from the front page of a Gateway dated Friday September 3, 1935.

The history of this University is as interesting and eventful as that of any other growing unit of education. Names change and people are shuffled, but the institution remains and its heritage remains.

This institution is now on the brink of another great step. On this occasion it might be interesting to glance back at yesterday's papers and see how far we've come and if things have really changed that much.

This fall's first Gateway will undoubtedly carry a story about enrollment crossing the 10,000 mark. It is interesting to note that the first fall Gateway in 1938 carried a lead story with the headline "Record Enrollment Expected to reach Thousand Mark".

Gateway workers were shocked to find that in 1938 for an entire semester the Gateway printed the slogan "We use the news that's news to youse" on the front page of each edition.

On November 4, 1938 the Administration Building was officially dedicated and OU was tagged the "million dollar university".

In 1939 the athletic teams of OU dropped the title Cardinals for the Indians. The following year there was a great deal of discussion concerning the dropping of football at OU. Rowland Haynes, then OU President had commended Chicago University for dropping football. The Gateway ran a poll involving about half the students of the University. The students voted 6 to 1 in favor of football.

In 1940 when OU basketball star Don Pflasterer was asked his secret of success he replied, "Practice and you won't need Wheaties". Now the Dean of Student Personnel, he then had racked up an abundance of athletic achievements and planned a career as an athletic coach.

On the more sensational side, the March 15, 1940 Gateway lead headline read "... "Karen Andre Faces Murder Rap". 'I loved him' says prisoner." The whole thing was a piece of promotion for Ayn Rand's play "The Night of January 16" which was to start at OU that week.

In more recent times, the Gateway noted expansion in its May 9, 1960 issue. The Applied Arts, now Engineering, and Student Center buildings were dedicated.

The OUamp Room first opened its doors on Monday, May 9, 1960.

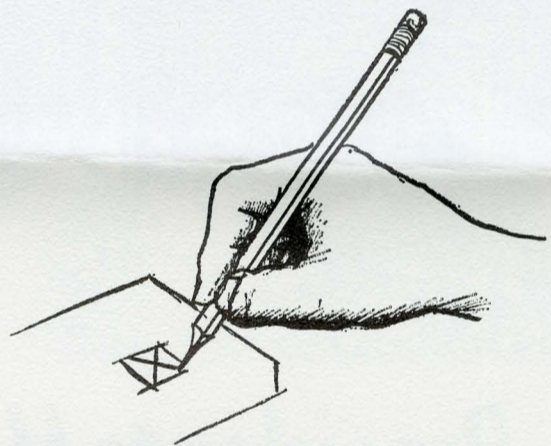
Undoubtedly other headlines on new buildings, new people, and new situations will fill the Gateway in years to come.

Some will be colorful, some will be repetitious. But all will reflect what this institution is and where it is going.

160 Years Of Combined Growth-Progress



President Naylor speaks Omaha University's case before the Nebraska legislature.



