

Weather:

Partly cloudy and warm today with a high of 59. Winds southerly at 5 to 10 mph. Mild tonight with a low of 32. Another nice sunny day tomorrow with a high of 60.

March is a 'Festival' on public television

Arts and Entertainment, page 5

Huskers hope to upset surprising Lady Buffs

Sports, page 6



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Fewer students enroll

By Kent Endacott
Senior Reporter

NU's 1986 spring enrollment declined 2.1 percent from 1985 spring enrollment figures, NU officials reported Friday.

Enrollment declined by 0.8 percent at UNL, 3.5 percent at UNO and 5.8 percent at the NU Medical Center.

Joe Rowson, UNL director of public affairs, said the decline in enrollment at NU follows a general trend nationwide toward lower enrollment rates at colleges and universities.

"There's just fewer bodies," Rowson said. "There's been a decline in the birth rate. High school enrollment around the country is declining."

At UNL, the largest declines were in the College of Agriculture and the Teacher's College.

Enrollment in the College of Agriculture declined by 133 students, down 7.7 percent from 1985. Teacher's College enrollment declined by 167 students, a decrease of 7.7 percent from 1985.

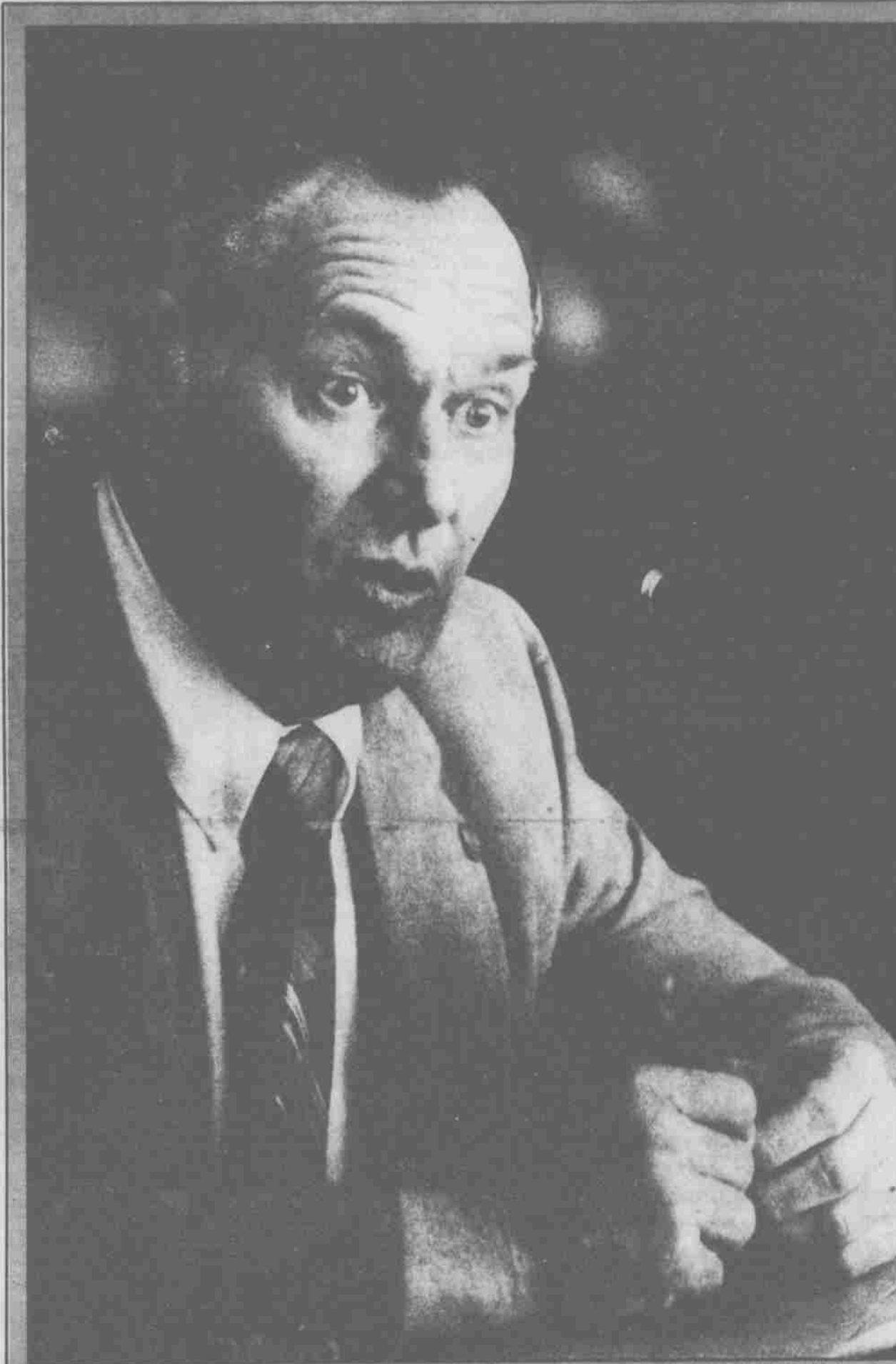
Rowson said enrollment declines in the two colleges can be traced to the poor agricultural economy and reports of low teachers' salaries.

