Drew takes Alaska post

James Drew, UNL dean of graduate studies, will find a new school of agriculture and a possible increased state budget of two or three times, which he takes a new position at the University of Alaska (UA).

He will become the director of the UA Agriculture Experiment Station and acting dean of the School of Agriculture and Land Resources Management Jan. 1.

No replacement for Drew has been named and, according to Larry Braskamp, assistant to the UNL chancellor, no search committee has been formed to find one.

The Alaska state leaders are trying to develop agriculture as "a means to stabilize the (Alaskan) economy from the boom and bust economy of the past," Drew said.

Alaska never had the economic incentive for agriculture development, he said, and lacked sufficient capital and markets.

More than 15 million acres of land is suitable for agriculture and has never been developed, Drew said, and eight million of these are of high quality.

Because of the royalties received from the Alaskan pipeline, Drew said, Alaska is trying to develop the state's mineral and oil resources, forestry, recreation and agriculture.

An expected Alaskan population of one million people in the next 20 to 30 years is what increased interest in development, Drew said, and encouraged the establishment of the school of agriculture.

Drew said he wanted to organize the school, integrating areas in research, development and extension.

"I have no unhappiness or concerns about UNL," he siad. "This is an opportunity to be involved in the development of a new school and area of developing agriculture just too attractive to pass up."

Graduate emphasis

Drew also expressed concern about the changing emphasis of graduate work.

"Practitioner" graduate programs are replacing research and scholarly-oriented programs, he said, because of the increased job-awareness of graduates.

Psychology and speech pathology are examples of practitioner areas in which graduate enrollment has increased, he said.

"Nationally we seem to be involved in applying the basic advances of science instead of increasing research in these areas," he said. "From the viewpoint of an academic administrator, we have to continue to support basic research."

It is impossible to maintain an excellent educational system unless the university maintains a research and scholarly program, Drew said, and this type of program needs to start with the faculty.

Photo by Steve Boerner

James Drew, UNL dean of graduate studies, will be heading for the University of Alaska.

CAC delay fails UAB vote

By Barbara Lutz

A motion to postpone construction of the planned Campus Assistance Center (CAC) failed at the Union Advisory Board (UAB) meeting last night, 9-1, with one abstention.

Dean Kirby, who proposed the motion, later abstained.

The motion called for "postponement until a report is received from ASUN regarding student support of the center and its proposed location."

Several ASUN senators also attended the meeting.

Robert Simonson, ASUN senator, said "ASUN is not contesting the CAC." He said he is questioning students' input, and he "would like to get something from the students saying they want it (CAC)."

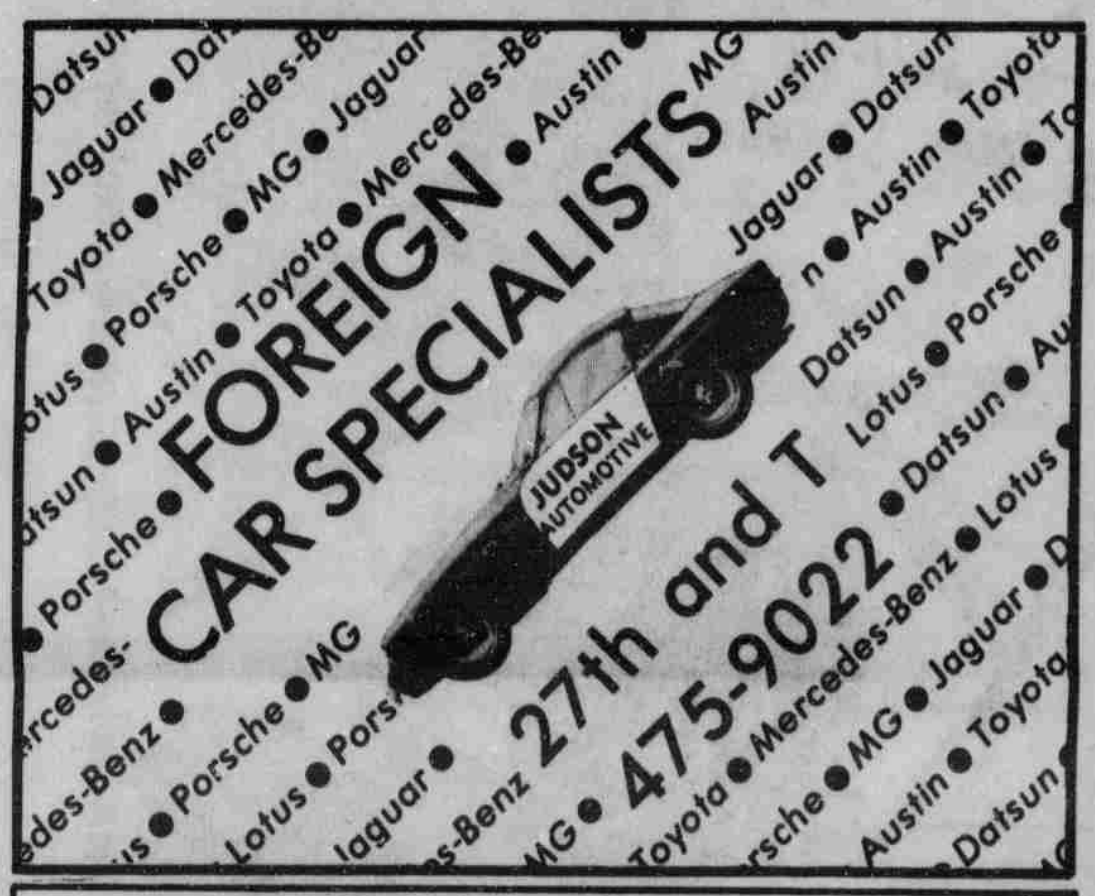
Simonson said he questions how much the students knew about the Gateway Bank before its construction in Nebraska Union, and if they want the proposed bakery.

Simonson said "Bennet has said consistently that 'I have no plans (for new construction).'"

Gary Heider, UAB president said, "I don't think that's true at all. I was on the (Union) board that planned the bank."

Simonson said to get student input, he suggests a survey be put in the registration packets.

UAB member Mike Shanhan said that is "not the way representative government works. They (the government) are responsible to make decisions."



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