

## Help me! I'm a prisoner in the Burnett basement!

The UNL Psychology Dept. has been locking persons in a 20-by 30-foot room in the basement of Burnett Hall with no windows, newspapers, radios or clocks for a month at a time.

Assistant Prof. Daniel Bernstein, director of the project, said most participants report the experience is "terribly pleasant" and that one even asked to stay two more weeks without pay. Another, however, said it was worse than his experience in Marine boot camp.

The experiment, called "Analysis of Values Through Systematic Restriction," allows participants to bring their hobbies to the room, which contains a kitchen area, beds, desks, table and chairs, and a bathroom.

### Student observes participant

A student volunteer observes the participant through a one-way mirror. There is limited communication through a system of switches and lights where instructions can be given and questions and answers exchanged by flipping the appropriate switch.

No observations are made in the bathroom or when the lights are out between midnight and 9 a.m.

The absence of clocks often causes some confusion for the subject the first few days, but they soon get used to it, according to Vickie Johnson, a student observer. They can judge time by how much music has played on the tape deck or by how hungry they are, she said.

"I remember the lights went out once when the participant thought it was about 4 p.m.," she said.

Studies show persons value some activities when they no longer are allowed to do them unless they do something else first. For example, they might have to read for 30 minutes to regain the right to play a banjo.

### More work to get favors

"The more time someone spends on an activity, given free choice, the more they are willing to do to get it back," Bernstein said. "The variations are the interesting things though."

Sex and food are such variations, according to Bernstein, but so far he has used neither as a variable.

"We want to see what humans don't spend much time on, but still value," he said.

Although he has done experiments with two persons of the same sex, he said he plans no mixed couple experiments in the immediate future.

### Not everyone suitable

Obviously, not everyone makes a suitable subject. A variety of hobbies, good health and the ability to get away for a month are criteria for a good participant, according to Johnson.

"Not having much interest in the outside world helps too," she said.

Although no further experiments are planned this fall, the project will be continued, according to Bernstein.

"I don't plan to be able to apply this on the outside tomorrow," he said. "I'm just trying to discover some general principles of value and to find some order in a small system."

To date, \$2,200 has been spent to pay participants. They receive \$10 a day, and \$2,500 has been spent on equipment.

