

## Arts & Sciences budget cut upsets chairpersons

By Colleen Tittel

UNL College of Arts and Sciences department chairpersons are worried about the effects of a budget cut imposed last summer on the college.

Last July, Arts and Sciences Dean Max Larsen sent each department chairperson a memorandum mandating an emergency 15 percent cut in operating expenses, the result of a spending pinch caused by the Legislature's 1980-81 NU budget.

In the memo, part of which was published by the Lincoln Journal-Star, Larsen said the quality of education offered to Arts and Sciences students will suffer from the budget reduction, which affects equipment and other supplies.

Larsen's statement apparently expressed a universal opinion. Many department heads say they are at a loss as to how to run an effective department this year on the limited operating budget.

"It's a good question how we're going to make it through the year," David Sellmyer, chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, said.

The physics faculty is trying to conserve equipment usage in every possible way, Sellmyer said. He said he

will not make drastic changes because he hopes some money will come through. But if things don't get better, some telephones might have to be removed, an action that would be "disastrous" for the physics department, he said.

David Gitlitz, chairman of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature said he already has removed several phones in the department in response to Larsen's memo and expects the department to experience a communications problem as classes begin.

"(Reducing phones) means that it's much harder for students to reach their teachers and for teachers to get back to them," Gitlitz said. "We can do it but it wastes time and frustrates students' attempts to reach their teachers."

### Fewer audiovisuals

Although language lab equipment will be maintained at its present level, Gitlitz said the amount of other audiovisual equipment will be reduced. Last year, for instance, modern language classes were shown four films about foreign cultures. This year the department will provide one or more, Gitlitz said.

Also, teachers may be forced to write tests on the

blackboard rather than have them copied, and that wastes time, he said.

The extent of the budget cut's effect on the modern language program is difficult to gauge, Gitlitz said.

"I don't know how we'll make it to the end of the year yet," he said.

Chemistry Department Chairman G.G. Meisels is worried. The only way his department can continue to operate with the 15 percent cut in materials, he said, will be if money comes in later from other than state sources. If that doesn't happen, he said, he won't want to head the department any more.

### Situation worse

"It's pretty serious. It's very much worse than in past years," Meisels said. The chemistry department's operating budget has not increased in four years, he said.

The department already has ceased supporting faculty and undergraduate research with state funds, he said, and undergraduate experiments must be redesigned so students can use cheaper materials. Meisels said the supplies used daily in experiments will be affected by the cut, not the lab equipment.

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## Work on Temple stays on schedule

By Kathy Stokebrand

The Temple building renovation is progressing on schedule, UNL Construction Engineer John Amend said.

Pat Overton, theater manager, said the initial completion date was January 1982, but construction now is scheduled to be completed by September 1981, for use by theater arts students next fall.

Classes and theater productions have been relocated. Overton said all but one theater arts class has been moved to Bessey Hall. Classes were moved there last semester when renovation began.

The arrangement is working well, according to Overton, except for some difficulties because Temple building is three blocks away. A temporary theater has been set up in Studio 12 of the Koser building, located across the street from the Temple building.

Overton said the university is renting the studio from the Nebraska Bookstore.

The temporary theater is arranged similar to a theater in the round, according to Edward Stauffer, associate professor of theater arts.

Renovation plans for the building call for the ground floor to be used primarily for shops and the second and third floors will be devoted to classrooms and offices, Stauffer said.

Plans also call for an elevator to be installed. The estimated cost of the project is \$1.98 million, Amend said.

Demolition work is still going on in the building, Amend said. Only minor changes will be made in Howell Theater, located in a corner of the building, and in the shell of the building. The rest of the building will be completely remodeled.

"We're putting a whole new building inside it," he said.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

### Harlequin romances

Oh my dear—the beauty of your jewels is surpassed only by the beauty of your soul. A Daily Nebraskan photographer takes a look behind the scenes at the World's Greatest Show, page 9.

## Some UNL workers confused about Aetna plan

By Steve Miller

"Most of us came out of the in-service shaking our heads. We just didn't understand."

University employees were shaking their heads because of questions unanswered at the in-service meeting on the university's new insurance program, a UNL employee said.

Dan Grosshans, inventory control supervisor, said that, at least for himself, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska rate increase would have been better than the new program.

The University switched from Blue Cross to Aetna Life and Casualty in August because of an unexpected 25 percent rate increase with the Blue Cross program.

While the Aetna program will not cost employees any more than the Blue Cross program, it requires employees to pay the first \$100 and 10 percent thereafter for hospital bills.

Grosshans explained in a letter he brought to the Daily Nebraskan that because of an injury and his constant need

for medical care, he could not afford the new program.

"With Aetna paying only 90 percent of the hospital cost I will be a poor man quick," Grosshans said in the letter.

Grosshans also explained that because of the back injury, he requires outpatient care and medication for a nervous condition. The Aetna program only covers 50 percent or up to \$1,000 a year for this type of service, he said.

### Employees not informed

Grosshans complained that during the orientation about the new insurance, employees were not informed of the reduction in mental health care or the 10 percent they would have to pay for hospital bills.

Grosshans also said he asked why a Health Central representative was not at the orientation to explain its plan. He was told by a representative that Health Central had not been informed until too late about the orientation.

Health Central is an optional insurance plan that employees may use in-

stead of Aetna. Health Central pays more of the hospital bill and provides more mental health coverage than Aetna.

Grosshans said that because he was not informed in time about the Health Central program it was too late for him to switch.

### Administrators 'fall short'

"I feel that they (university administrators) fall way short of keeping us informed about things that greatly affect our lives," Grosshans said.

Response to the new insurance from other UNL employees ranged from favorable to uninformed.

John Dzerk, operational manager for custodial services, said employees in his department seemed to be going along with the switch.

"We've had a lot of positive reactions but no negative reactions," Dzerk said.

Dzerk said he thought the new plan would save employees money in the long run.

He also said that, to his knowledge, there had been no in-service meetings for employees as of yet.

Ron Pushcar, food service manager, said he has heard no adverse comments from employees in his department.

Capt. Robert Edmunds, of the campus police department, said there has been no in-service meeting for his department.

While there have been no complaints yet, Edmunds said no employees have filed claims. He said there have been a lot of complaints about the long time Blue Cross took to honor claims.

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