

# Task force...

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Kreiziner said he has only reviewed a packet of materials sent to him at this point, and until after the group's first meeting, he couldn't suggest any specific recommendations.

The task force is comprised of members with a wide range of backgrounds, McGee said.

"They were chosen after it was agreed on the classifications that should be represented," he said.

"We needed a well-rounded committee, with various areas of expertise on it," McGee said.

The committee's recommendations will go to the city council first, and then to the planning commission, where they will be evaluated as part of the city's Comprehensive Plan, McGee said.

Finally, a proposal will be translated into a formal resolution, and if it is accepted, a planning consultant will be hired.

The resolution forming the task force provides the members one year from Sept. 14, the day they were appointed, to come up with a plan, McGee said.

# Prison crowding will force reform—criminologist

By Susan MacDonald

A rapidly changing, heterogeneous society and shallow thinking on the part of some corrections officials have contributed to the poor condition of the United States' correctional system, a criminologist said Thursday. And, he added, unless changes are made, the future of corrections in America looks bleak.

Harry E. Allen, a professor of criminal justice at San Jose State University and the president-elect of the American Society of Criminology, told a large audience in the Rostrum of the Nebraska Union that corrections authorities have erred in predicting future crime rates.

He said officials have failed to appreciate that people move selectively into urban areas. Allen said their children are paying the price in terms of delinquency.

Officials also have failed to appreciate the closing of economic structures and opportunities for employment, he said.

### Too many 'have nots'

"People are coming to urban settings with minimal employment skills," Allen said. This has produced several generations of "have nots," he said.

These errors were noticed in the early 1970s, Allen said. There are more than 320,000 people in the United States under correctional restraint of some sort, and Allen said this figure is increasing steadily.

"The basic causes of crime lie in the social fabric," Allen said. Overcrowding in prisons is so serious that 19 states are under court order to reduce their prison populations, Allen said. He said many lawsuits have been filed over prison conditions, and this is going to continue.

Inmates are seeking relief, Allen said, by forming unions and other groups to pressure prison administrators into changing practices. Inmates have gone to court over poor conditions and won, he said. Prison administrators are becoming cautious because they think almost anything they do will be challenged in court, he said.

It is also becoming increasingly expensive to maintain prisons, Allen said. It now costs \$30,000 to \$60,000 just

to open a prison cell, he said, and every person in America pays about \$108 a year to keep up the criminal justice system.

If trends continue, Allen said, by the year 2000 it will cost \$300 per person in the United States to maintain the system. He projected there will be 1.2 million people incarcerated by then, with a cost of \$33,000 per inmate per year for prison maintenance.

