

Bronx cheer

The news that the Board of Regents extended visitation hours for UNL dormitory residents ought to be met with cheers—Bronx cheers. For while the board acted correctly in extending the hours, it once again has refused to decide the basic issue: whether students ought to determine their own living environment. For several years the board has dallied like a man who knows the answers to a crossword puzzle but refuses to fill them in. Surely the board must be aware that by not granting dormitory residents the full rights due them, it is not serving the best interests of the University.

This year, the dormitories are operating at 93 per cent capacity. It takes 90 per cent average yearly occupancy for them to break even. Some UNL officials fear that because of the traditional second semester drop in dormitory occupancy, this year's average may not meet the break-even point. This will mean higher dorm rates and poorer services for students living in residence halls.

If a rate hike becomes necessary, it will become more evident that the regents are to blame for the dormitories' economic ills. They certainly are aware of the situation at the University of Iowa: for the first time in several years, that school has more than enough applicants to live in the dormitories. This overflow follows the Iowa Board of Regents decision to allow liquor and full visitation in the dorms. It seems there would be a lesson here for our business-minded Board of Regents.

But what is even more perplexing is why the board refuses to grant full rights to dormitory residents when it has accepted the philosophy behind the pleas. By approving earlier visitation plans, the board has endorsed the philosophy behind 24-hour visitation. This philosophy includes:

—That students have the right to determine their own living environment. The board approved this by allowing individual dormitory floors to set their own visitation hours.

—That students have the right to have guests of the opposite sex in their rooms.

—That visitation is not evil or wrong.

But while the philosophies are the same, the board still refuses to recognize its own precedent.

The reason for this must be political expediency. The regents must believe that to grant students full visitation rights would be political suicide. But they also must be aware that students will not be content with scraps from the master's table. It is time the regents acted courageously, putting political affairs aside, and endorsed 24-hour visitation. To do anything else is to contradict the best interests of the University.

Michael (O.J.) Nelson

President Nixon:

UNCLE SAM ERVIN



WANTS YOU

Don
DONALD M. MAYER

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.

Dear editor:

The regents' decision this summer on visitation hours is disappointing.

The board still is trying to play watchdog, assuming it has been given a mandate from parents to keep an eye on students while they are away from home. At most schools this "in loco parentis" concept went out a long time ago.

It almost is a cliché at UNL that an 18-year-old man or woman, having been judged mature enough to participate in decisions governing a whole nation, is judged not responsible enough to govern his or her own conduct after 12:30 a.m.

Whom a student wishes to entertain in his or her room, when he or she wishes to entertain that person, should not be a privilege extended by the Board of Regents. It is a student's right.

Lewis James Lewis



to the editor

Political doldrums fade; optimism new watchword

John Vihstadt is a Law College freshman.

America these past summer months has seemed to languish in a mire of despair, desperation and defeatism over the Watergate affair and related improper political activities. Peoples' confidence in their elected leaders has been badly shaken.

The President's incomprehensible failure to come to grips publicly with the myriad of questions left unanswered has been at least partially responsible for the protraction of Watergate. Nixon made a serious error with damaging consequences in loftily attempting to stay above the battle. By feeding the national suspicion with alternate doses of silence and evasive rhetoric, he provoked rumor and innuendo.

Recent events, however, indicate that both the President and the country are rallying to make a strong

emergence from his "splendid isolation" to hold a refreshingly forthright press

john vihstadt

different drummer

comeback from the throes of Watergate. The national psyche was boosted when the President at last

conference Aug. 22. He weathered some of the most acrimonious interrogation of his public life by responding in a direct and unequivocal manner.

The reputable Sindlinger Poll issued late last week reveals that the President's job approval rating is up to its highest level since before the televised inquisition interrupted the airways last May. The most recent Gallup reading indicates solid gains in popularity for the chief executive.

The nation's economic problems are put into perspective by a report of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. The annual U.S. inflation rate for fiscal year 1973 was 5.9%—the second lowest in the Free World. Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Japan and France each had a significantly greater inflationary index than the U.S. did.

Social Security benefits have gone up 125% since 1950, whereas the consumer price index has advanced only 75%. Food prices have begun to drop. Unemployment stands at the lowest point in three and a half years.

The classified ads of virtually every newspaper in the country are crammed with job openings of all kinds. The stock market is on the rise as America's exports overseas skyrocket and our balance of payments move from a deficit to a healthy surplus.

Closer to home, average net income per farm will leap from \$6,856 in 1972 to \$8,800 this year. Meat packing plants in Nebraska are reopening (two locations being Schuyler and Grand Island) after temporary shutdowns brought about by the ill-advised beef price freeze.

In short, things are getting better. Optimism is the new watchword.