The largest declines at UNMC were in the nursing and pharmacy programs. Enrollment in nursing declined by 65 students, a 9.6 percent drop, and enrollment in the pharmacy program decreased by 26 students, a decline of 10.2 percent.

"It (the enrollment declines in nursing and pharmacy) gives you an idea of what starts happening when you talk about eliminating programs," Rowson said. "That's why administrators are so reluctant to even talk about possible program eliminations."

At UNO, enrollment declined most in the College of Arts and Sciences, which dropped by 152 students or 5 percent.

UNL's College of Journalism and College of Business Administration reported enrollment increases. The journalism college gained 78 students, an increase of 9.6 percent, while the business college reported 79 additional students, up 2.6 percent from 1985.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Everett Stencil, a veterinarian and spokesman for the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture, pleads with the Legislature's Education Committee on Monday not to amend current laws that prohibit the Curtis campus from being closed.

Curtis closing bill killed

By Ad Hudler
Editorial Page Editor

The Legislature's Education Committee killed a bill Monday that would have eased elimination of NU's School of Technical Agriculture in Curtis.

The bill would have amended the original bill that established the school in 1965. That bill mandates the state keep the school open. The new bill, killed by the committee, would have made closing the school a discretionary power of the NU Board of Regents.

Although proponents of the bill claim the NU Board of Regents can't close the school without the bill's passage, the board still can act, said Alan Moeller, assistant to Roy Arnold, the vice chancellor of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Because closing the school would take about two or more years, regents could go ahead and vote to close it and then wait for the Legislature to approve the technical bill in a later session.

But whether the Legislature would agree to the closing is up in the air, some senators say.

"The bill would go nowhere," said Sen. Ariens Nelson of Grand Island, who is on the education committee. "We're just not ready to close the school."

Showing their support for the school, senators in January passed a different bill 29-0, urging the regents to keep the school open.

NU President Ronald Roskens proposed closing the school last fall, when he presented budget reduction proposals to the legislative Appropriations Committee.

The Curtis school offers two-year programs for students who want technical degrees in ag-related fields.

Urging the committee to kill the bill, Everett Stencil, a veterinarian from Curtis, spent about 10 minutes informing the committee about Curtis and the role it plays in Nebraska's educational system. Representatives from the Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Feeders Livestock Association also spoke against the bill. No one spoke in favor of the bill.

Administrators in Curtis were not available for comment Monday.

'Non-trad' students must juggle multiple roles

By Randy Donner
Associate Night News Editor

Karen Noel was "born, married and went right into childbirth."

Six children later, at age 45, she attends UNL with three of her college-age children.

Gayle Boyd graduated from high school and went right to work. Now Boyd, 29, is in her fifth semester at UNL.

Noel and Boyd are among the growing number of non-traditional students attending UNL. Last year, nearly 15 percent of the students studying here were 25 or older.

Each "non-trad" has a different reason for deciding to attend college.

Noel said she started taking courses just to see if she could make it through them. Boyd started coursework at UNL because she felt the need for a change in her life.

Non-trads face the same time and money problems as traditional students, said Ruth Harper, adviser for the Non-Traditional Student Association. But in addition, many have "multiple commitments" such as a family, a full-time job and a mortgage, she said. As a result, Harper said, non-trads often do not define themselves as students.

Diane McNeese, a 35-year-old human development major, said she feels like she is playing two different roles. One she said, is the role of student. The other is wife and mother of two children, which she said makes quality study time hard to find.

A distinguishing feature of non-trads is their desire to achieve, Harper said. On the other hand, many non-traditional students have a "sense of hurriedness" toward their education and often a seriousness that comes from their "consumer attitude," she said.

Harper said the NTSA helps non-traditional students by providing a support and social group. She said the NTSA gives non-trads a chance to meet other adult students and offers leadership opportunities and information about the university that they otherwise might not come across.

"A university education is a lot more than going to class," Harper said.

The NTSA meets every Friday for lunch. The group has 20 members, eight of whom are active. Membership

dues for the association are \$5 a year or \$3 a semester.

Both Noel and Boyd are members of the NTSA. Noel said that she found the NTSA to be a good support group.

Professors also often support non-trads, she said. Professor support helps but it can also be intimidating.

"They may expect a little more," Noel said. "I feel a little pressure."

Kathy Thomsen, a 36-year-old human development major, said non-trads are able to form better relationships with the instructors because of the closeness of age.

According to McNeese, traditional students also seem to expect more from non-trads. She said younger students often assume that older students know the class material better so they

tum to non-trads for help.

Boyd said students often ask if she is a teacher.

Boyd said the social atmosphere of the university can be "strange." She initially wondered how well an older student would be accepted by the younger students. She now enjoys her time with the younger students, but said she does feel the age difference.

"I'm only 29," she said. "What must it be like for someone who's 49?"

The biggest shock, Boyd said, was the amount of bureaucracy she had to face. People often are "very cold," treating her like "just another number, another face in a sea of faces."

"If it wouldn't have been for non-trads (NTSA), I probably wouldn't have made it," she said.