

Daily Nebraskan

Wednesday

Weather: Wednesday, sunny and warm, high in the mid 70s with winds from the S at 10-15 mph. Wednesday night, partly cloudy and cooler, low between 35-40. Thursday, mostly sunny but cooler, high in the low to mid 60s.

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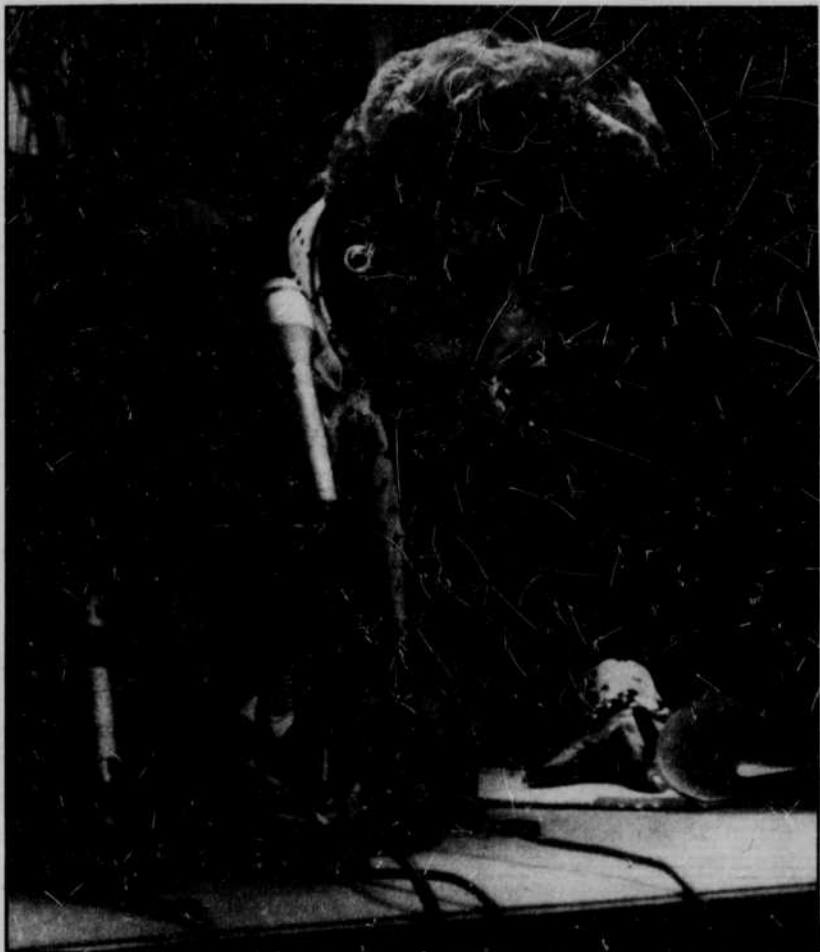
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Orr signs bill to finance school in Curtis



Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Gov. Kay Orr signs LB1042, appropriating money to the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, at a greenhouse on UNL's East Campus.

By Anne Mohri
Senior Reporter

A year of anticipation ended Tuesday when Gov. Kay Orr signed a bill to finance the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis.

Orr signed LB1042 in a wheat-filled room in the Agronomy Greenhouse Complex on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus.

The college was scheduled to close June 30. Curtis was eliminated from the University of Nebraska budget last spring and given financing for one year.

Roseanne Wilson, a second-year production agriculture student at

Curtis, said the passing of LB1042 will give future students the opportunity to attend Curtis and get the education that has been offered in the past.

With the signing of LB1042, Orr said, the state can guarantee a future for the farmers and food producers. Curtis provides the opportunity for "students to access the technology and then transfer it through an on-hands application," she said.

"The school of Curtis gives us the transfer technology to those that are in agriculture production and agriculture-related businesses," she said.

Nine of the students now studying at Curtis and three graduates from the

college attended the signing of the bill.

"Those future farmers we know have been well-educated and started off on good futures and some of them right here among us..." Orr said.

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale said, "Curtis has always been an outstanding quality program in agriculture, and I think this is a great day for agriculture in Nebraska."

Gerald Huntwork, associate director of Curtis in charge of academic affairs, said, "We're very pleased that the passage took place and we will be able to continue to offer a high-quality technical education in agriculture."

Low pay, respect Minority faculty slam UNL

By Ryan Steeves
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln loses and can't attract minority faculty members because of its environment, a group of minority faculty members said.

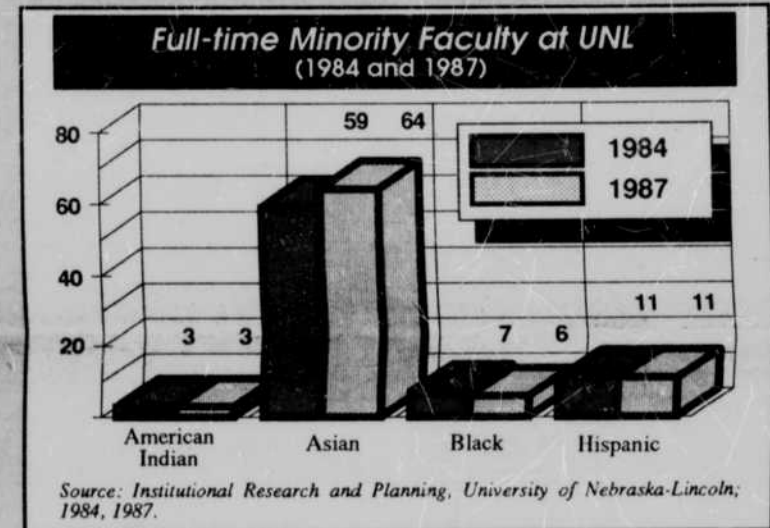
In a meeting of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Minorities Monday night, minority faculty members criticized UNL for stereotyping, paying low salaries and not having enough minority programs, library materials and intellectual vibrancy.