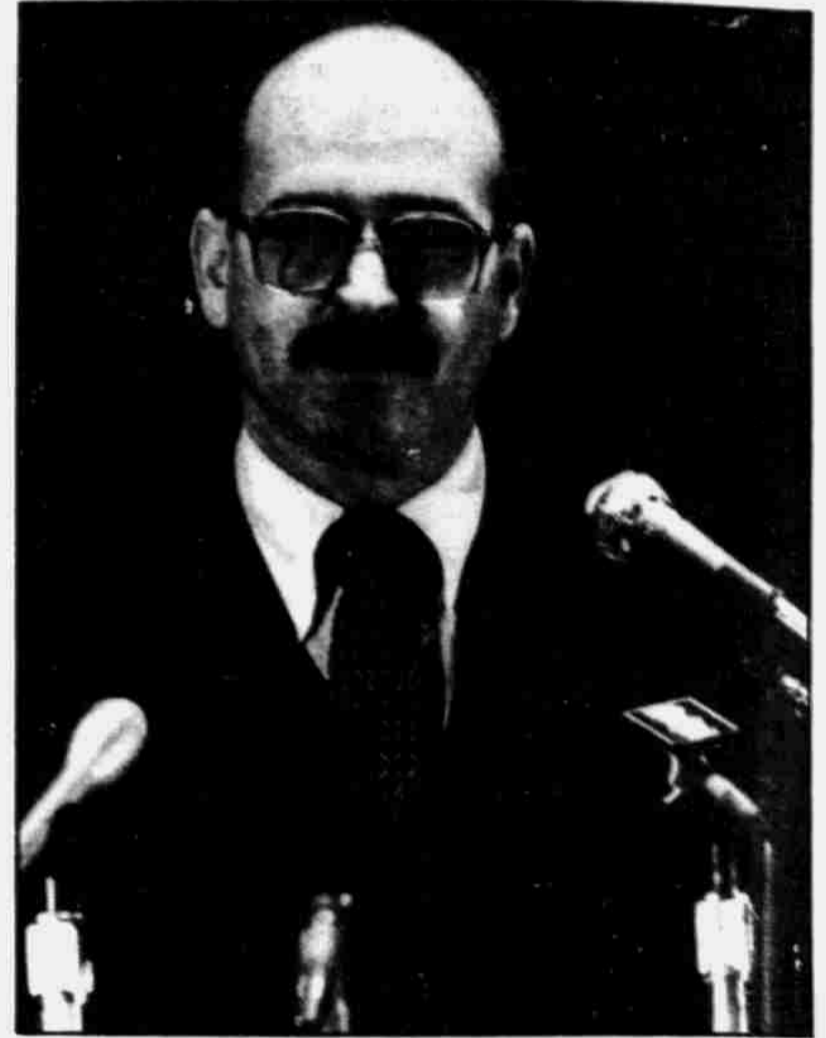
Resources are not expendable, Allen said. "Corrections will have to do better with less (in the future)," he said.

### Increase probation

Allen said too many persons are being sent to prison and alternatives should be used. The use of probation should increase. He suggested the state pay subsidies to local communities for increased use of probation. He also said short-term incarceration and parole will be more frequently used.

As a long range alternative, Allen said corrections departments should be combined into one agency and controlled at the state level. He said this idea of relieving counties of correctional responsibility would be "wildly unpopular," due to political differences between state and local governments.

Allen also suggested giving convicted criminals the choice of treatment or punishment. This approach, which Allen said would meet much resistance, would require criminals to enter a treatment program, or serve a flat-time sentence without parole that would be multiplied if the offender committed another crime. He said the idea is to make the person responsible for his own behavior.



Daily Nebraskan photo

Harry E. Allen, a professor of criminal justice at San Jose University and president-elect of the American Society of Criminology, told an audience in the Nebraska Union Rostrum that the fabric of society is responsible for crime.

# Six neighborhoods to show, celebrate year-long project

By Martin Neary

History will come to life in the County-City Building on Nov. 15 when an oral history of six Lincoln neighborhood groups will be presented to the public.

The six neighborhoods—North Bottoms, South Salt Creek, College View, Near South, Yankee Hill and University Place—will celebrate the culmination of year-long oral history projects.

Each neighborhood has created and will display a slide and tape show illustrating how people were affected by their neighborhood and the impact people have had in their area. The presentation, which will include a video show, will identify long-time residents, display artifacts and highlight change in life styles.

"We find these neighborhood histories all intertwined," said Barbara Hager, project director. Hager said one goal of the project is to assist the neighborhoods in discovering a sense of history within their areas.

Another goal is to help neighborhood associations find people who may become active members, Hager said. The oral histories should be viewed as an on-going project to collect oral history through older residents, she said.

In addition to the amount of time and energy neighborhood committees have donated, Hager said UNL has played an intricate role. Ten interns worked with the groups and two graduate students, Kathy Fimple and Sue Conley, are co-chairpersons.

The internships and the entire oral history project are financed by a \$19,000 grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities. Mini-grants from the same source have pushed the funding to about \$25,000, Hager said.

After the celebration, which Hager termed only the beginning, a tape and transcript of the project will be donated to the Nebraska State Historical Society.

The celebration will be from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the main lobby of the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.



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