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Oil price increases hit UNL; supply officials anticipate 'jolt'

By Lynn Silhasek

It may be stretching things a bit, but within six months, University secretaries could be tying with strings what rubber bands once held together.

The energy crisis, in one form or another, has caused UNL purchasing officials to predict "a jolt in our next go around" when office supplies are re-ordered this summer.

Supplies with a petroleum base or requiring a large amount of fuel in their production have increased in cost, according to the officials.

The most noticeable increase has been in the price of an oil-based duplicator paper, from last year's 82 cents a ream to this year's \$1.54 a ream, according to Richard Bennett, purchasing department director. University offices use 5,000 reams of the paper each month, he said.

Rubber bands, used at the rate of 100 boxes a month, have increased in price by two cents per box, Bennett said. Polyethylene typewriter ribbons, 1,440 of which are used monthly in University offices, have risen in costs yet undetermined, he said.

University agricultural experiment stations need nearly 5,000 tons of fertilizer a year, according to Bennett. The fertilizer is formed using natural gas, he said.

According to Warren Sahs, assistant director of the stations, fertilizer suppliers have moved closer to their home locations, leaving dealers

with little fertilizer and price increases of more than 100 per cent on what is available.

The stations also use pipe with a petroleum base for building irrigation systems, Sahs said. These pipes compose most of the 45 miles of the stations' underground pipe systems, he said, to which five miles are added every year.

Sahs said he has been assured by University officials that the pipe supply will last through the summer.

The nation's schools' supplies of exam blue books are being rationed now to avoid a later shortage. The J. P. Lesh Paper Co., UNL blue book distributor, announced in November 1973 the curtailment of the number of blue books that would be sold to universities, according to F.H. Lesh, company president. University officials now may order the blue books only if they need them immediately, Lesh said.

Previously the books were ordered on a 6-12 month basis. Lack of pulp and lack of petroleum-based chemicals used in processing the paper caused the curtailment, he said.

According to Lesh, UNL has not yet been cut back on the number of books ordered.

University officials requested and received 25,000 blue books in May, 1973, Lesh said.

"They (university officials) haven't been curtailed in purchase so far, but may be next time," he said.

Senate discusses academic changes

Faculty Senate members will vote Tuesday on whether to adopt the Senate Academic Planning Committee's proposal that more University resources be directed toward nontraditional, noncampus academic programs.

The report, entitled "Resource and Allocation: Essential Functions of UNL", was prepared to meet changes not figured into previous academic development programs, according to committee chairman Max Larsen.

Changes include a declining University enrollment and a greater interest in University programs shown by persons older than college age, according to the report.

At a Special Faculty Senate meeting Tuesday, Larsen said the committee, following approval of the report, will begin evaluating academic programs at UNL to determine whether each is geared toward providing what he called a quality education for all Nebraskans.

Recruitment of minorities as students and increased student financial aid are ways contained in the report to increase the availability of programs.

Existing undergraduate programs and graduate programs need to be coordinated more closely, sharing programs and faculties, according to the report.

Little separation of research and teaching faculties should exist within these programs, according to the report.

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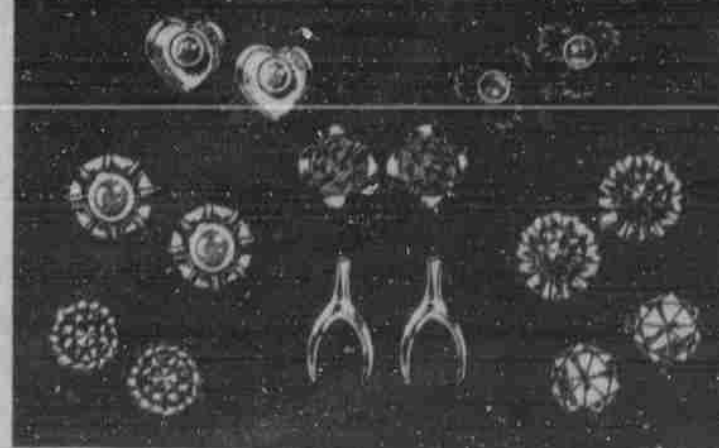
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