

## Decline in enrollment

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The legislative fiscal report says that the major reason for the decline is the reduction of the number of students entering UNL and UNO. Enrollments in the University of Nebraska system should level off by 1979, after the projected decline of the next six years, the report says.

According to the report, the major reasons for the decline in the postsecondary enrollment in the next decade are the declining birth rate and the decline in the number of high school graduates continuing their education.

Eldon Ehrlich, director of the legislative fiscal staff, said the state's birth rate dropped after 1961 and that there is a historical correlation between the birth rate and the number of students in postsecondary schools. He said the largest source of new students for Nebraska colleges is Nebraska high school graduates.

The report said the percentage of high school graduates continuing their education after graduation has declined since 1968, when 50 per cent of the graduates went on to Nebraska colleges or universities.

The state's 15 private colleges are projected to have the largest enrollment drops, with an average yearly decline of 4.13 per cent until 1979. That is an average decline of 484 students annually, or 2,904 students over the six year period.

The study says Nebraska's four state colleges experienced their most drastic enrollment decline between 1971 and 1973, and those figures are now projected to level off. Chadron State College is the only state college projected to have an enrollment increase (a 969 student rise).

The Nebraska technical community colleges were organized by the Legislature in 1971, and the study says they will have an average enrollment decline of 1.95 per cent.

Ehrlich said the 1973-74 projections were nearly 99 per cent accurate for overall totals when compared with the actual data for the same years.

## Sexism in religion discussed

By Mary Shackelton

Talking about "Sexism and the Church" is a lot like a blindman describing an elephant, Ida Holzbauer, an intern at the UNL Counseling Center, said as she opened a discussion at Women/Speak '74 Wednesday.

"What our attitudes are towards women in religion say much about our attitudes towards women in the family unit," Holzbauer said.

Holzbauer, who urged the audience to relate their own attitudes about sexism and the church, drew varied audience responses.

"The concepts and attitudes some women appear to be bringing to the ministry worry me," said a pastor from a local church. He said he thought that some women who became ministers did so for "escapist" reasons.

The "love relationship some women have with the man Jesus" effects the way women ministers handle their duties he said.

"This has always been the sort of attitude I've detected," he said.

### Opposing reactions

This opinion drew opposing reactions from others in the audience. "Pure drive!" is how one woman described it.

"The love relationship between Christ and man is strong for all ages and both sexes," another said.

Getting more women into office-holding positions within churches was another topic that drew audience reactions.

One person cited the example of a woman who was fired from her job by her boss, who attended the same church because she ran for a church council position.

Several persons agreed that "shock treatment" was necessary to change existing oppression against women in the church structure.

"More radical moves must be made before we are taken seriously," a woman involved in change within her own church said.

Holzbauer stressed the need for raising the consciousness of both men and women.

"Women have the responsibility to really get in and talk sincerely with men to find out where they are on this issue," she said.

### Changing pronouns favored

Changing pronouns in the worship service from he to she was a change favored by audience members and an associate pastor from a Methodist church.

"There has been enough historical research and translation to say we can go to 'her' in many cases," he said.

The interpretation of St. Paul's admonition that women should keep quiet in church matters causes "ambivalent feelings in many women when they try to assert themselves as persons in the church," Holzbauer said.

"This scriptural interpretation puts frosting on the issue, and requires cultural interpretation and the need to sort cultures out," she said.

Holzbauer questioned whether the "greater enemy is men in church hierarchy or women in pews."

### Church efforts praised

Ruth Kruse, a minister's wife, praised the efforts in churches that have active commissions changing the language used in worship services and Sunday school texts.

She said she thought that women could effectively use the control they now have in Sunday school programs to bring about needed changes.

"Right now Sunday school is not a very inspiring situation for anyone," she said. More men should become involved in Sunday School programs, she added.

More women are becoming involved in church business administration, said one male church administrator in the audience.

"There's almost a 50-50 situation in this field," he said.



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