

Retiring Centennial aide 'loves students dearly'

A plaque over the fireplace in the reception room shows what Centennial program students think of Sally Gordon, the administrative assistant retiring June 30 after six years of work with the Centennial Education Program.

"It pleases me more than anything," she said, referring to the plaque, "that they have named the room after me."

The 66-year-old Gordon, who said she isn't happy unless she is working, is waiting to be interviewed for what she terms "an exciting job possibility in Washington, D.C."

Working as receptionist, balancing the budget,

listening to problems and lending her marker pens, her time and her smile to Centennial students, Gordon is on the job from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The students are her friends, she said, and she "loves them dearly."

Secretary

Before joining the Centennial Education Program at its start in 1969, Gordon worked as secretary in the physics department at the university.

Chicago-born, Gordon has worked as secretary under three Nebraska governors. The award-winning stenographer's life has been filled with an assortment

of jobs, from court reporter to secretary for various real estate firms.

She is proud of the "high caliber of students" in Centennial, she said, and she describes it as having a comfortable and warm atmosphere.

Acting mother

The mother of four UNL graduates, Gordon said she is "acting mother" to her Centennial "kids."

Working for Nelson Potter, head Centennial Fellow, Gordon starts the day by checking the mail, responding to notes from Potter and answering phone calls. Her day is filled with meeting people and with her tasks as a public relations go-between for other campus colleges and Centennial.

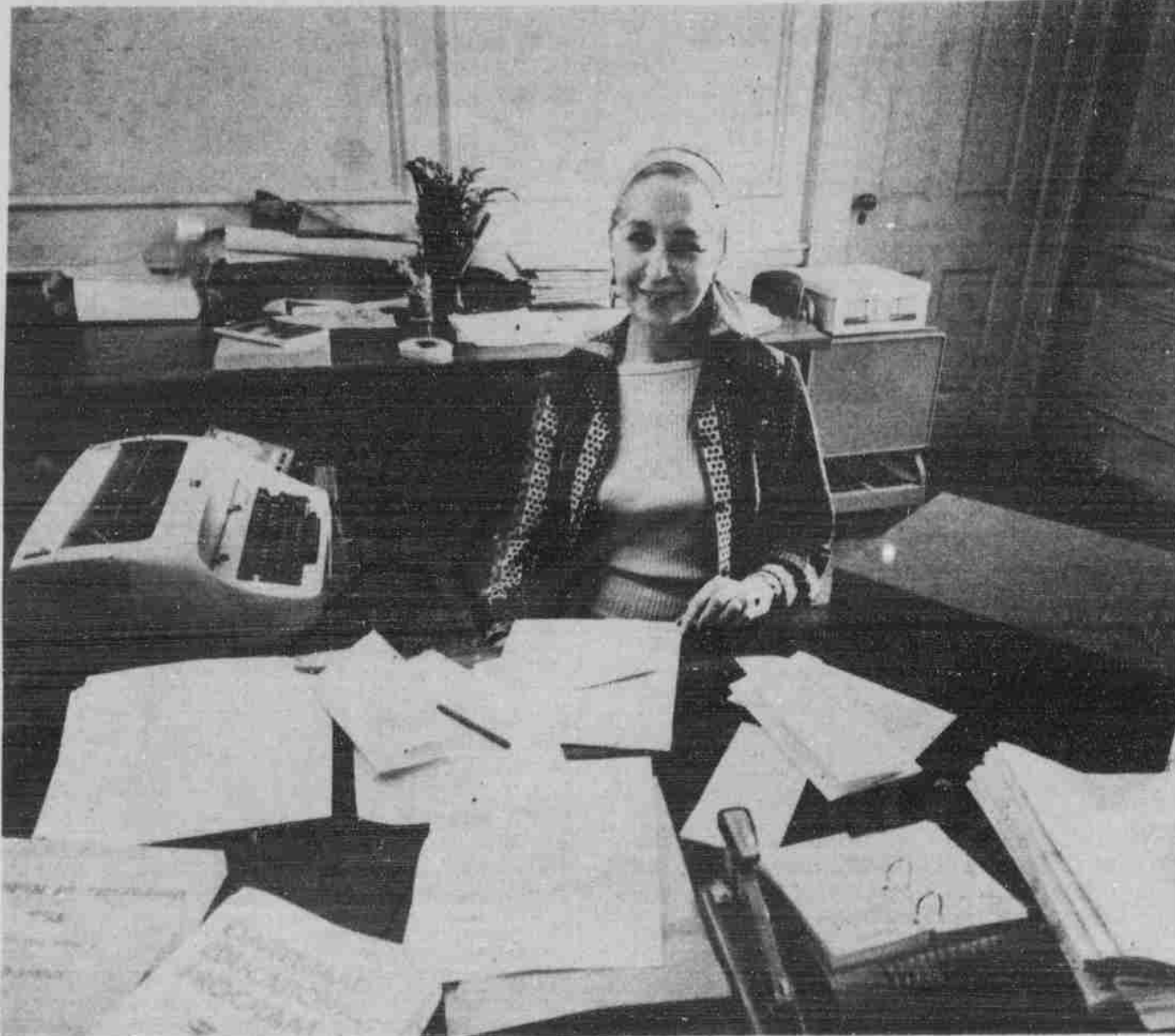
She also bowls, knits, crochets, gardens and reads. At home, Gordon said, she "really relaxes," and wears clothes "that could haunt a house."