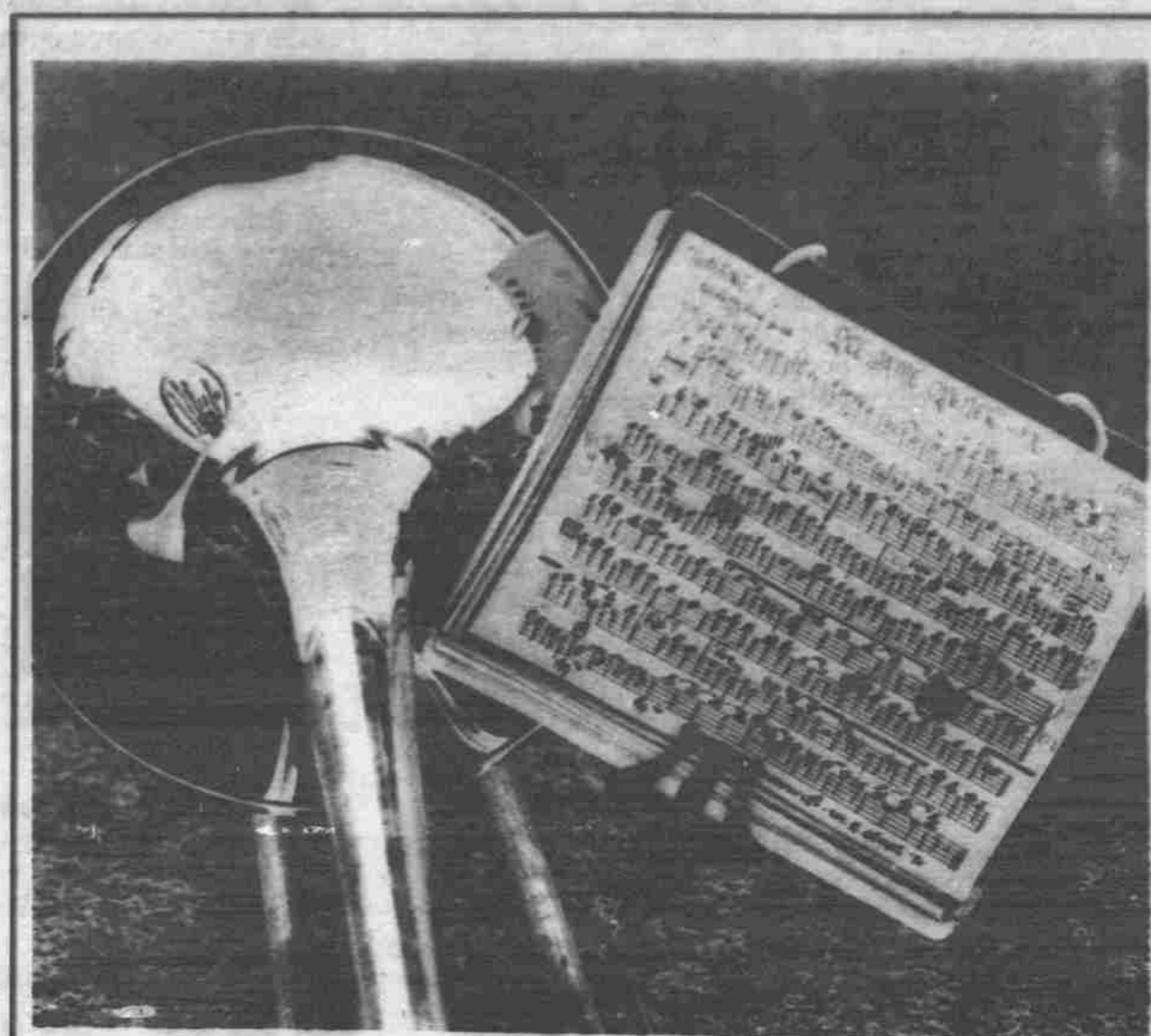


Photo by Ted Kirk

While the football team practiced on the grass behind Memorial Stadium, the Cornhusker Marching Band worked out on the artificial turf inside. More photos and story on page 12.

## Energy research subject of meeting

"Research is going up to the last frontier and taking another step."

This is the goal of the UNL Energy Research and Development Center, according to Donald M. Edwards, the center's director.

"There are some problems that haven't come up yet, and when they occur we had better be prepared to handle them."

The center was formed July 6 to coordinate energy-related research, training and public service programs. Nine UNL faculty members, representing the Colleges of Engineering and Technology, Home Economics, Architecture and Agriculture, met Friday to discuss solar energy research and development.

### Three programs may begin

At least three new programs may result from the meeting. They are:

-Creation of a solar equipment testing center which would act as a consumer protective agency similar to the Nebraska Tractor Testing Station.

-An effort to establish energy conserva-

tion measures at UNL by improving present buildings and adding energy efficiency clauses to future construction contracts.

-A second solar home, similar to the UNL-Lincoln Electric System home, but adding energy efficient appliances and architectural designs.

### Energy collecting planned

John L. Ballard, assistant professor of industrial engineering, discussed summer work on a project to send a solar-collecting satellite into space. Energy from the satellite would be beamed to earth by microwave and converted to electricity.

If the project continues according to plans, 30 of the 10-gigawatt plants would be sent into space. A gigawatt is a billion watts and each satellite would deliver more than three times the energy of the largest nuclear power plants operating today.

Ballard's work in Huntsville, Ala., was sponsored by NASA. The project would send one satellite into space each year. It is scheduled to begin in the late 1990s.

William A. Scheller, chemical engineering dept. chairman, described progress on gasohol and coal tar projects in Nebraska. Both projects use solar energy indirectly through biological processes.

### Grain alcohol plant needed

The gasohol program is a plan to add 10 per cent grain alcohol to unleaded fuel. A grain alcohol plant is needed for the project's success, Scheller said. Legislation probably will be reintroduced for the coal processing plan. It was approved 43 to 0 by the Legislature last year but vetoed by Gov. J. James Exon.

Edwards, who also is associate dean of engineering and technology, said Nebraska's application for the Solar Energy Research Institute was one of 20 received by the United States Energy Research and Development Administration. The contract for nearly \$70 million over the first four years of operation is expected to be awarded to one of the applicants in November or December, Edwards said.



Photo by Scott Stubbards

Ely Meyerson, dean of Student Development

## Ely Meyerson considers move to Hawaii position

UNL probably will lose its tenth administrator in a year as Ely Meyerson, dean of student development, considers a move.

Meyerson said it is "reasonably certain" that he will be accepted as dean of students at the University of Hawaii-Manoa (UH-M). He is to be recommended for the post at the school's Sept. 9 Board of Regents meeting by the UH-M chancellor. If the board approves Meyerson, he will leave UNL around Nov. 1.

He was offered the job by the UH-M chancellor after Meyerson went to Hawaii for an interview about three weeks ago.

"I didn't accept the position until Monday (Aug. 23)," he said.

The job at Hawaii is the counterpart of UNL's vice chancellor for student affairs. Ken Bader resigned that position this summer to become chief executive of the American Soybean Association.

"I'm not leaving because I'm dissatisfied with Nebraska," said Meyerson, who came here in the summer of 1969 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was assistant director of residence halls.

"It's a better opportunity," he said. "I think that's why most people leave."