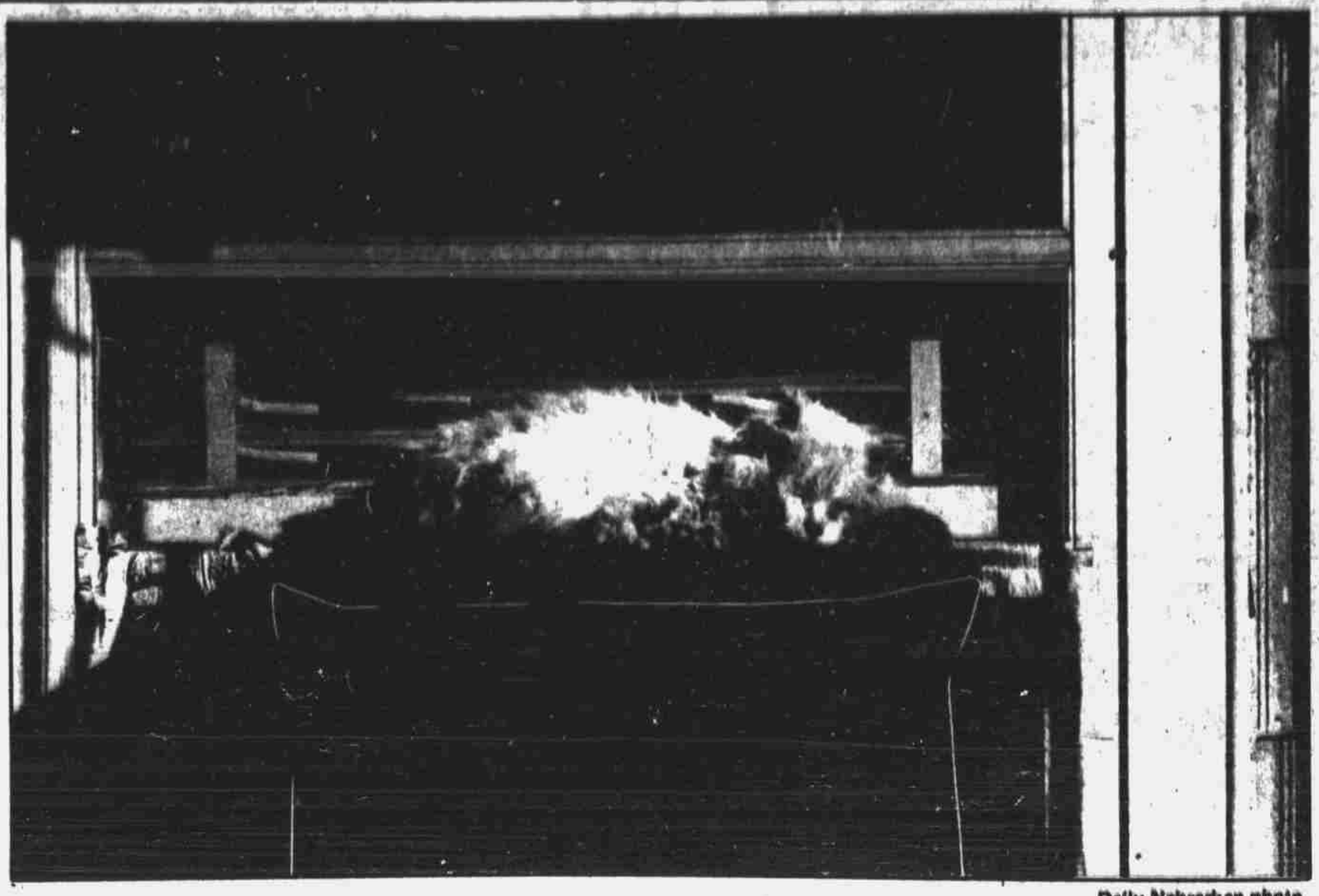


ASUN agenda

ASUN will meet at 7 p.m. today in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Appointments
- IV. Open Forum
Suzanne Brown Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs
- V. Executive Reports
- VI. Committee Reports
Academic Policy
Budget & Fees
Campus Life
Special Topics
Community Relations
Constitutions
Internal Affairs
- VII. Old Business
Appropriations Bill No. 26 (Indian Student Careers Conference)
Senate Bill No. 37 (Ad Hoc Committee on Recreation Possibilities)
- VIII. New Business
Organic Act No. 11 (Constitutional Convention)
Appropriations Bill No. 27
Appropriations Bill No. 28
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment



This sleepy kitty takes advantage of the warm weather to enjoy a quick catnap.

