



Summer Nebraskan

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ASUN faces summer housecleaning

The summer months, often a time for planning and strategy sessions for the fall, will be devoted mostly to "some housecleaning" according to ASUN (Associated Students of the University of Nebraska) President Jim Say.

Say, who is also the Lincoln campus student Regent, said no ASUN Senate meetings will be scheduled for the summer months.

"It's tough to get them all together, and so far, I don't see anything that pressing," he said.

Say explained that only three positions are individually salaried for the summer in the ASUN budget.

Student attorney salaried
They include full-time funds for the Student Legal Services Attorney, Dave Rasmussen, and salaries for two part-time secretaries each working half a day.

The secretaries will be responsible for both ASUN's and the student attorney's needs, he said.

Besides Say, ASUN First Vice-President Mary Jenkins and Second Vice-President Paul

Morrison will be around for parts of the summer, Say said.

\$3,500 left in budget

The ASUN budget provides a fund to pay the three executives for twenty hours of work together, at about \$2.50 per hour he said.

Say said the most immediate concern of his was trying to use up the \$3,500 left in the 1974-75 ASUN budget. If the money is not spent, it will be returned to the University general fund at the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

The Fees Allocations Board has already given ASUN permission to carry over about \$1,400 for next year's budget, Say said.

Another \$1,400 will go to the salary of the student attorney and secretaries for June.

Book exchange debts

Much of the remainder, "possibly up to \$700 or \$800" will go for removing debts that have accumulated from several ASUN sponsored book exchanges in the past, he said.

"Most of that is from books we can't account for," he said.

"We're working on restructuring the book exchange structure so that we don't have a large amount of missing funds" he said.

One way of keeping tighter

control of the books would be to have the price stamped directly on the books rather than placed on a form slipped inside the book as done in the past," he said.

Library survey

Say is also in the midst of compiling the results of survey taken in May concerning the proposed closing of the Undergraduate Library in Nebraska Hall.

While there are no firm figures, since the responses covered several ideas, Say said he thought the survey was "about two to one against the move."

"A lot of negative opinion was directed by people who thought they would lose the study areas," Say said.

Dewey users

"The people whose comments favored the move were those who use the Dewey books on third floor," he said.

Some sections of books classified under the Dewey Decimal system have been stored at the Undergraduate Library during the construction at Love Library. The card catalog for those books is located at Love Library.

Members sought

Say is also seeking two people to serve for the summer on the Parking Appeals Board and for one person to serve on a board which is studying the possibility of a campus information center in the Nebraska Union, he said.

Say is also considering an on-campus bike registration and a student workshop for off-campus students to deal with landlord-tenant relations and other apartment problems.

"We're going to try and work on finding what sorts of problems we want to consider for the fall," Say added.



ASUN President Jim Say pauses at a recent Regents meeting

Grants given for research

Answers in chromosomes?

By Deb Gray

In the beginning, there was one cell, a mating of 23 pairs of chromosomes.

What happens next is one of the great mysteries of science: these chromosomes of deoxyribose nucleic acid (DNA) — described as the "blueprints of life" — duplicated themselves exactly through billions of divisions. The result of this constant regeneration of protein: a living organism.

Study genetic mechanisms

Dr. Naba Kumar Gupta, UNI professor of chemistry, has studied nucleic acids for the last 11 years. Next year, his research will be injected with more than a half million dollars to study genetic mechanisms in living cells.

Gupta's research will be financed through two grants from the National Institute of Health (NIH). One grant will support five years of research into the formation of proteins in mammals. The second, three-year is for specific purpose—the study of protein synthesis in red blood cells.

Every form of life

DNA is found in every form of life, from single-celled bacteria to billion-celled human beings.

In recent years, tales of DNA-tampering have instilled fear in many of the non-scientific majority. Misconceptions range from Hitleresque fantasies of breeding an invincible breed of superhumans in the test tube

to unleashing new strains of bacteria that would eradicate the human race. These ideas occur because people don't know much about the DNA gene, Gupta said.

Invaluable benefits

Genetic engineering can produce invaluable benefits for mankind, according to Gupta. For to understand the DNA's role in the human cell may also be to understand the reasons for such diseases as sickle cell anemia and cancer.

To explain the questions that he and his 12-member team of researchers will attempt to answer during the next five years, Gupta gave a brief description of cell structure. The cell contains: the nucleus, which is the control center of the cell, and the cytoplasm, the gel-like emulsion surrounding the nucleus.

Sends messenger

From its position in the nucleus, the DNA engineers a complex protein-synthesizing operation. It sends out a messenger — a molecule of ribose nucleic acid (RNA) — which selects the pieces to manufacture a protein.

"In our body, protein is an important constituent," Gupta said. "It is the chief body building ingredient. Enzymes — which are catalysts in chemical reactions in the body — are proteins. Hormones are proteins."

The questions raised by this process of forming protein in a living cell are the basis of

Gupta's research. How does the DNA know to which molecule out in the cytoplasm to send the RNA? Why does it choose some molecules and reject others? Why does the presence of protein in the cell alter as a person grows older? Why is there so much more of it in growing cells?

Study cancer

Last year, Gupta was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the American Cancer Society to study the development of cancer which he described as "uncontrolled protein growth." Since he came to UNL in 1968, the former student of Nobel Prize-winning scientist Dr. H.G. Khorman has received \$9,000,000 worth of grants from scientific research.

"What we need to know more about are the factors that change in protein synthesis, and why these changes," Gupta said. "A better understanding of the molecular mechanisms involved will further our knowledge of blood diseases such as sickle-cell anemia and Colley's anemia, which are particular to specific ethnic groups but are both the result of impaired hemoglobin synthesis."

Physiological knowledge

"Also, research into the molecular mechanisms involved in the translation of genetic messages in mammalian cells will provide a knowledge of the physiological processes involved in aging, viral infections and carcinogenesis (cancer growth)."

Crafts collection bought by Sheldon

The works of several Nebraskans are among those in the newly-purchased American craftsmen collection at Sheldon Art Gallery at UN-L.

Included in the collection are wooden toys made by Shelley Becker and Rod Lamberson of Lincoln; a weaving by Mary Kester of Omaha and pieces by John Dinsmore and Ray Schultz of Kearney.

The collection, purchased under a grant from the Charles Merrill Trust, opens the summer exhibit program at the Sheldon Gallery.

The exhibition of hand-made objects in ceramic, textiles, glass, metal and wood runs through July 6. It includes works chosen from 26 artists around the nation.

The grant from the Merrill Trust of Ithica, N.Y., was made to the Sheldon Gallery last year as one of an annual series made to educational institutions throughout the country in support of museum acquisition programs.

Also currently on display at the Sheldon Gallery are drawings by James Donovan, Madison, Wis., and a photographic portfolio titled "The Seasons," by Eliot Porter.



"Houseplants Quilt" is the title of this construction of cotton, satin and beadwork which is part of the recently purchased Sheldon Gallery collection of American crafts.

Outdoor fair is Wednesday

Recreation featured

The recreation department will sponsor the second annual "Summertime is Funtime" recreation and craft fair on Wednesday at the Memorial Plaza of the Nebraska Union.

Information from the department as well as displays from area recreation equipment suppliers will be displayed. Demonstrations of crafts will also be given.