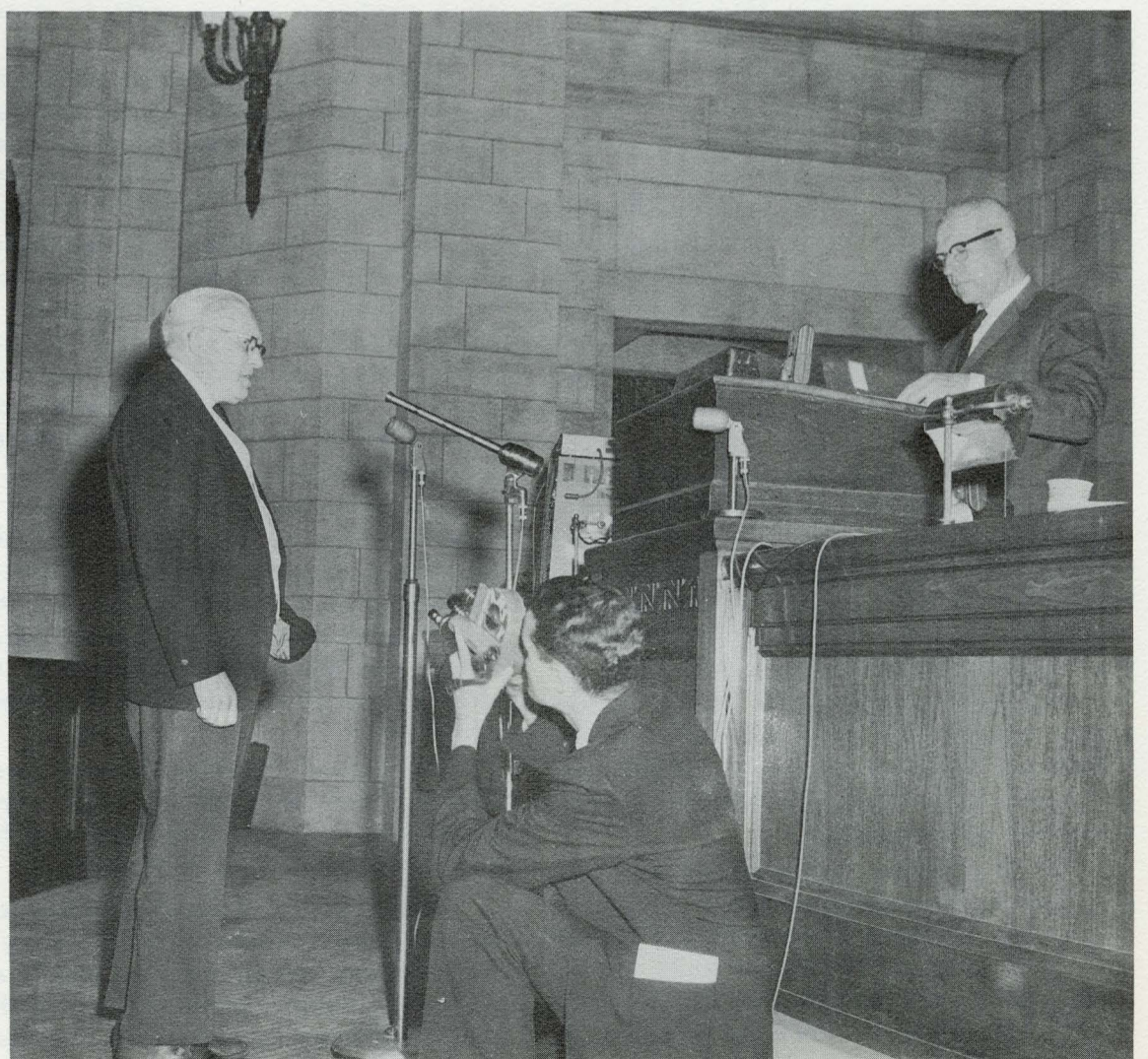
The path to the merger began in early January, 1967. Plans were revealed by then-acting-President Kirk Naylor for a proposed OU-NU merger. The merger bill, LB 736, was drawn up and passed its first reading in March.

In April the Unicameral passed the OU-NU merger bill 31-18. The bill was slated to take effect July 1, 1968, when signed by Governor Norbert Tiemann and after being approved by a vote of the people of Omaha.

In October former Nebraska Governor Frank Morrison sparked opposition to the merger when he suggested that OU expand into Elmwood Park. The "Friend of the Parks" Committee took up arms over the proposal which was Morrison's alone. No organized opposition to the merger ever appeared, but State Senator Henry Pedersen of Omaha was considered the most-outspoken opponent.

