

Science professors given research grant

Four UNL professors—three in chemistry and one in physics—have been awarded a \$70,500 grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for research on electricity, according to Gordon Gallup, professor of chemistry.

The others are professors of chemistry Craig J. Eckhardt and George Sturgeon, and physics professor David Sellmyer.

Gallup said the project deals with finding an energy "superconductor." There are certain materials present in the world that may conduct electricity at low temperatures with no heat loss, he said. These materials offer almost no resistance to the flow of electricity and would eliminate energy waste, he added.

Certain metals already are known to be superconductors, Gallup said. However, the low temperatures required to achieve superconductivity in these would not save electricity in the long run, he said.

Starch compounds

The group will do research with starch compounds they believe to have superconductive properties, according to Gallup.

"We combine different things and then test the electrical properties," he said.

He added that they also employ computers to find out "what to do next."

The use of corn starch in this research may have a direct effect on Nebraska's agricultural economy, Gallup said. If this project is successful and it becomes a new way for generating electricity, it could open up a "great new market" for agriculture in the state, he said.

Gallup said there could be those who would say this is using valuable food sources unwisely, but said he thinks there are few other uses of corn in high-technology and corn used for this research won't hurt the food supply.

Pilot project

"This is definitely a pilot project," Gallup said. "From what we have done so far we can be reasonably sure of the likelihood of success."

The four men submitted their plans to five different foundations for approval. One of them was NSF.

"The organizations send our data out to be reviewed by experts who consider its likelihood of success, and also the possibility of usable spinoffs if the original idea wasn't possible," Gallup said. "Other discoveries may come by accident while we are doing this research."

Gallup said the NSF notified them late last December that they had received a grant for \$70,500. He said this was less money than they had asked for, and that this may slow the project down somewhat. The group started the initial work on it in May, 1974.



Back row: Physics Professor David Sellmyer and Chemistry Professor Gordon Gallup, front row: Chemistry Professors Craig J. Eckhardt and George Sturgeon. The four have received a \$70,500 research grant from the National Science Foundation.

Exchange 'to improve relations'

As part of this year's Greek Week, UNL's 15 sororities and 11 of its fraternities have been hosting an all-Greek living exchange to promote inter-Greek awareness and improve house relations, according to Greg Schmal, exchange program chairman.

Schmal said the Greeks took three volunteers from each house and randomly assigned them to other houses.

He said during the week participants lived with a member of their exchange house and were treated like members. Schmal said that at the end of the week participants should have discovered the ways their fellow Greeks are handling

problems, which should help them aid their own houses.

Schmal said the exchange, new to campus this year, has worked well at other schools. Iowa State has a similar program, where Greeks not only exchange members with other Greeks, but with residence halls as well, he said. Schmal said he would like to try a residence hall exchange at UNL.

He said the exchange should improve inter-Greek relations, and noted that unity among Greeks is a major objective of the annual Greek Week.

Greek Week activities will end with a free all-university dance Friday night at 9 in Utica.



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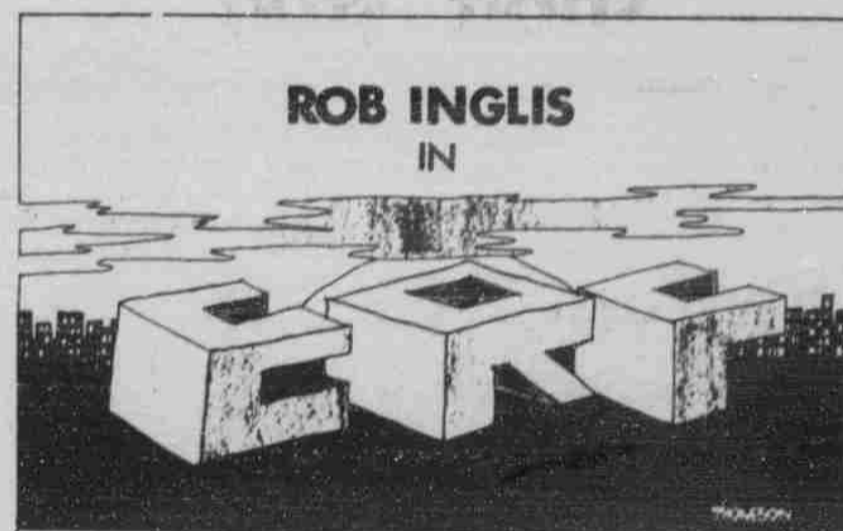
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