

Predictions made of 1980 youth

By Rex Henderson

As the children of the post-World War II baby boom pass into adulthood, a new generation of youth is entering the colleges and universities.

Dr. Robert Egbert, dean of the UNL Teacher's College, is looking at the problems and challenges this new group of college students will present to society.

Egbert is completing a survey of literature on the problems and attitudes of this generation and looking toward further study of the subject.

Population studies show that college-age youths are declining as a percentage of the population, according to Mary Kluender, a graduate student assisting Egbert in the study.

Egbert's study is looking at "the possibility that as you change the relationship of the number of youths to population they may view themselves and society differently," Kluender said.

Youth culture

The post-war baby boom produced a dramatic rise in the number of college-age youths as a percentage of the total U.S. population in the late '60's and fueled what was known as the "youth culture," she said.

That youth culture produced some sudden changes in society's attitudes towards youth, and youth attitudes toward society, she said.

She noted the Viet Nam war protests, student rebellions on college campuses and changing regulations governing student life as the result of the youth culture.

Kluender and Egbert are looking at the psychological and sociological changes the declining number of college students will produce.

The study hopes to predict what kinds of students will be in universities during the 1980s, according to Kluender.

Individualism predicted

The college students of the 1960's were very group oriented, Kluender said. The students of the future may be more individualistic because they grew up in smaller families.

The study also is looking at the changes in the military, businesses and schools necessary to deal with the new generation of students.

"During the 1960's administrators had to look at students differently than before but I don't see a new crisis emerging," she said.

The impetus for Egbert's study came from a report by a national panel on major educational issues in 1973, chaired by Dr. James Coleman, a University of Chicago education professor, Kluender said.

Kluender said Egbert's literature survey will be complete in September.

The present study is being funded by a \$9,944 grant from the U.S. Office of Education.



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Forum gets largest of five grants

The Nebraska Forum on Human Values, a project of UNL's Division of Continuing Studies, has been awarded the largest of five grants by the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities.

The \$36,323 grant could be increased \$5,000 by the National Endowment for the Humanities, according to project director Orvid Owens.

The forum, which provides speakers to adult, non-profit organizations throughout the state, could receive the additional \$5,000 if the state committee for the humanities can match the \$5,000 with its own money.

The speakers provided are all faculty members of Nebraska colleges and universities who teach history, philosophy, literature, ethics, social sciences, economics and other fields of the humanities and are paid with the funds provided by the Humanities Committee.

From September 1977 to June 1978, the Nebraska Forum, which began in 1975 as the American Issues Forum, will offer 21 topics and 21 different programs.

Members of the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, which provided the funding for the forum from UNL include Raymond Haagh and Elmer Miller.



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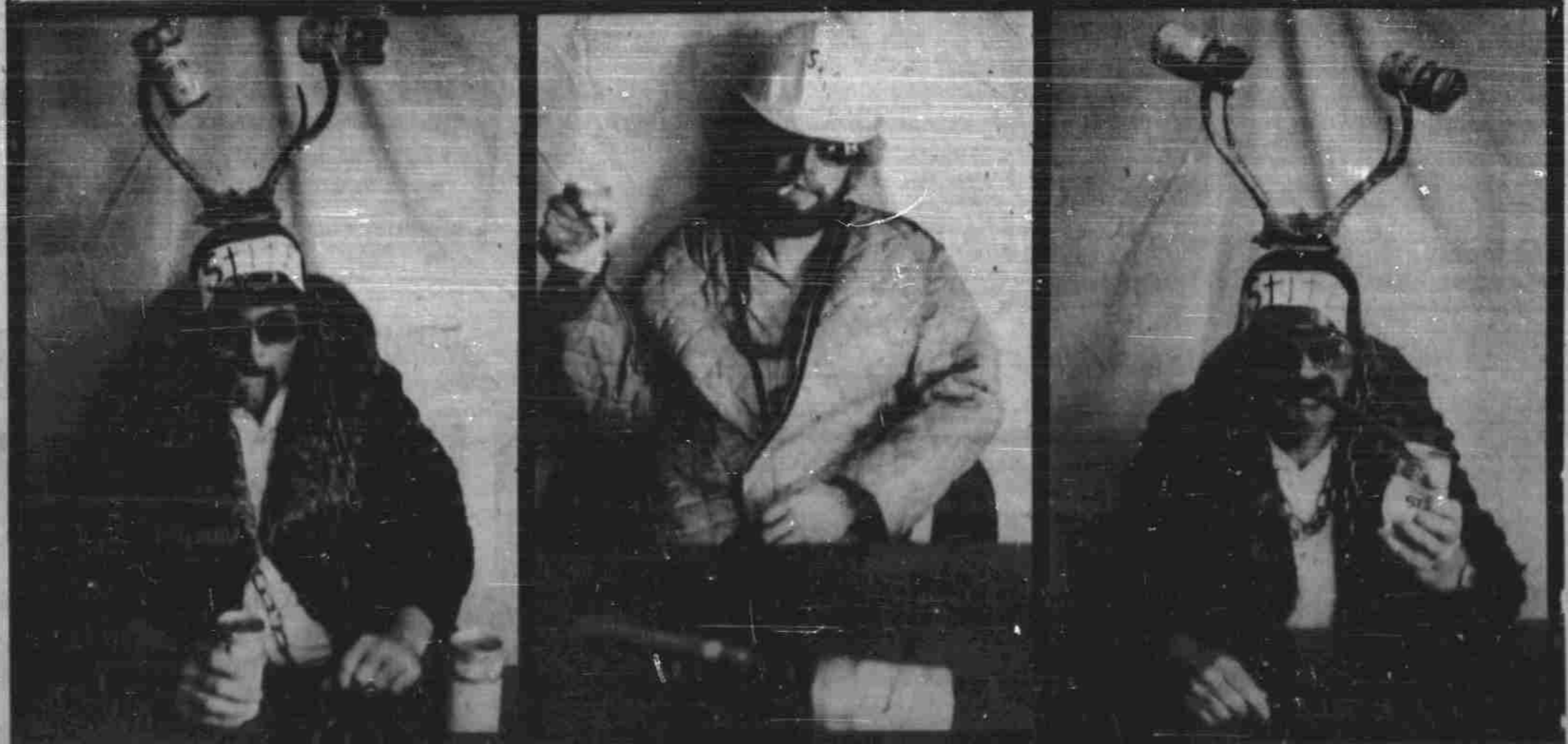
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