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Correction: In Thursday's paper, the number of doctorate minority students in the chemistry department was stated incorrectly. One American minority student is enrolled in the department's graduate program. The Daily Nebraskan regrets this error.

WEATHER

Today, mostly sunny but not quite as hot, high around 90, light east wind. Tonight, clear, low around 60. Saturday, partly sunny and still hot, high in the low-90s.

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Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Sen. James Exon (left) answers a reporter's question as Republican challenger Hal Daub listens during a debate at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Thursday.

'No new taxes'

Senate candidates debate

By Michael Ho
Staff Reporter

Candidates for the U.S. Senate Thursday accused each other of pandering to special interests and paraded more "no new taxes" pledges past an audience of more than 200.

At an afternoon debate at the Nebraska State Fair, Republican challenger Hal Daub called special interests harmful and charged that incumbent Sen. James Exon relied too heavily on money from out-of-state sources.

Daub said Exon gets 80 percent of his money from political action committees and individuals outside Nebraska. Daub has said that he would not accept money from PACs.

Exon countered that when Daub was in office as a 2nd District congressman, he was a "champion collector of PAC contributions."

When Daub left office to pursue a Senate seat in 1988, Exon added, he "hurt Nebraska" by leaving

behind a seat on the influential House Ways and Means Committee.

One debate panelist suggested that Daub might have obtained that committee position through connections with outside lobbyists -- a charge that Daub denied.

"To suggest that outside interests could have in any way influenced that decision is preposterous," he said.

Honesty also dominated the tax issue debate, with Daub calling for closure of what he called the "\$100 billion tax gap," the uncollected part of this year's income tax bills.

"We ought to collect that revenue before we raise the rates on the hard-working people of Nebraska," he said.

He called for Congress to live up to the targets of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction act.

Exon also disavowed tax increases.

"At this time," he said, "I would

not be in favor of any tax increase." However, he called the Gramm-Rudman bill "a total failure" and said new ways of deficit-cutting needed to be found.

Both candidates expressed support for the use of U.S. troops in President Bush's "War on Drugs."

"I supported that from the very beginning," Exon said, calling the drug war "the No. 1 social issue for the United States."

He stopped short of supporting arrest powers for the military, but said the military should play a key role in eliminating drugs.

Daub said the military was an important instrument for global interdiction. However, he said, troops should not be used within U.S. borders.

"We should and we must use all of our resources in this fight against the scourge of drugs," he said, but using U.S. troops against U.S. citizens raises civil liberties questions and could cause confusion.

Agriculture research jeopardized Budget under fire

By James P. Webb
Staff Reporter

Agricultural research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln would be impacted significantly by a one-two punch of state and federal budget restrictions, an official said.

Darrell Nelson, dean and director of the Agriculture Research Division, said the blow would come from a proposed 2 percent state and local budget lid and from cuts within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Initiative 405, the budget lid, would "significantly affect" research if Nebraskans approve it in November, Nelson said.

"I believe it's going to have a significant impact on all programs, but certainly our program on agriculture research," he said.

The lid would be retroactive and would cut about \$1.7 million from the 1990-91 research budget in January, Nelson said.

Because the research division would be midway through the fiscal year, the cuts would have to come from the remaining half of the budget, Nelson said.

"People would lose their jobs," he said.

In subsequent years, the budget would not keep pace with the cost of living and other benefits, and "people and programs would have to be removed," Nelson said.

"That would make it difficult to attract and maintain high quality faculty members," he said.

The second blow to the research division would come from the USDA.

Last week, a USDA study forecasted a 31.9 percent or \$7.3 billion cut from the agriculture department's

budget as a result of the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law.

The cut would reduce the amount of appropriated money and the available pool of competitive research grants reserved for land-grant universities, Nelson said.

However, Nelson said he thought the final version of the bill would amount to less than the anticipated 32-percent cut.

"We're going to speculate that after (Congress passes) the final version, it will be less than 5 percent," Nelson said.

A 5-percent cut in federal appropriations would slash \$155,000 and would stiffen competition for grants, Nelson said.

But state budget cuts would have a greater impact, he said, because Nebraska matches federal funds 5 to 1, which is bigger than the required 1-to-1 match, Nelson said.

About fifty-five percent, or \$20 million, of the budget comes from state funds; about 34 percent, or \$11 million, from grants, gifts and contracts; and about 11 percent, or \$3.1 million, from federal formula funds, Nelson said.

Federal formula funds are those exclusively given to land-grant universities, such as UNL, Nelson said.

This year's budget for the Agriculture Research Division was about \$34 million, Nelson said. The budget was increased 11 percent over the previous year to cover an 11 percent increase in faculty and staff salaries and a 2.5 percent increase in operating expenses, he said.

So far, no budget decisions have been made because of uncertainty about the severity of cuts, Nelson said.

UNL students lend a hand harvesting Japanese crop

By Pat Dinslage
Staff Reporter

The summer sun glares down on the long rows of crops as the morning coolness wanes.

The farmhands and field owners peel off layers of clothing as the temperature rises, and continue to talk and joke as they pick the crops. They look forward to the showers they soon will take during their noon break.

The scene could be a farm in Nebraska, or anywhere in the Midwest. Instead, the farm is half a world away, on an island off the southern coast of Japan.

The farm is located on a mountainside, rather than on a plain. The crop is tea leaves, and among the farmhands are two University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.

Nikette Allen, a senior international affairs student from Lincoln, and her fiance, Hiroshi Nakama, a senior advertising student, spent the summer on his parents' farm in Nishinoomote on the island of Tanegashima.

The farm is average-sized for Japan, and Nakama's parents grow rice and oranges in addition to tea. But the amount of cultivated land is hard to measure because the fields are on the

See JAPAN on 5

Regents chairman says request is not gag order

By Jennifer O'Cilka
Senior Reporter

Regents Chairman Don Blank said a letter he sent to University of Nebraska faculty members should not be considered a gag order.

An Academic Senate leader and an administrator agreed.

Blank said a letter he sent last week about speaking during NU Board of Regents meetings to NU vice chancellors, university vice presidents, the Academic Senate president and faculty was not a result of any one situation but of many times others have commented while the regents were engaged in policy discussions.

The letter was "trying to put a little more sense and control into our discussion," Blank said. "It's not a gag rule at all."

The Academic Senate president and other administrators have the opportunity to give their reports and comments at certain times

during the meeting, Blank said.

"They all have input when there's an item that affects their campus," Blank said. "It's not a matter of sitting there and not saying a word."

Also, members of the public can get onto the regents' agenda by contacting J.B. Milliken, the corporation secretary, at least 24 hours before the meeting.

When the 11 regents have listened to all

outside input, they must sit down and discuss the issues, Blank said.

If everyone was allowed to participate during those discussions, Blank said the regents would end up with "a Saturday morning round table" with 25 to 30 people offering opinions.

Blank said the position of the three student regents would be "watered down" if everyone participated in the discussions. Student regents do not have voting power, but are allowed to

participate in policy discussions and to give their opinions.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said Blank's action was appropriate.

"The chairman has a responsibility to see that the deliberations of the board are done in a very orderly manner," Griesen said. The meetings can't be an "open forum" for anyone to voice concerns, he said.

Griesen said unscheduled interruptions have tended to occur in recent months.

"As a vice chancellor, I'm always there, and I wouldn't think of getting up" and commenting without permission, he said.

James McShane, president of the Academic Senate, agreed that the letter was trying to bring some order to the meetings. And, although any citizen has the right to address the board, they must follow rules to get on the agenda, he said.

"It's just to keep the meeting from getting ragged," McShane said.

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Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

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