

# African mission is new clinic for Health Center doctor

By Deb Shanahan

Last week, UNL students were lined outside his office doors awaiting flu vaccinations. Next week, a different group will see him for malaria vaccinations.

But Africa will be a welcome change for Dr. Ralph Ewert, former chief of staff at the University Health Center. Ewert is taking a five- to six-month leave of absence to do missionary work for the African Inter-Menonite Mission.

Ewert, who has been at UNL almost six years, said this will not be a new experience for him.

"I was in Africa 10 years working under the same mission I'll be working under now," he said. He will assume the duties of another doctor on furlough, he said.

Ewert said he will work in the same general area, but

this time in the village of Tshikapa in Zaire. Zaire, the fourth largest country in Africa, is in the central part of the continent just below the equator, he explained.

Ewert said he expected his duties to include work in clinics for prenatal care and vaccinations, treating tropical diseases and performing surgery.

"There are only two doctors in the hospital with about 150 beds, so there will be considerable emergency surgery," he said.

The doctor-patient ratio in Africa is about one doctor for every 50,000 people, he said. This compares with one for every 750 in the United States, Ewert said, adding there is a difference in the type of equipment available in the two countries.

"The equipment (in Africa) is kind of primitive compared to U.S. standards," he said. "I'm taking some with me, but not a lot because of baggage limitations."

Ewert, who attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center, studied tropical medicine and diseases at Antwerp, Belgium.

Although Ewert said he will confront four main languages and hundreds of local tribal or trade languages, language has not been a problem in his work. He spent a year in Brussels studying French, Zaire's national language.

Ewert described the village people as friendly and

receptive to missionary doctors.

"The people come to us because they know our treatment is effective," he said.

"We only treat symptoms."

The people still go to a witch doctor to treat the causes, he said.

African doctors now are being trained, Ewert said, adding that they have the same problem as Nebraska.

"Everyone wants to go to the big city. Nobody wants to practice in the bush," he said, explaining that bush hospitals generally are maintained by mission doctors.

Although Ewert's family lived in Africa during his first visit, they will not go this time, Ewert said.

Ewert's family life during ten years in Africa was quite different than life in Lincoln, he said. The children were taught by his wife and a nurse until fourth grade. They then went to boarding school with children of other missionaries, embassy workers and international business people.

Ewert said the family did a lot of reading in their spare time because there was no television. In addition, there was always a soccer game going on, he said.

Although he will return in September "in time for the fall rush," Ewert said, he and his wife would like to return to Africa after their four children are grown.

"Without the responsibility of raising a family, these could be the most rich years of our lives," he said.

## Construction bids for tractor test labs below Legislature's \$1 million budget

Bids were returned Tuesday for construction on East Campus of the Agricultural Engineering Annex, for which \$1 million has been appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature.

Physical Plant Director Harley Schrader said the bids will be studied and a recommendation made to the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. The bids fell below the budgeted cost of the building, he said.

William Splinter said the new building, to be located north of the Tractor Testing Track, will house the Tractor Testing Laboratory. The machinery and motors labs and the electronics and departmental research shops now located in the Ag Engineering building also will be moved, he said.

Splinter said department growth over the years demanded expansion. The Ag Engineering Building was built with office space for a staff of six, Splinter said. The department's 30-person staff is crowded into former classrooms.

The building has no central heating nor air-conditioning, and lacks insulation and weathertight windows, he said. A request is pending before the Nebraska Legislature for funds to remodel the building, Splinter said. The remodeling would move all classrooms to the first floor

and all offices to the second floor, which Splinter said would be a more efficient arrangement.

The building now housing the Tractor Test Lab, which will be torn down when the Annex is complete, was made obsolete with bigger farm machinery, Splinter said.

"The size of today's ag equipment is such that we can't even get it in the building," he said, adding that the annex will have 20-foot doors and clear-span interior.

Splinter explained that state law requires that all tractors sold in Nebraska first be tested by the lab to verify horsepower and other performance claims. The lab is booked solid into 1979, he said. Some tractor models have gone out of production before they could be tested.

The lab's findings are internationally respected, and it has tested tractors from Poland, West Germany, England and the Soviet Union.

Splinter said farm tractors are becoming so large that a 400-horsepower dynamometer will be replaced by a 1,000-horsepower model when the lab moves to the Annex.

A 450-horsepower tractor to be tested this summer will be tested at the Lincoln Municipal Airport because it will not fit on the track, Splinter said.

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Offices Up for Election:

- ASUN President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice President.
- ASUN Senators in the College of: Agriculture, Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Graduate, Home Economics, Nursing, Professional (Dentistry and Law) and Teachers.
- College Advisory Boards in the College of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Home Economics, and Teachers.

Voting Procedures:

- Each student must present his/her own student I.D. card, with a current registration label on the back, to the poll worker. The act of giving the I.D. card to the poll worker is the attempt to vote.
- Each student will sign his/her own name on the roster of the college in which he/she is enrolled.
- Each voter will be marked with ultra-violet ink.
- Each student I.D. card will be marked.
- No student shall vote or attempt to vote more than once in the election, nor shall any student aid in such an attempt.
- Violation of any voting regulation will result in prosecution in Student Court.

Polling Places and Hours:  
 Polls will be located in the Nebraska Union, the East Campus Union, the southwest entrance of Nebraska Hall, and in Ferguson Hall. All polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on March 15, 1978.

Procedure for Disabled Ballots:  
 1. Disabled ballots-Disabled shall mean unable to attend class due to confinement at the Student Health Center or a hospital. Students so disabled shall call the ASUN secretary before noon on election day, and arrangements shall be made for voting.

Complaints  
 Students wishing to file complaints against any candidate or party for possible violations of the Electoral Commission's regulations must do so by 4:00 p.m., March 16, 1978 in the ASUN office. Complaints must be in written form.

To the Candidates  
 Financial forms from all official candidates and/or parties must be turned in by 4:00 p.m. March 15, to the ASUN secretary. For a write-in candidate to be eligible for office, he/she must file a financial form with the ASUN secretary by 4:00 p.m., March 17, 1978.

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