

# daily nebraskan

## Assistant: Water resource funding may dry up

By Betsy Miller

If President Ronald Reagan's proposed budget is approved, approximately one-third of the University of Nebraska's Water Resources Center's project funding will be cut, according to the center's administrative assistant.

Kathy Stork said the center heard last week the federal Office of Water Research and Technology is scheduled to be eliminated this October. The office, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, provides UNL's water center with \$290,000 a year in research money, she said.

"Secretary of the Interior James Watt has recommended cutting the project entirely," Stork said.

She said she saw a copy of Watt's testimony at a hearing for proposed budget cuts and he talked about the office's termination.

Stork said that this year OWRT gave the center \$155,000 in a matching fund program, \$115,000 in an annual cooperative program and \$20,000 for another project.

The center's purpose, according to Stork, is to find funds to finance water research projects conducted at the university. The center itself will not be hampered by the

elimination of OWRT because employee salaries and other costs come from the state budget, not the federal one, she said. However, federally funded centers in other states may have to close, she said.

### Equals federal grants

State funding for the center equals the federal grants, but Stork said the money from the state was used to pay for the center's administrative needs. Federal funds pay for projects, and this area will suffer if cuts are approved, she said.

The office's elimination may put an end to projects that were scheduled to run for two or three more years, Stork said.

Gary Hergenrader, life sciences professor, said he is in charge of a field study project that may be stopped in October, if funds for it are not found.

The project's purpose is to find out whether water quality in farm ponds can be improved by changing of natural biological processes, Hergenrader said.

He said the project has been underway for a year, but it needs to be carried on longer.

### Doctoral degree

"The minimum amount of time we need to spend to

find any answer is at least two years," Hergenrader said.

Hergenrader said it is important to find funding for this program because a graduate student is using the project to work toward his doctoral degree.

"We've got to find some money somewhere so that the project can be continued," he said.

If Reagan's proposed budget is passed by Congress and the funds are cut off, Stork said, the water resources center will have a rough time trying to find funding from other sources to keep the projects going.

"This will be quite a blow to water research at the university," Stork said. "Other sources for funding are drying up too."

She said that the Environmental Protection Agency may be cut partially and that the Water Resources Council and the Missouri River Basin Commission may be abolished.

Stork also mentioned the program cuts will put some students, especially graduate students, out of jobs because some are paid to work on the projects.

Stork said the center has not received official notification that the office may be cut, but that they are almost sure the proposal will pass.

"We're not too hopeful," she said.

## Families fail on food stamp budget

By D. Eric Kircher

Two Lincoln families tried to live on a food stamp budget to dramatize problems of the poor. They said the amount they were allowed to spend caused them to go hungry.

The families of the Rev. James Stillman and the Rev. Daniel Raines lived for two weeks on a food budget of \$77.12 and \$91.75, respectively.

"I know I went to bed—also my daughter went to bed—hungry," Willie May Raines said Thursday at a press conference. The Raines have one daughter at home.

"My daughter would say, 'Mom couldn't I have just a little more,' but that was all," Raines said. "It's very hard when you have a teenager (saying) 'I am tired of oatmeal.'"

"How can we decide what that child should get?"

"I remember one night I had graham crackers and milk because I was so hungry I didn't think I could go to sleep," Raines said.

"I certainly did think it affected our behavior," Raines said.

Ann Stillman said the lack of food frustrated her family.

"Chances are you strike out at each other," Stillman said.

"I went over my amount the first week," she said. "I ran out of bread, butter and cereal. I found out we ran out of the things we packed in to fill the edges."

"We cooked a lot of starchy things," Stillman said.

The families tried to follow USDA recommendations for meal planning, but the menus were too expensive.

"There is no way in the world you could purchase plums and be on a 73 cents a meal budget," Raines said. Her family was allowed to spend 73 cents a meal per person.

Continued on Page 2



Photo by Jon Natvig

With Spring Break upon us, this sparrow gets the jump on UNL students who might be considering a trip to the beach.

## Complaints against election may be dismissed

By D. Eric Kircher

A complaint asking the ASUN Student Court to declare the ASUN election invalid is being withdrawn, and the counsel for the defendants of another complaint has asked that the court dismiss it.

Thomas Copland, the counsel for ASUN President Rick Mockler and First Vice President Dan Wedekind filed a motion Wednesday asking the court to dismiss the complaint filed by Tim Higgins and Steve McMahon, who were presidential candidates.

The complaint asks that Mockler and Wedekind be prevented from holding any elected or appointive offices for one year.

The complaint alleges that Mockler and Wedekind violated an ASUN rule forbidding use of ASUN property for campaign purposes. They allegedly used an ASUN copier to campaign literature for the ASUN elections held earlier this month.

But Copland's motion states Mockler and Wedekind were copying a University Programs and Facilities Fee information sheet for SURE party members. Since the paper was a public document and the ASUN office had no copies, the two could legally copy the paper, the motion states.

### Timing questioned

The motion also questions the timing of the complaint,

which was filed after the March 11 run-off election between Mockler and McMahon. The alleged violation occurred Feb. 1. The complaint was filed on March 11. The motion alleges the complaint was filed because the two candidates lost.

The motion also states the alleged violation occurred before the rule forbidding use of ASUN property was passed.

Former ASUN President Renee Wessels signed the law on Feb. 2.

Higgins said he has heard Copland's argument before and would continue his action.

"I would expect them to say nothing less than that," Higgins said. "Obviously, they have to make some defense."

He said the court shouldn't dismiss the complaint. "The court needs to hear the testimony," Higgins said.

He said a student code of conduct also forbids the alleged violation.

### Motions considered April 1

The Student Court will consider the motion to dismiss on April 1. If the court doesn't dismiss the case, it will be heard immediately afterwards.

The plaintiff of the other complaint asked that his own complaint be dismissed.

Willie Watters filed a motion earlier this week asking

that his complaint against the electoral commission be dismissed.

Watters said because his complaints about the commission would be addressed in the complaint filed by Higgins and McMahon, he felt his complaint was unnecessary.

Watters had complained the commission acted wrongly in claiming it lacked jurisdiction to hear Higgins' and McMahon's complaint.

He said he still felt the commission was wrong, but he wouldn't continue his action.

Kim Weiland, the electoral commissioner, said she was happy the complaint was dismissed.

"I think it was the only sensible thing to do," she said. She characterized the complaint as a personal vendetta against her.

## inside friday

**A Genuine Risk:** Group discusses power as an assertiveness tool ..... Page 2  
**Going Boeing:** Joan Jett ran away from the Runaways and now brings her show to Lincoln ..... Page 8  
**Diamonds and Dust:** Spring training is time for the players to grow young and fans to grow old ..... Page 11