

Daily Nebraskan

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WEATHER: Thursday, mostly sunny. High in the upper 60s to lower 70s. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Low near 40. Friday, partly cloudy. High in the lower 60s.

October 8, 1987

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 87 No. 31

Curtis officials await Gov. Orr's decision

By Bob Nelson
 Staff Reporter

Officials and students at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis will have to wait a little longer to find out what will happen to their school.

Gov. Kay Orr said in a news conference Wednesday that she would announce her decision on the fate of the college in about 10 days.

Gerald Huntwork, associate director of the Curtis school, said adminis-

trators and students need a decision from Orr as soon as possible.

"There's a tremendous amount of frustration out here," Huntwork said.

Huntwork said they must know the fate of the school so they can begin informing high school students interested in attending the Curtis school. He said high school students have to start making decisions on where they will attend college.

"We realize it's a tremendous decision for her," Huntwork said. He said the school needs a decision soon,

though, and hopes it is a positive one.

The lagging attendance at Curtis had also been blamed on indecision on the fate of the Curtis school. The school's attendance has dropped from an average of about 300 students to 158 during the 1986-87 school year and 58 students for the 1987-88 school year.

The search for money to finance the Curtis school began after the college was eliminated by the NU Board of Regents last spring. The school was dropped in an effort to scale down the

university's budget. Last spring Orr vetoed a legislative bill that would have appropriated money to keep the school open for two years, but she allowed it to remain open this year.

A meeting of a committee to discuss proposals for the fate of the Curtis school was held Friday in Grand Island.

In another education related topic, Orr said in the press conference she would like to get away from calling this year "the year of education." Orr said there doesn't appear to be any

additional money for education except for the \$4 million proposed for research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"We'll have to wait for this economy to produce those dollars," Orr said.

She said that even without extra financing, education can improve in the state.

"It shouldn't be equated that the only way we can assist education is the additional infusion of tax dollars," Orr said.

Financial aid petition stirs ASUN debate

By Lee Rood
 Staff Reporter

Emotions were stirred at ASUN's senate meeting Wednesday night over a petition drive started by a first-year law student because of student complaints about the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

Dave Regan, the law student who started the drive, asked senators to endorse the petition and discuss forming an investigative committee later on, to research problems within the financial aid office.

Regan said he started the petition after he heard several complaints from students about delays in the processing of their financial aid packages, lack of assistance, and unnecessary late fees.

The petition includes a space for students to voice specific complaints and problems they have had in dealing with the financial aid office, Regan said.

Regan said university officials have acknowledged problems within the office, but have been slow in reacting.

"As the Financial Aid Director (William McFarland) has graciously indicated, the administration is acting slowly on this matter. They have gone as far as to identify some of the office's problems, but they haven't made a priority of solving these problems... we're going to have to make some noise."

Several senate members said they believed in what Regan was doing, but criticized his lack of organization and the manner in which he was dealing with the problem.

After discussing other business, senators chose not to discuss the petition and adjourned.

After some senators had left, Re-

gan asked to reconvene the meeting and take a straw poll for support of the petition.

Before the unofficial poll, ASUN President Andy Pollock asked Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen to comment.

Griesen said the university is already "painfully aware" of the problems within the office, but encouraged senate members to support the university in dealing with the problems.

"The last thing we need is an investigative committee to come in and take staff time they desperately need to help students," Griesen said.

Despite major cuts in federal aid, lack of staff and space, Griesen said the financial aid office has done considerably well.

Steps were being taken to alleviate some of the problems, he said.

Regan then withdrew his request for the poll, but said he will continue to get signatures and come to the next meeting to see what was being done.

Before the senate adjourned the second time, Sen. Pete Castellano complained about the effectiveness of recent ASUN activities and said he foresees criticism of the senate.

"I think ASUN has stopped being an effective voice for students," he said.

Castellano said he was disappointed because a student had come to ASUN for help and senators were unable to help him. Little was accomplished in the meeting, he said.

President Andy Pollock agreed that ASUN has to be an effective voice for the students.

"If we're here, that's one thing," he said, "but if we're doing something, that's another."



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Jeanne Tsai, a UNL research associate for food science and technology, holds a sample of cultivated oyster mushroom. Oyster mushrooms, grow in straw and newspapers, and are the second popular mushroom in Europe. See Mushrooms on page 3.

Wanted: Opinions on AIDS

Last year the Daily Nebraskan had an open forum on the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade abortion decision. The response was overwhelming.

With the recent controversy about AIDS, the DN has planned another open forum in conjunction with its Sower supplement. On Tuesday, the

DN will run letters from readers responding to the following questions:

• Should children with AIDS be allowed to attend public schools?

• Should health-care professionals undergo mandatory testing for AIDS? If they test positive, what conse-

quences should they face? Should the test results be made public?

Please center your letter on only one of the questions. Drop off letters at the DN front desk, Nebraska Union 34. Show identification to the secretary when you leave the letter. Deadline is Friday at noon.

UNL ag professors span the globe

By Kip Fry
 Staff Reporter

Farming isn't just an industry in America's bread basket, according to several professors from the University of Nebraska Lincoln College of Agriculture who have traveled to countries around the world to assist in agriculture.

Instructors have traveled to countries like Morocco, Israel and Costa Rica. Another instructor plans to go to Kenya on sabbatical next year.

Darrell Watts, professor of agricultural engineering, has spent the last five years in Serrat, Morocco, directing the Dryland Research Center.

The center conducts research to make better use of the limited water

and soil resources of the region, which is similar to Nebraska, western Kansas and Oklahoma, Watts said.

The main difference between Morocco and the Midwest, Watts said, is that Morocco's productivity is extremely low. While Moroccans consume 7 million tons of cereal a year, they only produce between 4 1/2 and five tons each year.

The project is designed to develop an applied research capability, Watts said, so Moroccans can improve productivity.

"We're not able to feed them, but we can help them get closer to it," he said.

Watts became director of the center in the fall of 1982 after its inception in the spring of 1981.

Watts said one of the primary

problems with Moroccan agriculture is the Hessian fly, a "miserable bug" which deposits larvae on wheat. The larvae then either destroy the plant or reduce its capability to make grain.

Scientists at the center developed a variety of wheat with resistance to the fly. Researchers were aided by a strain of wheat in the United States that is resistant to the fly.

However, Watts said, the genes won't appear in Moroccan wheat for 10 to 12 years.

Nebraska may benefit from this research as much as Morocco, he said, because this wheat also can be introduced here.

Nebraska agricultural knowledge also will travel to Costa Rica. Earl Ellington, associate dean of the College of Agriculture, visited the site of

a new college near San Jose, Costa Rica, last April.

UNL joined forces with California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo and Rutgers University in New Jersey to create the Costa Rican institution.

"In the past, we have done research and service," Ellington said. "With this, we build an institution. We're trying to be helpful in an international situation."

Although no buildings have been built, a 7,000-acre plantation has been purchased for the college in an area between the east coast and the mountain ridge where San Jose is, Ellington said. The region is very productive and is used primarily for grain crops, bananas, coffee, vegetables and macadamia nuts. Poultry,

sheep, goats and cattle are also raised there.

Ellington said the project is still in its embryonic stages. He visited the site in April to take care of administrative duties. The college should begin operation in 1990, he said.

Once the college begins instruction, students from UNL will be able to study there, which might lead to employment there, Ellington said.

Gary Anderson, research pathologist for the department of veterinary science, visited Israel in June, initiating a scientific dialogue with Israeli scientists and "throwing out some ideas about common agricultural problems between Israel and the U.S.," he said.

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