

Friendship first in tutor program

by DAVE BRINK
Nebraskan Staff Writer

A sparsely bearded student ran up to a co-ed, threw his arm around her and happily shouted, "Mark read tonight!"

Mark is one of the Indian children being tutored each Tuesday night in the basement of Andrews Hall. The happy University students are volunteer tutors.

The program was begun last



are enthusiastic about the project.

Kraft said Indian adults will hopefully take over management of the program soon but NU students will continue as tutors. About 55 tutors, mostly students, are working with about 75 children. According to Hershey more tutors are needed to achieve a "one to one" relationship.

Tutors and children are assigned to each other on a semipermanent basis at least until they get tired of each other or until two kids decide to trade tutors, Hershey said.

Any Indian student in the second grade through junior high is eligible for the program. Some kindergarten and first graders have been attending but Hershey feels they are too young for the project.

Tutors have found numerous diversions to interest the active youngsters. Last Tuesday's



session included beadmaking, drawing, games, arithmetic, painting and cramming for the next days junior high exams. Occasionally tutors take children to the art gallery, the Union, the fountain, or the columns. Basketball games have also been organized for the youngsters.

Bill Lamp and Jo Smith took their children on a picnic and joined Debbie Robbin and her charge for a Halloween party. Other tutors have visited with the parents and schoolteachers



of their children.

Discipline is a problem but the tutors have largely circumvented it by doing things the children like. "Fun stuff is fine" one pointed out, but schoolwork is not too popular.

Some have made games out of studying or offered prizes for good work. Most tutors, however, have decided not to push academic work too hard and instead concentrate on developing a good relationship with their assigned child.

For instance, one tutor found herself rejected after making her student study math. She became a hero again by taking the child on a visit to the dorm — to see her pet rabbit.

Hershey explained that the young children can't be expected to concentrate on studies for two hours at a time. She encourages the side trips and occasional wrestling

matches since they provide a diversion.

Kraft said, the important thing in their view is not how much subject matter is covered but the relationship between the child and tutor. She said this gives the children a chance to broaden their experiences in addition to what the college students learn from the children.

In her words, "the study is second to the friendship."

The formula seems to work. Everyone was having a good time Tuesday, tutors and students alike. Most of the kids were active and exuberant; none appeared angry or unhappy. Even an occasional gang-tackling of a tutor by five or six children was all in fun.

One little girl, Tina Therien, put it best. When asked what was good about the tutoring, she replied, "I think it's fun."



year by the Tri-University project. Training Teachers of Teachers (TTT), Tri-U's replacement, has continued it this semester. TTT sponsors two mini-buses which take the children from their homes to Andrews and back again. It also provides funds for tutor transportation to a similar project in Winnebago. Other students do the Winnebago tutoring on Thursday nights.

Two members of the TTT program, former Head Start teacher Arline Kraft and Myrliss Hershey, an elementary education instructor, are directing the program. Both

Robert Koefoot: 'Rural Nebraska needs med Students'

(Editor's Note: This is the third of four interviews with newly elected members to the Board of Regents.)

by MIKE MORIARTY
Nebraskan Staff Writer

One of the major concerns of Regent-elect Dr. Robert R. Koefoot will deal with changing admission policies to the University medical school.

"I'm in favor of getting more medical students out into the rural areas," Koefoot said.

"I don't think the taxpayers should pay for a medical school and then have the doctors running off to Ohio or some such

place," Grand Island surgeon Koefoot said.

"We might have to move away from selecting students who want to become researchers and specialists," Koefoot said. "Then we could select more students who want to become general practitioners," he added.

"I know the situation well enough that we have to start selecting a different type of student for our medical school if we're to get doctors out in rural Nebraska," Koefoot said.

When questioned on the type of student he thinks should be

selected for medical school, Koefoot replied, "Ones that shows interest in helping people."

Another major concern of Regent-elect Koefoot will be to have the board assume a larger role in running the University. "I haven't been pleased with the way the University has been running," Koefoot said.

He warned: "If you go to the University, then you'd better learn to adhere to the rules. That goes for students and faculty."

Koefoot said when he takes office he would like to see a

clear policy drawn up for student and faculty code of conduct.

A point which Koefoot said needs emphasis is "The power in this University rests with the Regents and nobody else."

"I'm opposed to having students voting with the Regents. They shouldn't have the power to vote. But I'm willing to listen, and if I'm wrong then I'll change my mind," Koefoot said.

He also said that he is in favor of modifying coed-visitation rules for graduate students who live in university buildings which are apart from un-

dergraduate living quarters. (The Board of Regents has continually opposed coed-visitation for the graduate students.)

The new Regent from the Sixth District said that he favors open board meetings, "but I'm not opposed to having closed executive meetings."

And concerning the Regent rejection of Michael Davis as a teacher, "I wouldn't have hired him either," Koefoot said.

Koefoot believes that the University budget needs careful scrutiny.