

Opinions differ on campus split

by A.J. McClanahan

Faculty members of the College of Agriculture who voiced opinions at an informal meeting with UNL Chancellor Zumberge Thursday were apparently in favor of the status quo or the Zumberge Plan over LB 149.

LB 149, which is now under consideration in the Legislature would create a separate agricultural center, with status comparable to UNL or UNO.

Speaking to a crowd of about 200, Zumberge said the bill arose because the first draft of the University Five Year Plan "neglected to state feelings of the University with respect to agricultural affairs."

Zumberge said agricultural organizations told him they were disappointed with the lack of attention given to agriculture and it was time for the University to have an agricultural center.

The issue is not a new one, Zumberge stressed, but there is much impetus behind it this time that cannot be ignored. He has the status quo and the center plan, he said.

UNL currently has four main administrative subdivisions—academic affairs, student affairs, public relations, and business and finance. Under the Zumberge Plan, agriculture would become a fifth subdivision.

According to Zumberge, his plan, "would retain strong ties with the University, but would give agriculture a stronger voice in administration and in policy determination."

The plan would require some faculty to work under more than one subdivision, namely academic affairs and the new agriculture

subdivisions but, he said, "many of you are already used to living under 3 or four supervisors so that's nothing new to you."

Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Howard W. Ottoson, said the Zumberge Plan would give the College of Agriculture "more visibility," because the college would have a higher level administrative voice. He said the plan was a workable arrangement.

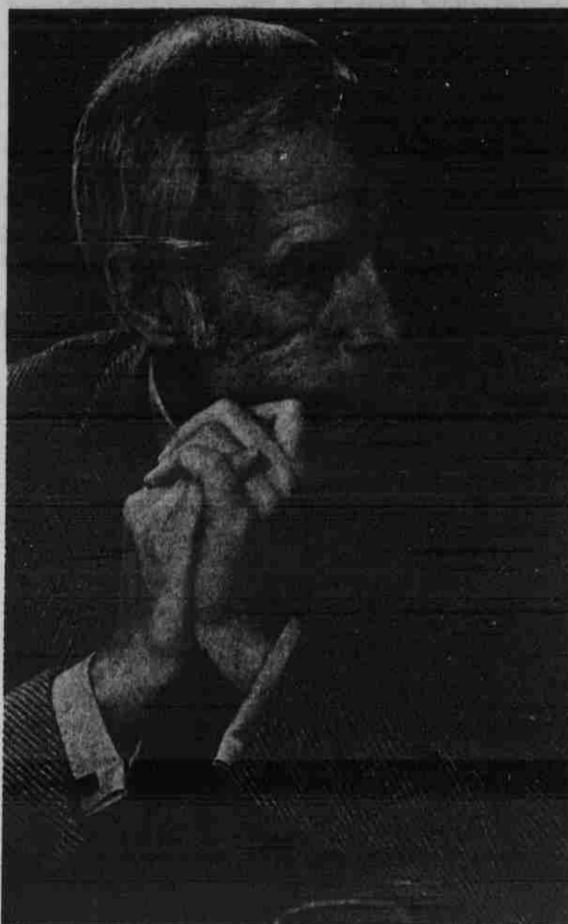
An agricultural economics professor said high visibility would be a disadvantage because the college would just be a bigger target in the political world. He said money for the budget would be subject to more attacks and the college would be more vulnerable.

Of those who spoke up at the meeting, opinions varied as to why they were for or against the Zumberge plan. Glen Vollmar, chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics, said anything that would fracture the College of Agriculture from the city campus is bad.

