

Weather: Thursday, cloudy with a 60 percent chance of rain and thundershowers. High in the upper 60s. Wind southeast 10 to 15 mph. Thursday night, cloudy with an 80 percent chance of thundershowers. Low in the upper 50s. Friday, cloudy with a 60 percent chance of rain. High in the upper 60s.

Actor finds being bald a hairy predicament

Arts & Entertainment, Page 15

Hurricane quarterback leads Heisman chase

Sports, Page 17

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Kerrey: Nebraskans need to support budget cuts

By Jen Deselms
Senior Reporter

Revenue shortfalls could lead to a \$9.5 million cut in higher education, Gov. Bob Kerrey said Wednesday in a press conference.

Kerrey said Nebraska needs \$38 million more to continue to operate at its current level. Kerrey said if the shortfalls in revenue are applied equally it would be a \$9.5 million reduction to higher education, \$9.5 million to government operations, and \$19 million in aid to cities, counties and schools.

Kerrey said he is not proposing this distribution, but it will be done unless Nebraskans confront the problem.

Kerrey spoke to officials in higher education in Omaha Friday. Kerrey said that the officials in higher education and school superintendents he spoke to on Monday seemed calm about the shortfall in revenue.

If Nebraskans calmly assume that somehow this will work out, they will end up in a legislative session and find that things are worse, not better, Kerrey said.

He said higher education officials wanted to know if he would support whatever it would take to avoid cuts in higher education.

"The question isn't are we going to cut?" Kerrey said. "The question is how are we going to reorganize this thing? What aren't we going to be? What are we going to give up?"

If higher education in Nebraska wants to take less money and maintain everything that they have, then clearly everything is going to suffer, Kerrey said.

He said Nebraskans need to support elimination of entire programs, not only in education but throughout the government, even though it will put people out of work and place stress on

See KERREY on 3



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Kerrey at his weekly press conference

Media plays vital role to inform during droughts

By Linda Hartmann
Staff Reporter

The world's media is vital in drought and famine for getting information to the governments and the public so that they can organize ways to feed starving people, experts said Wednesday.

The government may be aware of famine problems, but if the public is not made aware through the media, little will be done in the way of real food assistance, said Clifford May, domestic correspondent for the New York Times.

The comments of May and Hunter Farnham, special assistant in the U.S. Agency for International Development,

came near the end of the three-day International Symposium on Drought at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. Scientists and experts from across the United States and more than 15 countries participated in the symposium.

Farnham said the more information people have about famine problems in countries like Chad, Ethiopia, Sudan and Mozambique, the better they are able to prepare assistance for the victims. In famines, time is crucial, he said.

"When you're looking at a problem of providing an assistance program to someone . . . and you know it takes a minimum of six months to get that food

out to those people . . . you realize what kind of time frame we're talking about," he said.

In the most recent drought and famine in Africa, more than 12 million people have needed food assistance. Congress received an enormous influx of information on this situation in recent years, Farnham said.

"That has been enormously beneficial to the people we are trying to help," he said.

Farnham has been coordinating humanitarian assistance programs from the United States in Africa during the last few years.

Ethiopia had a good early warning system before its most recent famine

crisis, said May, who is a former African correspondent. But the government failed to respond to information it received about the problems at first and talked of the situation as a drought, not a famine crisis, he said.

It was not until reporters were able to freely move about and report on the suffering of the people that the public in Ethiopia and other countries became aware of the situation and responded.

Holding public interest on the subject once they are aware of it is difficult, May said. People respond best to immediate and dramatic crises. And, especially on television, "something new" is hard to show day after day, he said.

Yet the press should not become caught up in distributing propaganda on the matter for the sake of dramatic hype, May said. They must simply explore the truth of the situation, he said.

Farnham said he would prefer to see the affected African countries organize relief systems themselves with help from other countries rather than having other countries come in and tell them what they should do for their own people.

The drought symposium was sponsored by UNL's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Foreign language tables give conversation practice

By Jeff Gromowsky
Staff Reporter

In an effort to make people more aware of various cultures around the world, the Modern Language Floor sponsors language tables each Monday through Thursday evening in the Neihardt residence hall snack bar.

According to Denita Steinbach, director of the Modern Language Floor, the tables are open to everyone, including non-students.

"Many of the students who participate don't live on the floor. Some are even non-students who come from off campus," Steinbach said.

The groups meet at 5 p.m. each night with a French table on Monday, a Spanish table on Tuesday, a German table on Wednesday and a Japanese table on Thursday, Steinbach said.

Steinbach, a junior Spanish and international affairs major, works with three assistants, each is in charge of one of the language tables.

According to Steinbach, the tables give students the opportunity to practice their language skills and to learn about other cultures.

"We talk in our respective languages about social things and about various foreign cultures. We also occasionally

have speakers on the various cultures, usually professors from the foreign language departments," Steinbach said.

Jodi Campbell, an International Affairs freshman, lives on the Modern Language Floor and participates in the Spanish language table. Campbell had three years of high school Spanish and also spent one year in Mexico as an exchange student.

"The dinners are a lot of fun, just because of the fact that we can all get together and have dinner. It helps us keep in contact with other people who know the languages," Campbell said.

"I love studying foreign languages and learning about any other foreign cultures. The Spanish table has given me the opportunity to meet other people like me, so we learn a lot and there is a real feeling of togetherness," she said.

Jim Pierce, who works in Lincoln as a bricklayer, also participates in the Spanish table. Pierce had one year of Spanish in high school and spent one year in Spain while in the Navy.

Pierce learned about the tables from his daughter, who is a student assistant on the Modern Language Floor. He said he is participating because it is a change of pace and because he is learning at the same time.



Dave Bentz/Daily Nebraskan

Faces aglow

Third-graders from Lincoln's Randolph School, (left to right) Rachel Anderson, 8, Ross Jaeckel, 9, and Daniell Ele, 8, view a glass display at UNL's Morrill Hall as part of their class' field trip.