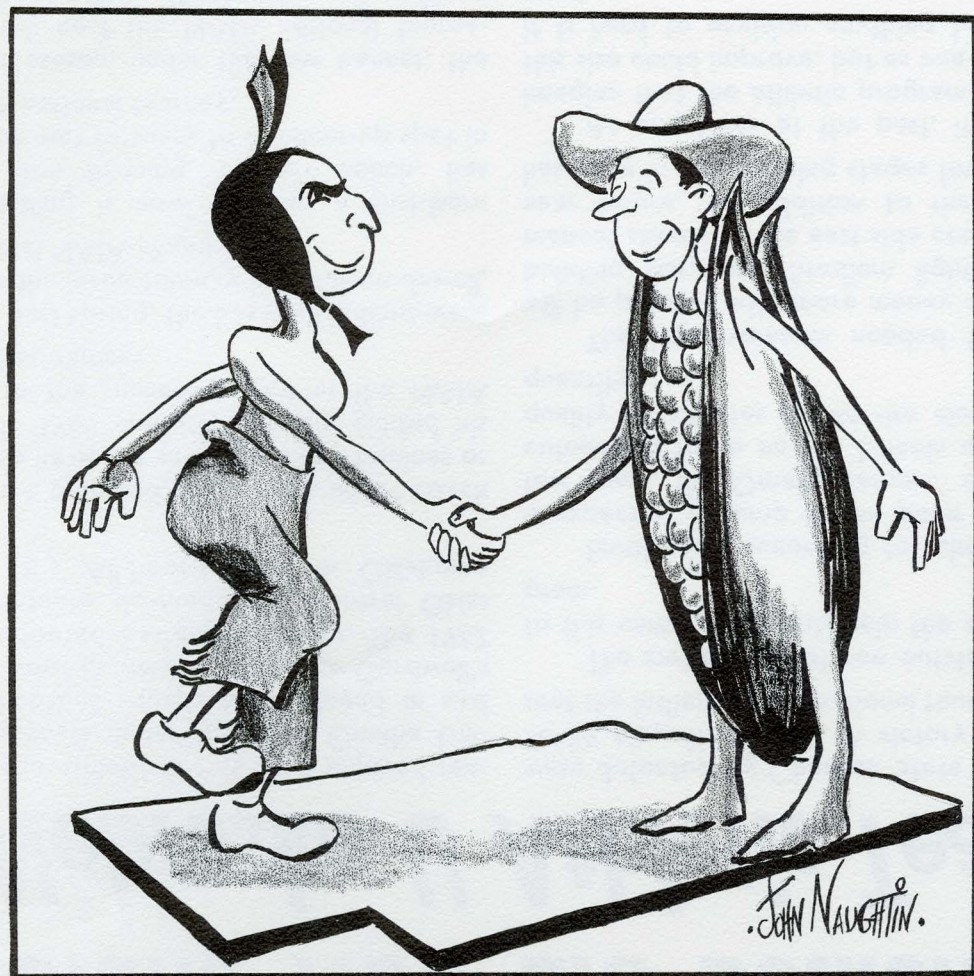
In late October the OU Regents set the date for the merger election for December 12 to coincide with the city bond election. OU students began taking an active part in campaigning in November. Students helped by passing out yard signs and doornob hangers and by manning the polls on election day.

When election day came, all the work was rewarded as Omahans said yes to the merger by a vote of almost four to one. On the day after election day, NU Chancellor Clifford Hardin came to Omaha to address OU Faculty and students who, together with students in Lincoln, will make Nebraska University the twentieth largest in the nation.



One of Omaha University's most ardent supporters in the Legislature was Scottsbluff Senator Terry Carpenter, left.

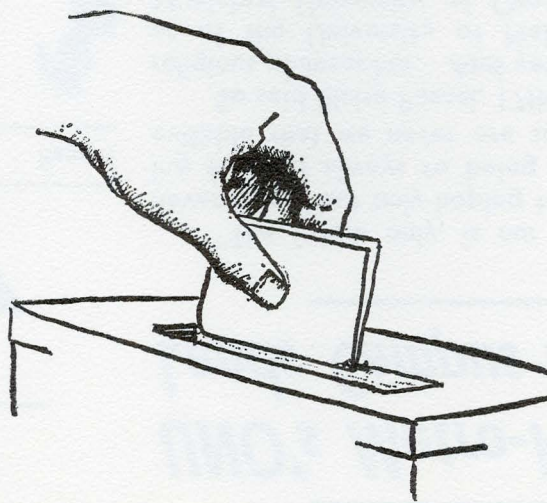
Make Nebraska's Future Appear Bright



The merger campaign was supported enthusiastically by the students who manned the polling places, passed out literature and distributed signs.



President Kirk Naylor of Omaha University and Chancellor Clifford Hardin of Nebraska University met to discuss future plans after the merger election.



