



# Barber College

photos by Dan Ladely  
 story by Jane Owens



**by Jane Owens**

"Shave and haircut" is a request seldom heard by barbers anymore, according to Albert Howard, president of the corporation which owns the Lincoln Barber College.

One result of the trend for longer men's hair styles is a national decline in barber college enrollment, the president said.

Enrollment at Lincoln Barber College has dropped 50 per cent since 1971, Howard noted. Ten students currently are enrolled at the school, which was established in 1960. The Lincoln school is the only accredited barber's college in Nebraska.

The corporation once operated a second barber's college in Omaha which had a capacity enrollment of 20 students. The school was forced to close last August because of an enrollment decline.

"The big reason our enrollment has dropped is because long-haired men have less need for regular barbers and an increased need for hair-stylists. When the public couldn't find stylists, they just stopped getting haircuts," Howard said.

The college's curriculum was changed in fall 1971 to keep pace with current trends. Classes in men's hair-styling, conditioning and tinting are currently offered.

"We're taking a more scientific approach to hair-styling. Our students now study the chemistry of hair and the effects that various treatments can have on it."

Howard is optimistic about the school's future. All fall classes are filled, and enrollment should reach a capacity of 20 by November, he said.

Nationally, more women are enrolling in barber colleges, because girls seem to have a natural dexterity for working with the longer styles," he said. Howard estimates that the school's fall enrollment probably will be about 80 per cent female.

The need for barbers hasn't really decreased. "Barbers are just experiencing a drastic role change," Howard said.