Stylish

But at work she wears hoop earrings, a scarf tied stylishly around her hair, matching slacks and sweater, and boots, looking like the model she is. She was a part-time model for Hovland-Swanson's, she said, and still models for the Lincoln General Hospital benefits.

Gordon said there will be a reception for former Centennial students and faculty Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Raymond Hall TV Lounge. May 1 at 3:30 p.m. a reception will be held for her campus friends in the Commons room at Centennial.

A note taped to Gordon's desk makes her "dewey eyed" about leaving. It reads: "I'll reinvent the rose for you." And the grandmother of four said she still receives orchids from Centennial men who tell her she is their "best girl."



Sally Gordon, retiring Centennial Education Program administrative assistant

Photo by Ted Kirk

Students to work as summer police

Chief Gail Gade of Campus Police has announced that two students will be hired this summer to help fill in for vacationing officers.

The students, both from the criminal justice program, will be named in about a week, according to Ron Fritz, assistant director of scholarships and financial aids. He said that the students will be paid in part by Campus Police and in part by a national Law Enforcement Education Program grant.

Gade said the students, called cadet interns, will work over a two-month period helping to fill manpower shortages caused by vacationing officers. He said the cadet interns probably will work during the day and carry out regular patrol duty.

UNL services, programs to be cut

Declining tuition revenue and inflation will cause a cut in academic programs and services for UNL students, Larry Braskamp, assistant to the chancellor said last Thursday.

Braskamp said an overall enrollment decline throughout the university system has caused a drop from last year's \$12.6 million tuition total. A 12 per cent inflation rate has cost the university additional money, he said.

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee last week approved a \$73.8 million university appropriation that represents a 14 per cent increase over last year's total. But NU President D.B. Varner asked for \$84 million.

The university community will be affected by severe budget reductions, Braskamp said.

Faculty reduction

The UNL faculty could be reduced although no plans have been made to release university personnel, he said. Faculty members cannot expect large salary increases, he added. Braskamp said the UNL administration also may have to reduce the number of personnel aiding students with registration.

Programs will have to be reduced to

offset limited revenues, Braskamp said.

"We will have to find funds which are used for current programs to finance new programs," Braskamp said. He added, however, that the Legislature might give some money for new programs.

Improvement funds

The Appropriations Committee approved about \$900,000 in improvement funds for programs in animal science, business administration, actuarial science, special education, music and music theater.

Miles Tommeraasen, vice chancellor for business and finance, said enrollment would be taken into consideration when UNL administrators determine departmental budgets. Some departments may be financed out of proportion to the enrollment within them, he said.

Citing departments within Teachers College and the College of Arts and Sciences as having declining enrollment, Tommeraasen said these budgets may have to be cut.

Other departments may need additional financing to accommodate increasing enrollment, he said. He said the accounting department in the College of

Business Administration may need additional financing.

"We will need to shift the budget load from some departments to other departments and plan so that people will not lose their jobs," Tommeraasen said.

Federal financing limited

While administrators are concerned about adequate state financing, there is little hope for federal financing of teaching programs at UNL, Braskamp said.

Federal grants are limited to finance research and special programs, he said. There are no federal funds applicable to general education programs, Braskamp said.

Last year UNL received about \$4.4 million in federal grants. For 1975-76, the federal grant total is expected to be about \$2.7 million.

A procedure for determining departmental financing has not been developed, pending action by the Legislature and governor in allocating state funds to the university, Braskamp and Tommeraasen said. They agreed that UNL's budgeting will begin in May or June when a definite state appropriation has been made.

Despite economy, sales tax revenues increase

By Chuck Beck

Increased sales tax revenue for December and January does not necessarily reflect a healthy economy, according to Gary Chunka, assistant state tax commissioner.

Nebraska Department of Revenue statistics show that December sales tax revenue increased 17.1 per cent over November's. Sales tax revenue continued to increase by 7.3 per cent in January, over taxes collected during December.

The percentage change was based on the fiscal year from July 1, 1974 up to February 1. Figures for February have not been compiled by the department.

Chunka said the increased sales tax revenue does not indicate actual economic growth. Much of the increase is due to inflation, which artificially increased prices about 13 per cent last year, Chunka explained.

Statistics published in a report by the UNL Bureau of Business Research indicate that retail sales tax revenue increased around the state last year. Retail sales tax revenue for December 1974 compared to December 1973 ranged from a 9.9 per cent increase at Grand Island to a 16.9 per cent decrease at Sidney, according to the report.

These sales tax figures reflect Christmas business and "indicate that the 1974 holiday trade was better than in 1973," the report stated.

Although revenue from sales tax is increasing, Chunka said he anticipates a decline in revenue for the rest of the year. He said a recessionary trend in the economy may lower the 13 per cent rate of price increases to 6 per cent this year.

The department has not made predictions for the amount of revenue that could be collected this year, he said.

"Consumers will tend to hold off on spending because of the uncertainty of the economy," Chunka said. "It may be that the tax rebates (part of President Gerald Ford's economic policy) will help to some degree, but not all rebate money will be returned to Nebraska."

Chunka said the \$100 rebate taxpayers received this year could be spent outside Nebraska, which would not reflect on sales tax revenue collected by his department. Rebate money also might be spent on nontaxable services, he added.

Because much of the revenue collected by the state reflects on agriculture, Chunka said, the department is predicting a year in which farmers would produce normal farm yields.

"If we have drought conditions this year, all our predictions would change," he said. "We could have a large decline in the amount of revenue collected."