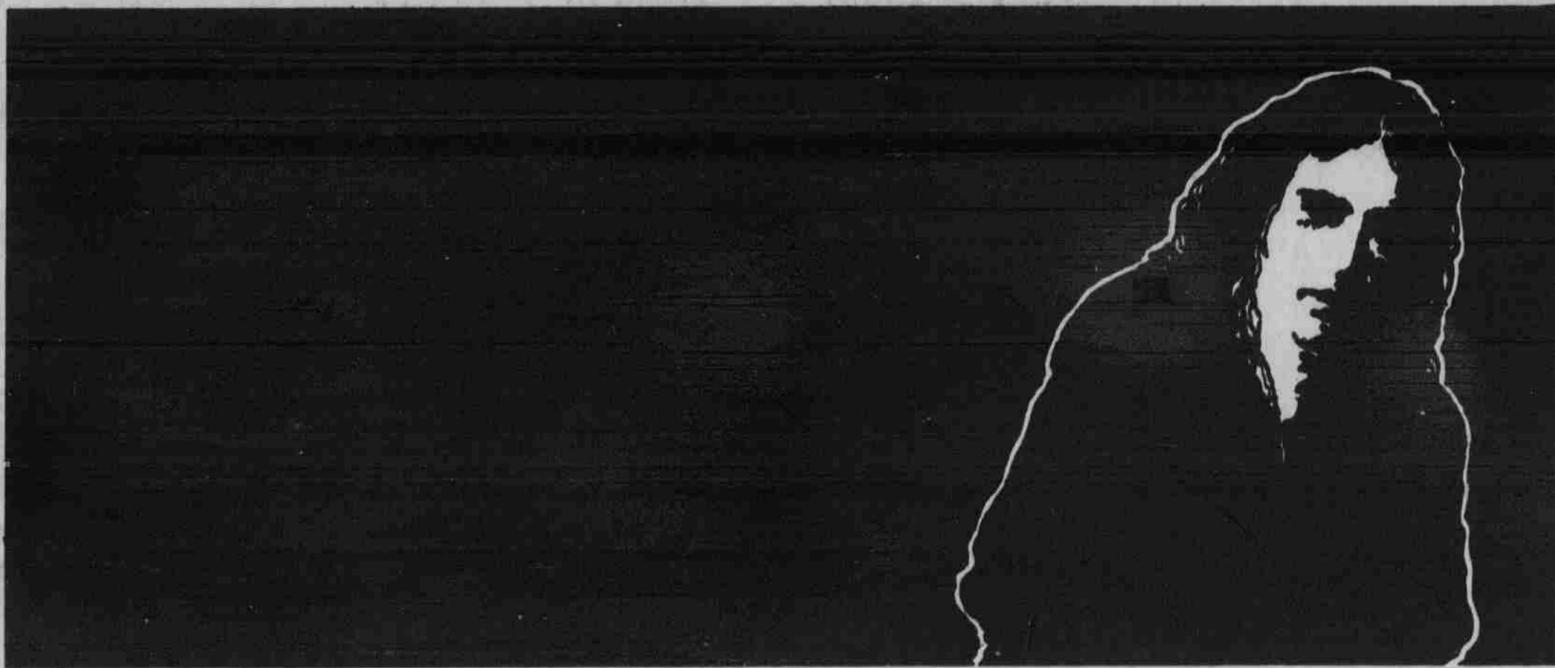
"The agricultural center concept would do the most in severing us" he said.

Several of those who spoke up were in favor of doing more research on the subject before forming an opinion. John L. Adams, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture, said the Zumberge Plan could not be compared with the center plan yet, because not enough was known about the center plan.

Zumberge, however urged action since LB 149 is now under consideration. "We ought not to let this thing hang in limbo," he said.



Interim course studies freshman loneliness



by Mary Voboril

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the loneliest one of all? The college freshman, a survey showed.

These results were reported at an 11-day credit course offered during the interim by the Department of Human Development and the Family in the College of Home Economics.

Surveys of about 12 per cent of the freshman class at UNL in fall 1971 showed freshmen had higher loneliness scores than five other groups tested. Other groups included the divorced, the never-married, the housewife and the pre-school child.

On a scale of four, with four the loneliest, the freshman average was 1.9. The average score for the elderly was .78.

Male freshmen were the least lonely, the survey indicated. Other students with low loneliness profiles included those who said they made friends easily, were rarely homesick, had close family relationships and had no religious faith.

John Woodward, human development chairman and interim course instructor, said, "As near as we can find out, we are the only university doing research on loneliness." He also said he knew of no studies done specifically on college student loneliness.

Ken Bader, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he was not surprised at the findings.

"I can remember how lonely I felt as a freshman," he said.

An academic planning committee has been drawn up to study the freshman year at UNL and see how it can be improved, Bader said. He said it was likely the loneliness aspect will be studied by this committee and recommendations would be made on how to combat it.

Leslie Duly, chairman of the freshman study committee, was not aware until recently, of the student development findings on freshman loneliness.

However, he said anything affecting the attitude and performance of the freshman has to be considered in his committee's report, and the loneliness question will likely be investigated.

The study committee will be divided into three groups: the cultural and social life of the freshman, the academic experience and the technical aspects of being a freshman, which will deal with the bureaucracy of registration, drop and add, etc., according to Vernon Williams, cultural/social chairman.

Williams said the committee now is organizing

itself and plans to have a progress report issued by mid-April.

The student development staff has considered the student loneliness problem, but has no concrete plans for combating it, Woodward said.

He said, freshmen living in smaller, more personalized living units, such as Greek houses, have a better chance of overcoming loneliness difficulties than those living in larger more anonymous living units, such as dorms.

One way to help overcome student loneliness would be for counseling centers to implement the prevlab approach, according to Woodward. Prevlab, developed by Dr. Frank Mark, a special assistant to the federal Health Services and Mental Health Administration, stands for "Preventing Loneliness, Anxiety and Boredom."

The prevlabs are kits created largely from magazines, games and other materials ordinarily discarded or stored in the home. The aim is to help troubled persons keep their minds and imaginations busy, Woodward said.

He added that a prevlab approach would be used on an individual basis, with materials for the prevlab determined by personal counseling.