

# Low salary increase prediction called premature

UNL faculty members have no need to panic about smaller salary increases next year, according to John Oberg, state budget analyst.

Miles Tommeraasen, UNL vice chancellor for business and finance, last week said faculty members would average only a 5.5 per cent increase instead of Gov. J. James Exon's proposed seven per cent increase for all state employees.

Tommeraasen had said this was because faculty members' dates of hiring are not distributed evenly throughout the year.

Oberg said Tommeraasen's reasoning was "premature and misleading" because he overlooked two points.

First, the governor has proposed a 6.5 per cent general fund increase for the entire university system, Oberg said.

The university requested a general fund increase of 18 per cent.

Oberg said Exon's 6.5 per cent increase "more than covers" Tommeraasen's projected 5.5 per cent increase for faculty members.

Oberg said Tommeraasen also overlooked the \$1.9 million NU Board of Regents discretionary fund. The

governor has placed no restrictions on how that money should be spent, he said.

"The regents should decide where their priorities are," he said.

Tommeraasen said, however, he has not overlooked these factors in calculating the average 5.5 per cent increase for faculty members.

All of the discretionary money cannot be used for salaries, he said. The university has made many commitments about where the money will go, Tommeraasen said.

"We can't convert everything into salaries and then turn off all the heating and air-conditioning,"

Tommeraasen said. "Salaries are important, but if you strip everything out of the university, why do it (raise salaries)?"

Tommeraasen said the university has a long list of priorities that must be considered first.

He added that the regents actually were not given \$1.9 million, but only about \$1.1 or \$1.2 million. The remainder must be obtained by cutting the NU central administration budget, he said.

"They didn't give us the \$1.9 million. They showed us how to find it," Tommeraasen said.

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# Scientist predicts ice age in 15 years

By Barb Newcomer

The drought that has affected areas in the United States and other parts of the world could lead to another ice age, according to C. Bertrand Schultz, executive director of the Nebraska Academy of Science.

Schultz, who has been studying the climate for the past forty years, said that Russia has suffered from drought and its crops could be seriously damaged for the next six or seven years. The CIA has spent large amounts of money investigating the drought because they fear it could be the basis for a world war, he said.

Droughts often are followed by ice ages, in which the climate turns cold and dry, Schultz said.

"People say, 'Oh, we're never going to have another ice age,' but it happened numerous times in the past and we should be prepared."

"I'm not a doomsday person," he added, "I'm an optimistic person. But if we are headed towards an ice age, it will happen within 10 to 15 years, not 150 to 250 years, like some people think."

The past 50 years have been the best weather the earth has ever known, Schultz said, and some people seem to think that is normal.

Past climatic changes can be determined by studying the migration and extinction of animals. Man is not solely responsible for the extinction of animals of the past, it was caused by a deteriorating climate, Schultz said.

Experts now are studying sunspots, he said, because they are believed to have an effect on the climate.

"People don't realize how complicated this is," he said, "there are lots of details to this crazy thing. To understand what is going on in Nebraska, we have to understand what is happening worldwide."

Schultz said there is a lot more research to be done, and it will take the combined efforts of meteorologists, geologists, and other scientists.

Man is responsible for 20 per cent of changes in the climate, he said, and nature is responsible for the other 80 per cent.

The increasing amounts of pollution in

recent years have not had much effect on the climate, according to a meteorological laboratory in Hawaii, Schultz said. The only problem caused by pollution is in micro-climates, in areas of heavy industry, where the pollution causes more rainfall.

Some experts think the world could survive an ice age, he said, but it would take much preparation and conservation of water. The problem is that not enough people are concerned, Schultz said.

With the data being assembled, experts should know within a year or two whether or not the world is headed into an ice age, he said.

The eastern United States probably would not be affected by an ice age, he said. But western states such as California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, and Missouri would be a cold, dry desert.

Schultz has been involved with the Institute for Tertiary-Quaternary Studies, which is affiliated with the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, and does interdisciplinary research relating to the changing environments of the great plains.



Bertrand Schultz, executive director of the Nebraska Academy of Science, has studied climate for 40 years.

# Lower than average rain does not indicate drought?

By Mike Patten

Not all weather experts agree that Nebraska as a whole, is experiencing a drought.

One UNL professor, Dick Wiese of the Agronomy Dept., said that although drought conditions have been present for three years, the time to panic has not yet come.

"The prevailing weather patterns for our area usually give us good rains in spring," he said.

Spring historically has been the wettest time of the year in Nebraska, with nine to 15 inches of precipitation falling between March and June, he said.

Wiese, a professor of soils, said nine inches of "effective water" are needed by July if the soil is to be healthy.

"If we were to take dry, fine textured eastern Nebraska soil and revitalize it with nine inches of effective water, then I would say we would be all right."

Wiese said effective water is about 75 per cent of the actual accumulation of precipitation. Thus for Nebraska to receive nine inches of effective water, 12 inches of rain must fall.

Earlier in the year, James Zoller of the

National Weather Service said water shortages in Nebraska reached 12 inches in places.

Wiese said a wet spring would change the shortages. He said he mainly is worried about building a large enough groundwater pool by July to carry the crops through their thirstiest month.

According to Wiese, an average corn crop in the month of August will "drink" at least a quarter of an inch of water a day or more than seven inches of water in one month. August usually has little rain, Wiese said.

But the pattern for the past 30 years in Nebraska has been one of heavy spring rains followed by dry summers.

He said if the rains do not come again this year (the precipitation totals for the last three years are below average), he would recommend that farmers plant what he called more competitive crops.

One of the crops which he said would be more competitive is grain sorghum. He said grain sorghum grows better in dry conditions than corn or alfalfa. However, the time for farmers to make that decision is not yet here, he said, because planting time is not until July.

Wiese said some farmers might choose to gamble on the rains coming and go ahead and plant their normal corn crops. These farmers would "have the year of their lives" if the rains come, he said.

# Wesley seeks post

Donald Wesley has qualified as an ASUN second vice presidential candidate, according to Jackie Learned, ASUN election commission member.

Wesley, an independent candidate, filed before the deadline Friday, but was not included in the list published in Wednesday's *Daily Nebraskan* because a university list did not show him registered, Learned said.

However, Wesley had registered late and his registration was being processed, she said.

Ken Christofferson, D. Marcus Armstrong and Harlan Miller also are running for second vice president.

## thursday

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Photo by Mike Theiler

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