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Rutford says UNL will survive financial pinch



Photo by Kent Morgan Olsen Robert Rutford

By Jim Faddis

UNL may be going through difficult financial times, but it will survive and continue to be the biggest and strongest industry in Lincoln, Interim Chancellor Robert Rutford told the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Thursday.

"The university is not going to fall apart," Rutford said. "We may not be able to have some things that we would like to have, but we will still be here."

Rutford said the main strengths of the university, its good faculty and students; will pull it through the difficult financial times, but, he added, it will be a challenge for the university to keep high quality faculty in the next decade.

UNL attracts good faculty, Rutford said, but has trouble keeping them because private business and other universities offer them more money than UNL can.

"The quality of our faculty can be seen in that in the past three years, we have dropped 75 faculty positions, while in the same time, enrollment has increased by 1,000 and we are doing 100 percent more research," Rutford said.

"But we need to start rewarding the faculty financially or else we'll lose them."

He said the university has started a four-year program

to raise the faculty salary base, but presently it is having trouble staying competitive with private business and other universities.

"We are trying to be competitive now on an individual basis, but this causes morale problems with other faculty members," Rutford said.

Competition for business professors has made it hard for UNL to fill some positions in the College of Business Administration, Rutford said. UNL is looking for an accounting professor, he said, but there are presently 470 accounting positions open in the country, but only 70 people available to fill them.

Rutford said enrollment at the college has been limited because the university can't provide enough faculty to do a good job.

"We don't want to expand the college too much because students interests fluctuate so much," he said. "There may be a lot of students wanting into the business college now, but in a few years there may not be."

On another subject, Rutford said he supports the proposed regional veterinary college because in the long run it will be a benefit to Lincoln and the rest of the university.

Rutford said he supports the veterinary college, not because it will give the state more veterinarians, but because of the research benefits from it.

Legislative candidates debate NU, state issues

By Mary Kempkes

Regent Kermit Hansen's proposal to move the teacher's college from UNL to UNO is part of a movement in which Omaha is "chip, chip, chipping away" at the Lincoln campus, according to legislaive candidate Lavon Crosby. been incorporated into the university system but should have remained a state college and now Lincoln must resist every attempt to reduce the campus.

Marsh also addressed state funding of NU and said "The university has been underfunded for a number of years."

group, the Lancaster County Young Republicans.

Crosby and Marsh conflicted on the socalled "ban-the-bong" issue. Crosby said she supported the bill despite its legal problems while Marsh said she had been against the bill and cited court defeats with a similar Iowa law as her reason. Marsh said the bill, designed to outlaw the sale of drug paraphernalia, was too vague and risked being ruled unconstitutional as was a similar law last month in a case brought against the state of Iowa by Ames, Iowa head shop operators. But Marsh said she supported it and countered with, "The ERA cannot destroy families. Only people can destroy families. The ERA speaks only to equality. It doesn't speak to families."

The ERA is one tool but not the only

Crosby faced eight-year Sen. Shirley Marsh Thursday night at a debate in the Southeast High School auditorium.

Sen. Marsh also attacked Hansen's plan, which calls for reorganization of the university system, and said removal of the nurses' school from UNL would hurt Lincoln's hospitals.

But the Nebraska Legislature has little control over UNL, Marsh said. The regents run NU, she said.

Crosby said UNO should never have

18 percent increase

"When funces are cut from a bare-bones budget then it s necessary for the regents to ask for an 18 percent increase next year."

And although Marsh said she would support increasing funding for NU, she can't speak for the other 48 senators and Crosby agreed.

"I do think we have money problems," Crosby said, "but I think you're going to have a hard time with that 18 percent, getting it through."

The two candidates for the 29th district addressed other concerns of the sponsor

"Not completely essential"

The Equal Rights Amendment could "destroy the traditional family unit" Crosby said and therefore she would not support it. The ERA is "not completely essential" for women's rights, she said, because women are making their gains in the marketplace, "little by little." method that can be used to ensure Nebraska women of equality, Marsh said. Marsh said state statutes were recently updated in an attempt to delete sex discrimination from the books. Marsh also said she would support a state ERA amendment if the attempt for a national amendment fails.

Both candidates said they opposed the repeal of state food taxes and Marsh said Nebraska has had problems in recent years because college students and parents both apply for a food refund when only one is entitled the money. But it costs more to track cheaters than to refund the tax, she said, so the state foots the bill.

Speaker says prisons don't rehabilitate inmates

B ' Patti Gallagher

An i mate was q ickly hand-cuffed and led into the small room. He was tied to a straight back chair and given a chance to sp ak a final time. After being blindfolded and capped, the switch was hit and electricity shot through the man's body.

The shock tore open the man's shirt to reveal a large tatoo painted across his chest. When the body was removed from the chair, his tatoo could be read: Born to Lose, it said. And he had.

Calling this true story a "sad commentary" on the U.S. prison systems, the director of the Arizona Department of Corrections said the one thing U.S. corrections experts are experts in is knowing how to kill.

Ellis C. MacDougall, who directed several southern state prisons, spoke Thursday to about 100 people at the Citizens Conference on Corrections.

MacDougall criticized the nation's prisons, saying they do not rehabilitate the inmates.

Webster's dictionary defines rehabilitation as "to restore dignity," he said. After asking if "they (prisoners) have much dignity anyway," he suggested the word be changed to habilitation.

Designed to fail

"I don't think we've tried to rehabilitate." MacDougall said. "I don't think we've designed the institutions to rehabilitate." They are designed to fail and organized to fail, he said.

Nicknamed Big Bear, Bullyman, Up-Date Dude, and Pig Chief Administrator by inmates from prisons across the country, MacDeugall relayed many of his experiences to exemplify the failure of the prison system. Part of the problem, MacDougall said, is that prisons are behind the times. The corrections system has only showed progress in the last 15 years, he said. By comparison, prisons are where the mental health profession was 50 years ago, he said.

The first federal grant for prisons, according to Mac-Dougall, came in 1967. A South Carolina prison system was awarded \$225,000 for vocational training.

The public, however, expects prisons to work better and produce better results, he said,

"They want to jump over history and make it work," he said. "We are allowing the public to expect too much from us."

The atmosphere of the prison breeds men to fail, Mac-Dougall said. He said he encountered an inmate in Arizona, who was a past gang member and wanted to remain in the prison structure because he had no ties to the world outside.

Inmates are brothers

The man considered the other inmates as his brothers, MacDougall said. He said 'his whole world was the other inmates in that prison."

When MacDougall began in the Arizona system in 1978, he visited a juvenile rehabilitation center. A center with a 70 person capacity, it houses 134 juveniles.

The children were kept in cages 24 hours a day, he said. They ate and slept on the floor and chains were bolted on the children's ankles.

In 1980, he said, "we're just coming out of the wilderness."

Another problem in the current prison system is the lack of trained personnel. While directing a Georgia institution in 1971 none of the 60 correction officers had more than a high school diploma, he said. Four of the officers were illiterate, he said.

MacDougall said prison systems should be directed by professionals, trained in money management and human compassion.

A possible solution for our prison systems might be the creation of a board of directors in each community. He said the combination of "some of the best business minds" and community leaders might increase efficiency of prisons.

Near the end of his speech, MacDougall paused and told the audience he was an expert.

"I am an expert on killing people. I have killed six men in my life," he said.

"The only thing I can guarantee my people, my governor and my state is that I know how to kill. The only thing your corrections experts know about is how to kill."



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