

# Lack of new equipment to affect quality of NU

By Sandi Witkowitz  
Staff Reporter

**Editor's note: This is the second article of a five-part series that tries to examine how proposed budget cuts would affect some of UNL's programs. The Legislature has proposed a 3 percent, or about \$5 million, cut in state support for the university.**

Proposed budget cuts for equipment purchases will harm NU programs and services, university officials say.

## The Cutting Edge

Last Tuesday NU President Ronald Roskens said \$600,000 in equipment purchases could be cut from the budget if the Legislature approves a 3 percent cut in state funds for NU. The money allocated for planned equipment purchases during the 1985-86 school year might not be spent, said Chancellor Martin Massengale. Academics, construction, grounds maintenance and the physical plant will be affected by the cuts, Massengale said.

If UNL cannot replace old equipment, buy the latest scientific equipment or provide research laboratories, it cannot fulfill its teaching and research mission, said John Peters, associate dean of the UNL College of Arts and Sciences.

NU can't compete for quality faculty members if it can't fund a set-up laboratory for new professors, he said.

Proper science instruction requires the latest scientific equipment so the sciences will feel the impact of budget cuts the most, he said.

Money from the federal government for adequate equipment is difficult to get, said Anthony Starace, chairman of physics and astronomy. Further cuts at the university level will only worsen the situation, Starace said.

Teachers want to introduce new experiments to students, he said, but because of the expense of scientific equipment and the lack of funding, the pace of this upgrading has been slower than teachers would like.

Quality programs are difficult to maintain when budget cuts continue, said Henry Holtzclaw, dean of graduate studies. The department won't be able to replace obsolete or worn out equipment if the budget is cut, he said.

The School of Biological Sciences has updated some equipment, but students are still using microscopes that were made in the 1940s, said Royce Ballinger, director of the school.

The College of Agriculture is caught in a squeeze between fast-changing technology and lack of funding, said T.E. Hartung, agriculture dean.

Compared with Big Eight and Big Ten schools, UNL ranks in the bottom quarter for providing operating support, which includes equipment, Hartung said.

"So we're not in a position of strength presently, let alone losing the money from a reduction," he said.

Equipment budget cuts also would hamper the grounds departments ability to maintain campus grounds, said Bud Dasenbrock, grounds director. The department requested \$112,000 to buy items such as a truck with a snow plow and hand tools, he said.

Some things can not be deferred, Dasenbrock said. Lawns, trees and shrubs should not be allowed to die because of a lack of irrigation equipment, he said. If portions of the landscaping were lost, he said, it would mean costly, long-term losses to the state.

The physical plant also might have to delay purchases of some major items, said John Amend, assistant director. Some equipment purchases would have been used to convert more buildings to the energy management system, Amend said. The system saves up to 30 percent on energy costs, he said.

## Teach-in to be held on CIA

From Staff Reports

The CIA is a corrupt organization trying to legitimize itself by recruiting on college campuses, said members of the Latin American Solidarity Committee.

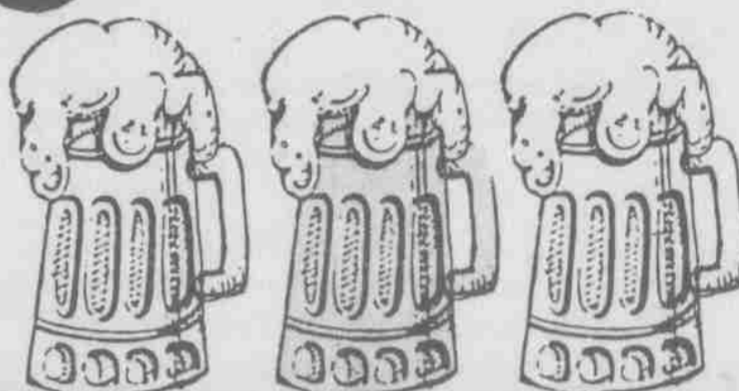
The CIA has been interviewing students since Tuesday at UNL. They will leave today.

LASCO will present a "teach-in" from 1 to 3 p.m. today in the Nebraska Union's main lounge about CIA activities, Potmesil said. Three UNL professors will speak.



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