Merger Makes N U 20th Largest University



SPECIAL ISSUE

JULY 1, 1968

Page 1



A Brand New Era Beckons Nebraska U Athletic Teams

Omaha athletic teams have enjoyed reasonable success under the label Omaha University. Football squads have played in and won two bowl games. In 1954 Don Cardwell's Indians defeated Eastern Kentucky. The 1962 CIC champions downed East Central Oklahoma in the All-Sports Bowl in Oklahoma City.

On the diamond, the Indians under coach Virg Yelkin have not seen too many failures. In 1959 and 1965, Yelkin guided his charges to the runner-up spot in the NAIA national tournament.

This past spring, the baseball Indians were beaten in the Area tourney by William Jewell, the eventual NAIA champ.

Wrestling is now enjoying a fast-born success. Don Benning, present coach, has guided the mat fortunes to a runner-up spot in the NAIA national tourney.

Next season, under the new banner, the campus will host the NAIA national tournament. Perhaps then the Indians will achieve the long-awaited national title.

Track fans have cheered record-setting performances by Ken Gould, Roger Sayers and Terry Williams.

Basketball, golf and tennis squads, though not deficient in championships, have not journeyed to national tournaments. The cagers

were defeated by Chadron State in the Area NAIA playoffs in 1967. A victory would have sent the Indians to the national tourney.

The certain rush of new outstate students to this campus can only help the athletic program.

Enrollment, according to school officials, is expected to jump to the point where, in a few years, the Omaha campus' students will outnumber those on the Lincoln campus. The quality of athletes should rise along with the quantity.

The improvements needed for so long will be possible with more money available for building purposes. Stadium lights and permanent stands on the east side could be in the near future. An addition to the Fieldhouse has been in the planning stages for years.

As one looks at the past, it is hard to imagine that the athletic program of a school this size could improve, but as one looks ahead it is hard to envision anything but improvement.

There are factors that have already been seen that will improve athletics and certainly there are other factors which will take place to add to this improvement.

For sports, intramural or intercollegiate, the merger must be looked at as an era of advance.

UNO's Metro-Role Lends Campus Identity

"The future only, is our goal. We are never living, but only hoping to live; and looking forward always to being happy, it is inevitable that we never are so."

So said Blaise Pascal, 17th century French religious philosopher. And yet with the merger of the University of Nebraska and the Municipal University of Omaha the people must look forward to the future while developing the present.

Dr. Kirk Naylor, president of the Omaha campus, stated this aptly when he remarked "We will expand our services and offerings in the future but never at the cost of maintaining academic excellence."

"We will continue all of our present programs" he continued, "and I believe we will remain largely a metropolitan university."

But the university, in this age of challenge and fear, progress and disappointment, advancement and reversal, will play and increasingly more important role in the lives of the members of the community.

Omaha University in its past has spoken well for this aspect of its curriculum. The night courses offered on the Omaha campus are the envy of many other universities. Every year a large number of citizens attend school to aid them in their professional pursuits.

But the merger will not only usher in a new era for UNO it will see the passing of the municipal university in Nebraska.

The merger will, in a sense, end the self imposed isolation which the university has placed upon itself.

The University of Nebraska will be divided into three areas. The Lincoln campus, the Omaha campus, and the Medical school in Omaha.

Run by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, the OU Board of Regents will be abolished.

The three campuses will place the University of Nebraska twentieth in overall enrollment for universities in the nation.

UNO, located in a large metropolitan area will experience growth perhaps surpassing the Lincoln campus in the future. The physical growth of the university will be forced to keep pace with the increasing enrollment.

The campus this year saw the addition of a new group of temporary buildings to house the increased enrollment and faculty members who will relieve the pressure of the booming student increase.

A new science building, sponsored by UNO and the federal government, is on the drawing board. The campus is on the move.

In co-ordination with the Lincoln campus UNO will begin to offer more graduate courses and open up some fields of doctorate work.

But the universities of the future, especially one located in a large metropolitan area, will have more responsibilities than the education of the youth. They will play an important role in the developing of the community.

Already UNO has joined forces with Creighton University in forming the Inter-Institutional Task Force with the purpose of bringing resources common to both universities to bear on the problem of race relations in Omaha.

"The university should become an integral part of the community," Dr. Naylor said, "We are now beginning to come down out of our ivory towers and accomplish this."

"The university in the future," said Dr. Naylor, "will play a role in activities which we cannot even now begin to imagine."