

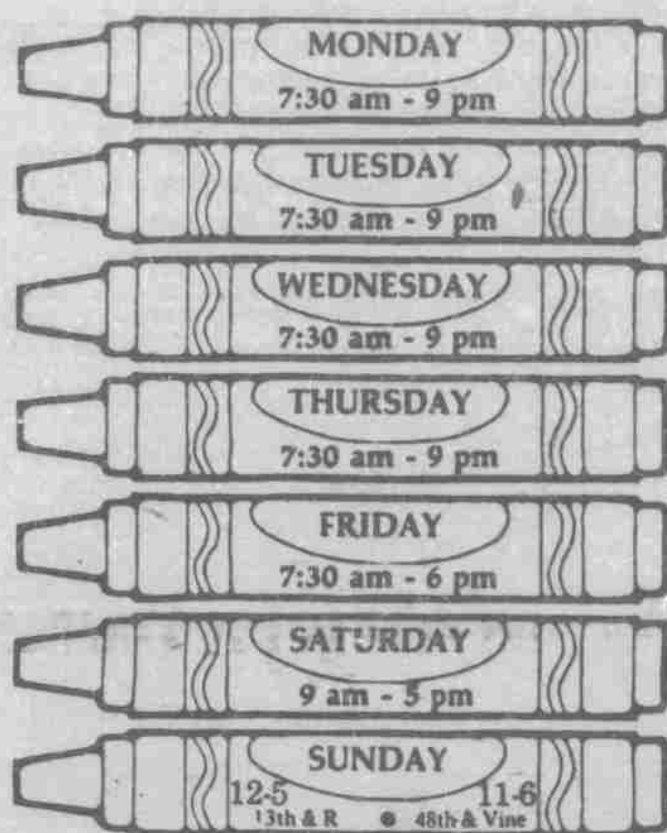
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Enrollment increases in teacher programs is first in decade

By Mark Davis

For the first time in more than a decade, enrollment in teacher-education programs is increasing. But James O'Hanlon, dean of UNL's Teachers College attributes the nationwide growth as a simple issue of supply and demand.

In an informal poll of officials from 45 member institutions of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, enrollment was reported to be on the upswing. O'Hanlon said UNL enrollment was leveling off after a drop from the peak of 4,200 students in the 1960s to about 2,300 students last fall.

"It's a simple issue of supply and demand," O'Hanlon said. "For example, there was a tremendous decline in math teachers until students became aware of the job possibilities." Another example he cited was an increase in foreign language classes creating a need for more teachers in that area.

In a study conducted by the University of Illinois, UNL teacher-education programs were rated as number one in the nation. O'Hanlon said he could not predict how this would effect UNL's future enrollment.

"Potential students have listed it as a reason for coming here," O'Hanlon said. "But there will be no way of finding out the ratings effects until a study is conducted."

Legislation increasing teacher salaries has been passed in a few states. This was listed as one reason for teacher-education enrollment increases in the AASCU poll. Similar local legislation did not pass last year but O'Hanlon said he still had hope for its passage.

Nebraska's teachers salaries are in the nation's bottom 10 percent, O'Hanlon said. Compared with Nebraska's top 10 rating in standardized testing, graduation percentages and literacy, which is ironical, O'Hanlon said.

"The value system of Nebraska is education oriented," O'Hanlon said.

Residence halls...

Continued from Page 1

Television viewers in the residence halls will soon have access to another channel — KBGT (Channel 8), also called "Big 8 TV." The independent commercial station, which originates from Albion, carries old movies and sports. Schumann said a special antenna will be used to bring the channel into the residence hall rooms. Neihardt Residence Center will get new, durable windows "that should last 30 to 40 years" when installed, Schumann said. Besides replacing windows which are more than 50 years old and in poor shape, the new windows offer easy maintenance and energy efficiency, he said.

In Love Memorial Cooperative for Women on East Campus, four new bathroom facilities are being installed. Two will be completed by this fall, Schumann said.

