

Toward excellence

The Nebraska Higher Education Facilities Commission recently released the results of a study which indicate that the enrollment pressure is being taken off Nebraska's colleges and universities. Michael J. Winterhalter, director of the commission, plans a series of reports to the Unicameral, detailing his findings.

The commission found that only 39 per cent of Nebraska's 1972 high school seniors were now pursuing higher education in the "traditional" forms. Four years ago, when most of UNL's current seniors were just graduating from high school, 59 per cent of those high school seniors were planning to seek traditional higher education. Between 1963 and 1973 the normal range of high

school seniors planning to pursue higher education has been 42 to 49 per cent.

For the purposes of the commission's study, traditional post-high school education is defined as four-year colleges and universities and two-year junior colleges. Two-year vocational-technical schools were not included under the definition.

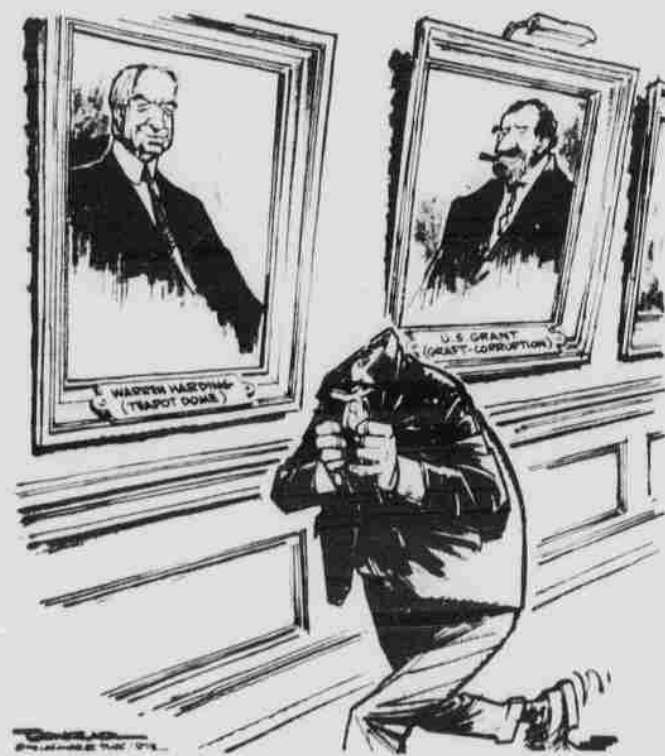
In addition to the lower percentage of high school seniors going on to college, the commission reported that there has been a sharp decrease in the number of people in the 12th grade age group. Therefore the pool from which higher education draws its students has grown smaller and it is expected to continue that trend.

These reports, in conjunction with others still to come, are of obvious interest to the Legislature's education planners. Perhaps the senators will discover that the state's commitment to vocational-technical

institutions should be strengthened. It can be anticipated that the study will have some negative effects upon Nebraska's state college and university system. Nebraska's legislators traditionally have been very enrollment-oriented in their approach to the budgetary needs of the state-supported institutions of higher learning. The size of the student body has often had a good deal to do with the size of the appropriation the senators have been willing to grant.

During the 1960s, it often seemed that the business of the state's colleges and universities was to get bigger. It now appears that the opportunity will soon be here to get better—for improvement to outpace the growth of the student population. The Legislature and all others involved in the planning process should take advantage of this chance to truly move toward excellence.

Tom Lansworth



Desperate Democrat dips to smear, slander

The Nebraska Young Democrats' state convention held at Kearney last weekend graphically symbolized to what new lows that party has fallen. Because the YDs had trouble coming up with issues on which to attack the Republicans (is it any wonder?), they resorted to smear and slander, as is becoming more and more the custom of the desperate little group.

Frances Ohmstede, the Democratic national committeewoman for Nebraska, in an address that will be indelibly etched in the annals of Nebraska political history as one of the most vicious and fanatical speeches of all time, managed to imply that the responsibility for the assassination of President John Kennedy lay in the lap of the Republicans! Said Ohmstede: "When the whole sordid mess (Watergate) comes to light, I think there will be a connection between Watergate and the Kennedy

assassination." Naturally, she did not elaborate.