Daily Nebraskan photo

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Survey outlines midwest's energy priorities

By Carla Engstrom

The top concerns of people in the midwest are related to land use and natural resources, according to a survey taken last year by a Minnesota group.

An example is the concern over the growing scarcity of energy supplies. At the same time, those surveyed felt there was a need to balance energy use with its environmental impact, according to Michael Murphy of the Upper Midwest Council.

Murphy, a researcher from Minneapolis, Minn., spoke Saturday at the concluding session of The Great Plains Symposium at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education.

Murphy briefly explained the survey, "Emerging Forces in Conflict, critical choices for the upper midwest the next ten years," conducted by the Upper Midwest Council.

The researcher cited other concerns found by the survey as increasing world food demand, increasing public distrust of the profit system and greater demands for social responsibility placed on business and industry, which had shunned such responsibilities before.

Ambiguity of responses

Murphy said one of the most significant factors learned from the survey was that big government was undesirable, but big government is expected to solve major problems in American society.

Murphy said the survey shows society will adjust to changing family needs but America is leaning toward a single-person society, especially in metropolitan areas.

He said concerns will increase about the cost of housing, education and transportation.

Murphy also said issues emerge two and a half to three years in the media before they become a public concern.

Asked during an interview after his speech about the news media's role in future public concerns, Murphy said, "the entire news media dwells on the past and it should help people prepare for the future."

He said reporters should not simply report what is happening, but should explain what future implications may be.

Explain implications

Reporters should not explain if an event, meeting or action is good or bad, but what its implications are, Murphy said.

"One could argue that oil companies have the same responsibility," he said.

"Maybe we ought to force oil companies to educate people about environmental implications through paid space in the media," he said.

Murphy also suggested that society needs to put more pressure on the media in those respects.

"We must try and perceive when something will happen to avoid the problem," Murphy said.

Everyone knew about the energy shortage long before it happened and America still hasn't learned how to effectively deal with the energy problem, Murphy said.

He said the Iranian oil shortage is similar to the energy shortage in 1973.

People are driving faster and farther, and more effective automobiles and pipelines haven't been built, he said.

It's unfortunate, but when companies' budgets get tight, the first thing to go is public information funds needed for people to understand future implications, Murphy said.

Specialist gives tips on taxes

Despite claims by the Internal Revenue Service as to greatly simplified forms, half of all taxpayers seek out someone else to prepare their returns.

"If you've decided to join that sizeable group, be sure to consider all the options available to you and select reliable tax help," advised Kathy Prochaska-Cue, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources extension family economics specialist.

For openers, the IRS offers free help to taxpayers through toll-free telephone numbers and walk-in offices across the country, she said.

"If you need answers to basic questions or a clarification dealing with your form, the IRS can help, but don't expect them to look out for your interests on complicated financial details," she said. "They're not likely to find you extra deductions or exemptions."

If seeking personalized help, Prochaska-Cue said to consider a commercial preparer. Accountants and attorneys also do tax work generally providing more specialized services at higher rates.

To find a commercial preparer, start with a quick scan of the yellow pages or consult a friend, Prochaska-Cue said.

"But before hiring someone, find out if they're competent and reliable. Do some

comparison shopping before entrusting anyone with your returns."

Determine the background of the firm, how long they have been in business and the training and education of employees, she said. A firm or individual also may share a list of previous clients as references which can be contacted.

"Also ask what methods the firm or individual uses to ensure your return will be accurate," Prochaska-Cue said. "Some firms may randomly monitor preparer-taxpayer conferences and others have a different preparer double-check each return."

Prices vary considerably for tax help, and consumers should ask exactly what the service will cost, she said. Some commercial preparers quote a price in their advertising, but often that price is a minimum and doesn't include preparing a state tax return. An itemized return also will cost more.

"Keep in mind that no matter who prepares your return, you—not the preparer—are ultimately responsible for its accuracy," she said.

"This makes your choice of a preparer even more important."

She said that although most tax preparers are honest, a few frauds show up each year.

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