

Cornhuskin' 1980: Food and fun...

by Kathy O'Brien

It's a fairly sober, fairly quiet place usually. There is even a certain dignity to be seen in the carefully matched wool plaid bermuda shorts and monogrammed Deans sweaters. It's a picture at which the board of directors smile and over which many parents sigh with relief.

And this picture is usually the case. Usually, that is, but not always. And usually it's in October that the hallowed atmosphere disappears and midnight raids, torrents of water in the courtyard, and gaudy costumes prevail. The sudden change looks a bit like insanity, but it's a traditional insanity.

Psychologically speaking, the disease is called Cornhuskin', and last week it was in rare form.

The class of '81 took their second first place victory in a row this year, and the other classes followed in order. The juniors placed second overall, the sophomores third, and the newcomers, class of '84, placed fourth.

It began with a cry of 'bite the dust' and ended in a victory for the senior class of 1981.

Though thoroughly confusing to all outsiders, the first bucket of water that baptized a freshman brought immediate illumination of the game to the class of '84. From

then on, nowhere was safe and nothing was sacred. Not even the dignified and proper senior women. All classes responded with zeal to the scream of 'water fight.'

Mixed with the water and raids, however, was a lot of class unity and sisterly spirit, as big sisters serenaded little sisters and little sisters defended the honor of the big sister class at all hours. Thursday, Johnson Hall was so filled with flowers urging victory that it looked like Valentine's Day.

And finally, Thursday, the day to climax all these events, rolled around.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, as new to Cornhuskin' as the freshman class, caught the spirit of the event as well. A carnival atmosphere brought life to Thursday's picnic. The State Fair had nothing over Meredith. Booths filled with cotton candy, peanuts, candy apples, popcorn, and ice cream did a constant business while grilled hot dogs and hamburgers stood hot and ready.

Brightly colored class t-shirts and visors dotted the courtyard lawn. Excited laughter and cheering filled the air. At the appointed time, however, the party broke up quickly, and everyone was off to dress for the big event to follow.

Then finally the time arrived. Cornhuskin' 80 was underway. Jones Auditorium was filled with the largest crowd ever assembled for the class competition.

The ceremonies were put under way by juniors Miranda Bowers and Cynthia Perry, acting as hostesses for the evening.

The judges were then introduced: Meredith

alumnae Milie McLaney and Sue Grant Allen, both class of '77; Mrs. Betty Cook of the Home Ec. department; Dr. Craig Greene of the Art Department; and Dr. Sandra Thomas, Vice President for Student Affairs.

The class parades began the competition. Southern life emerged as the Freshman theme. Puns on Southern Belles and Southern Comfort

prevailed in this second place winning parade.

The Sophomore class was not nearly as fortunate in scoring, however. Their parade, based on reflections of Meredith life won them only fourth place with the judges. The audience was treated to reflections of their own costumes as many mirrors were paraded in front of them.

(Continued on Page 5)



Seniors enjoy pre-Cornhuskin' cookout in courtyard. (Photo by Jackie Duong)



Left, Sophomores team up for human pyramid in the festive atmosphere of the Cornhuskin' cookout. Right, "Here lies the Sophomores... killed by the freshmen, Cornhuskin' 1980" (Photos by Jackie Duong)



The Seniors serenade their little sisters in a sad traditional tribute during Cornhuskin' cookout. (Photo by Jackie Duong)