Norma Weigert, coordinator of accounting and payroll for university housing, said funding for any major renovations comes from bond fund monies created for improvements in housing and other "auxiliary enterprises" such as the University Health Center.

According to Zatechka, housing has budgeted about \$300,000 per year in the last two years for major renovations, with fire safety additions constituting an additional \$250,000 per year.

Summer is the best time for major renovations because the residence halls are largely unoccupied during the summer, Zatechka said.

Schumann said summer wear and tear on the halls, despite popular belief, is probably less than what occurs during the regular school year. He said the many youth groups who use the residence halls in the summer are usually carefully chaperoned and "just aren't here long enough" to create much of a problem.

A figure of 10,000 people "would be conservative" for estimating summer occupants, Schumann said. About 120 groups, with member numbers ranging from less than a dozen to more than 1,000, are using the halls this summer, Zatechka said. This is "far more" residents than last year, he said.

Weigert estimated that 550 students have occupied Schramm and 43 female students have occupied Love Memorial Cooperative this summer.

Off The Wire

National and international news
from the Reuter News Report

40 South Africans seized in protests

PARYS, South Africa — Police fired tear gas at angry blacks Monday in the second day of protest against rent and tax hikes in a black township 50 miles south of Johannesburg a police spokesman said. He said 40 demonstrators had been arrested in the nearby township of Tumahole on such charges as public violence, theft, looting, arson and burglary. He said four policemen had been slightly injured in the unrest which began with a march Sunday by 1,000 youths. They dispersed after warnings from police, but some regrouped and began hurling stones. The trouble continued Monday morning and police said they used tear gas twice to chase protesters from makeshift roadblocks.

Ortega heads the ballot

MANAGUA — Daniel Ortega, leader of Nicaragua's leftist Sandinist government, has been chosen as the government's presidential candidate in elections set for November 4, sources said Monday. Ortega, the 39-year-old coordinator of the three-man ruling Junta, was selected by the Sandinist assembly and his candidacy will be announced officially Tuesday, the sources added. They said candidates for the 90-member Constituent Assembly to be elected November 4 also had been chosen and would be presented to the council organizing the elections later this week.

The elections are the first to be held in Nicaragua since the Sandinist revolution swept to power in 1979, ousting the right-wing dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. Opposition parties have charged that the Sandinists hold an unfair advantage in the poll because of emergency measures in force which impose restrictions on the opposition's activities and establish press censorship. The government has said such measures are necessary while Nicaragua is under attack from rightist rebels in neighboring Honduras and Costa Rica. The restrictions are being lifted during campaigning for the elections.

Greeks battle pollution

ATHENS — A poisonous cloud of industrial waste hanging over Athens has reached the danger point and industrial production and car traffic in the capital will be cut to combat the pollution, the Greek government said Monday. Press reports said several hundred people, mostly aged, had been made ill by the cloud and many had been hospitalized.

The Planning and Environment Ministry ordered 73 factories in the Athens area to cut production by 30 percent for two days. Half of Athens' cars will be banned from the city and its environs Tuesday and Wednesday, it said.

The cloud of industrial waste hanging over Athens, Piraeus and their suburbs has become a regular feature of the capital, causing serious damage to ancient monuments. About one-third of Greece's nine million people live in Athens and its suburbs, and about half the country's industry is situated here.

China's army opens ears

PEKING — China's army newspaper started a letters-to-the-editor column Monday asking for suggestions on army reform, the New China News Agency said. The Liberation Army Daily launched the column with six readers' letters, some of which suggested changes in promotion and a discussion on whether military organizations should engage in civilian business, the agency reported. The paper welcomed comments on anything from political and military work to national defense research, although published letters would not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the agency said.

China's present leadership is redirecting the emphasis of the 3.2 million-strong People's Liberation Army. Under Mao Tsetung the army was a guardian of leftist ideology. The current philosophy is to build a modern military force based on discipline and skill. The government recently passed a new military service law aimed at creating a more professional army and reintroducing the system of ranks and decorations that had been abolished under Mao.