



Photos by Mike Hayman

K-State is kind to President

by JOHN DVORAK
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Manhattan, Kan. — The day was dismal and humid. Tree branches were heavy-laden with an intermittent rain. Grass was soggy and street gutters were almost impassable.

But there was electricity in the air. The President of the

United States was coming to Kansas State University.

Richard M. Nixon hasn't appeared on a college campus since May. He knows he is practically taking his life in his hands when he ventures onto a campus. Less than a hundred disruptive students could ruin a speech — and in the sea of young faces, a bomb or a gun

would be inconspicuous.

Yet the students at Kansas State seemed unconcerned about disruption or violence. They worried not about the haven of revolutionaries headquartered less than two hours away at Kansas University. They thought little about Vietnam, polarization, Spiro or the draft.

"We just can't believe that the President is coming here," said sophomore Patty Hruska. "We just can't believe he would come to this campus." The cute brunette giggled with delight as she spoke about the President she would soon be seeing.

Like Patty, most of the other K-Staters have never seen a President either. From the time Nixon's jungle-green army helicopter swooped down through the spitting rain, until Nixon was whisked away in it 90 minutes later, the students were beside themselves with glee.

"Violence and terror as a political tactic is a cancerous disease that has been spreading throughout the United States," Nixon said in the packed Ahearn Fieldhouse. The 15,000 students, teachers and guests applauded loudly.

"The destructive activities at our colleges and universities are caused by a small minority. Their voices have been allowed to drown out the responsible majority," the President said. The applause was more deafening than at a K-State basketball game.

"At a time when the quantity of education is going dramatically up, its quality is massively threatened by assaults which terrorize

faculty, students and university and college administrators alike. It is time for responsible university and college administrators, faculty and student leaders to stand up and be counted." With that, the President was given overwhelming applause and a lengthy standing ovation.

Nixon, heavily made up for the benefit of live, nation-wide color television, came smiling. But his face was deeply lined and much more haggard than when he stumped Nebraska before the 1968 Presidential primary.

For the most part, he ignored a small band of hecklers who shouted throughout the speech. At one point, the President stuttered, the heckling suddenly intensified, and sweat appeared on his upper lip. But he kept speaking.

Soon, as one of his statements was met with a burst of applause, the President regained his composure and seemed unbothered by the hecklers for the rest of the speech.

There could never have been more than 30 hecklers. They shouted, "How about Kent State" and "How many more will you kill."

Senators, representatives, politicians, the governor and

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"For forty days he sailed his ark, until he found a place to park — in a red zone." See story on page 2.