Colin Ramsay, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, said student and faculty attitudes at UNL are not conducive to minorities. Ramsay said students do not understand minorities and stereotype them. He said he'll leave UNL after the summer because of these attitudes.

Ramsay said that because he is black, students and faculty are surprised to discover he is a professor. He said all students and blacks at UNL were not kind to him. This lack of camaraderie, Ramsay said, was one reason he decided to leave.

Ralph Vigil, professor of history and ethnic studies at UNL, also said students and faculty members are surprised to learn that he's a professor. Vigil said he once asked about his check and was mistaken as part of the grounds crew.

Esther Martinez, assistant professor of modern languages and literature, said being a minority and a woman affects student evaluations. Martinez, a member of the commission, said students tend to rate minorities and women lower than other instructors. She denounced



Tom Lauder/Daily Nebraskan

the idea that teachers should try to be appealing to receive good evaluations.

Ramsay said a lack of intellectual vibrancy among UNL students was a major reason for his decision to leave. He said students in the United States aren't as dedicated to learning as students in other countries.

Ramsay said his classes make it a big joke when he asks students what they have read during the weekend. Usually they laugh, he said.

"The university is not terribly an intellectual place," he said. "It's very disconcerting to me."

Vigil said he has seen a lack of intellectual vibrancy among students who take ethnic studies classes. Students think they're doing a minority professor a favor by learning about his or her culture,

he said. In return, they expect the class to be easy, he said. Some students don't expect to be tested in such classes, he said.

Ramsay said UNL needs to attract more minority faculty members so students can become more accustomed to them and better understand them. UNL may have an intellectual appreciation for minority recruitment, but it needs to develop an emotional one, Ramsay said.

Miguel Carranza, chairman of the commission, said UNL needs to develop an energetic program to recruit minorities. Carranza, who is also director of the Institute for Ethnic Studies, said a greater number of minority faculty members will contribute to greater acceptance among students and staff.

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Faculty celebrates raise

Orr declares more work needs to be done

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

Gov. Kay Orr, two state senators and University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty members celebrated the \$9.3 million salary increase appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature for 1988-89 at the Faculty Senate meeting Tuesday, but said more work needs to be done.

"This is the time to celebrate all the success that has come to the University of Nebraska this year," said Jim Lewis, Faculty Senate president. "Now it's our responsibility to take the opportunity to respond to the challenge."

Orr said the state's top priority for 1988 was to improve education.

"I'm very proud to say we kept our word," she said. "Education is once again moving in the right direction."

Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly said he thinks the governor's statement of priority to education and the long history of the university in the

state made the difference in getting the salary increase and research money.

"There was one other reason why things went so well — we had the money," he said.

Sen. David Landis of Lincoln agreed that the governor's prioritizing of salary increases in the budget was the key factor in getting approval, but cautioned against thinking the salary increase is the end of the line.

"Upon taking our first strong step, it's our (the Legislature's) tendency to declare victory and move on and that can't happen in this case," he

Chancellor Martin Massengale applauded faculty members for their commitment to improving the university.

"We've made a lot of progress this year. We were clearly focused, we were tenacious, we were successful," he said.

Massengale also encouraged the

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State groundwater levels stay constant

By Phil Richmond
Staff Reporter

Despite Nebraska's third-place ranking in the nation for groundwater use, statewide groundwater levels remain generally constant, a U.S. Department of Interior official said.

Mike Ellis, hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Resource Division, said Nebraska's groundwater levels replenish themselves in most cases.

"There are some problem areas in the Upper Republican District," Ellis said. "But steps are being taken to correct that."

The Upper Republican District is in extreme

southwest Nebraska. It includes Perkins, Chase and Dundy counties.

Groundwater levels in some areas of Perkins and Chase counties have decreased 30 feet or more since wells were first installed, according to the Geological Survey's records.

On the other hand, levels along the Platte River in Gosper, Phelps and Kearney counties have increased by 50 feet or more, according to the records.

However, these are rare instances, Ellis said.

Dan Schultz, resource conservationist for the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District, which includes the Lincoln and Lancaster County areas, said groundwater levels in the

district have risen in the past few years.

Schultz attributed the rise to recent weather patterns.

"We've had some pretty wet seasons in the past few years," Schultz said.

He said there have been no periods of substantial decline since development. Predevelopment is a term referring to the water levels at the time wells were put in place.

Roger Figard, superintendent of water resources for Lincoln, agreed with Schultz.

Figard said water levels at the city's wells near Ashland haven't changed significantly since predevelopment.

"It's gone down in drier periods, but then it

seems to return to a uniform level by the end of a season," he said.

Ellis said it's difficult to estimate how long Nebraska's groundwater will last.

"There are too many variables involved," Ellis said. "If corn went up to \$5 per bushel there'd be irrigation wells going up left and right. So it's difficult to estimate how long it will last."

Ellis said virtually all Nebraskans get their water from the ground. He said four towns in Nebraska use surface water because they are in areas where groundwater is low in quantity or

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