Increasing number of UNL students 'stop out'

by Bill Smitherman Students used to come to college and stay for four or more years. But this pattern is becoming a thing of the past.

Increasingly, according to national surveys, students are "stopping out." That is, they come to school for a while, then quit and do something else. Some come back, others don't.

N.U. PRESIDENT D. B. Varner said he has no objection to stopping out. "The traditional lock step of high school to four years of college seems to be coming to an end. Varner said in an interview.

He predicted that more students who leave high school At the Septemer Regents will not go directly to college. meeting Varner suggested a

24 hours a day

There are also likely to be more cases of students coming to college for a year or two and then stopping out for a while, he said.

Most students will probably still follow the traditional pattern, he said, but an increasing number won't.

Varner said that education is not confined to schools. Many students feel the need of learning in some place other than the classroom, he added. **"EDUCATION IS a life-long** process," Varner said. "There

is no such thing as being finished. In our society it is necessary to learn constantly just to be an effective citizen.

policy for limiting enrollment at UNL. He said students who had shown they can't make it in the University should be disenrolled in favor of entering freshmen

But this policy would have no effect on students who stop out if they are in good academic standing, he said.

UNL Admissions Director John E. Aronson said his office is flexible about return criteria for native Nebraskans and former students. It is not difficult for former students with passable academic records to re-enter the University, he said.

ARONSON SAID this creates no real problem for his office. "We have always had people who quit and then return to school," he said. "There have always been people who stopped school for

Reasons vary from finances to boredom.

Sara Schwieder attended UNL for two years and then took a year off to travel and work in Europe and Africa.

"I was really tempted not to come back," she said, "You find out that you don't really need school, that you can be perfectly happy without the rat race.

SHE SAID SHE stopped out to look for what she would like the most in the way of careers and life styles. She added that she was bored in school and had to make decisions about

her life before going on. "I realized I hadn't had much contact with the world," Schwieder said. "I didn't want to make decisions for the rest of my life on the basis of the small part of the world I'd seen.

"My travels made me realize just how American I am," she said. "There is nothing I could have done better to learn about myself. It is really good to be exposed to many different ways of living.

"BUT AFTER LIVING many different ways its hard to come back and live just one way," Schwieder said. "After living quietly for a year the rat race really brings you down." A male student, who asked

not to be identified, attended UNL for three years and stopped out to work as a grocery clerk. He said he stopped out because he had a high draft number and felt he was not getting much from school.

"I'll go back to school," he said. "But right now I don't see any reason to push myself into something I don't want to do.'

Kathy Cook works in a secretarial job after attending UNL for two and a half years.

couldn't think of a good reason to keep going," she said. "I'll probably go back, but I just wasn't learning anything like it was.

She said she had been studying psychology and sociology. It was easy to see the predispositions of the researchers, but not how these predispositions affected the outcome of the study, she

could teach what the studies said, but not how much the studies were biased, Cook said. "After a while I wasn't

about many things by stopping out. Work in a University office is giving her insight into the workings of the University, she said.

out can also be helpful because it can help people gain confidence in themselves and

person's confidence and ability to deal with situations increases his ability in school," she said.

easy. It is hard to break out of the pattern for the first time, Cook said