This outrageous charge is all the more pathetic when one considers that not even Ohmstede's favorite politician—Sen. George McGovern—has dared utter such an erroneous allegation.

Yet this was not the end of her remarks. The party hack from Guide Rock then went on to note that the President's impeachment is "the only way to retain democracy." "An end to democracy as we know it," is inevitable if the man in the White House is permitted to continue in office, she further claimed.

This, of course, is the height of folly. Need we remind her that it was the people of the United States, exercising their privilege to vote in the largest democracy on the globe, that barely five months ago gave President Nixon the largest electoral mandate of

any presidential candidate since Franklin Roosevelt? It is the people themselves who currently voice 60 per cent approval of the President's

john vihstadt
different drummer

conduct in office (according to the latest Gallup poll). And it is the people who are siding with Nixon in his attempts to prune the federal bureaucracy, get governmental spending back into line with revenues and eliminate outmoded and wasteful programs.

Additionally, it cannot be denied that here in America we happen to enjoy more civil, political, social and economic liberties and rights than any other people of the world.

Apparently Ohmstede does not set much store by her Democrat colleagues who, incidentally, control the Congress—by margins of 10 seats in the Senate and 50 in the House of Representatives. Why isn't the congressional Democratic majority doing something about this terrible threat to democracy she and people like Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) blabber about?

Frances Ohmstede's ridiculous ravings are not something Nebraskans will take seriously. Perhaps party officials like the current national committeewoman are part of the reason why Cornhuskers are so stingy in awarding victories to Democratic candidates.



to the editor

Letters appear in the *Daily Nebraskan* at the editor's discretion. A letter's appearance is based on its timeliness, originality, coherence and interest. All letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name, but may be submitted for publication under a pen name or initials. Use of such letters will be determined by the editor. Brevity is encouraged. All letters are subject to condensation and editing.

Rotten reviews

Dear editor:

There are some critics who will go to great lengths to point out what they have invented to be flaws in a play, and it is crushing to thoroughly enjoy a play and read a rotten review of it the next day. In the past I have usually been in moderate to severe disagreement with Jim Gray's reviews, and after reading his slanderous interpretation of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, I'm ready to make a few obscene phone calls. I am not acquainted with Gray so I don't know how many theater courses he has taken that make him such an expert on drama. I do

know, however, that as an average moron enjoyer of plays I have never been so aware of the warm reaction of an audience as I was while watching Kosmet Klub's production.

Candy Safarik
Susan Kreifels

Law center appeal

Dear editor:

This letter is an appeal on behalf of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which is located in Montgomery, Ala., and whose president is Julian Bond. The center's function is working on behalf of poor people, particularly blacks, whose plight is partly the result of unjust and often illegal practices of some institutions, such as segregated private schools and private (but state-supported and tax-exempt) white-only orphanages. The center tries to accomplish its objectives by bringing lawsuits against such institutions. For example, the center has asked a federal court to take away the tax-exempt status of segregated juvenile homes in Alabama; to require the state to refer homeless children to state-supported agencies without regard to race; and to require the state to build or license enough shelters to care for all

dependent children who are the state's responsibility. As things stand now, homeless black children have nowhere to go (except to reform schools intended for delinquents or to relatives who lack the means to support them). There are no public child care institutions in Alabama, and the private institutions (some of which are church-related) do not admit black children.

If you would like to support the efforts of the Southern Poverty Law Center by contributing some money (even just a dollar), please write to Julian Bond, the Southern Poverty Law Center, Washington Building, Montgomery, Ala. 36101, and let him know that you support the center's efforts and would like to contribute money to help pay for the lawsuits the center files. He will send you further information.

Linda Deasey

Ladely splash

Dear editor:

This comment is in reference to the "splash" you gave Dan Ladely in the April 6 issue of the *Friday* magazine. I have nothing against Dan personally, but woe be unto a University that places on a pedestal a man who takes eight years to complete his bachelor's degree.

K.R.S.