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Friday

WEATHER

Today, quite warm, mostly sunny and breezy, southwest wind 15-25 miles per hour, high near 90. Tonight, partly cloudy, low in the mid to upper 50s. Saturday, increasing cloudiness and not as warm, high in the mid 80s

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Lisa Pyllik/Daily Nebraskan

Carlos Fuentes makes a point during his speech at The Lied Center for Performing Arts Thursday afternoon. Fuentes spoke at an E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.

Author urges U.S. to improve relations with Latin America

By Sara Bauder Schott
Senior Reporter

The United States must learn to treat Mexico with respect instead of with arrogance and force, said a former Mexican ambassador and well-known author Thursday.

Carlos Fuentes, speaking at an E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, said the two countries will share a destiny as the year 2000 approaches, but that destiny will be determined by how the United States treats its neighbor to the south.

Fuentes spoke to a nearly full house at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

The United States often has dealt badly with Mexico and the rest of Latin America, Fuentes said. U.S. intervention in the affairs of Latin American countries has resulted in tension between Mexico and the United States, he said.

Mexico serves as a border between the United States and the rest of Latin America and U.S.-Mexican relations are a barometer of the relations between all of Latin America and the United States, Fuentes said.

Typically, the United States has used communism as an excuse to meddle in the affairs of Latin Amer-

ica, Fuentes said. With the end of the Cold War, he said, the U.S. government has found another excuse: drugs.

Manuel Noriega, the ousted leader of Panama, is an example of the new "drug excuse," Fuentes said.

"... He was crooked, he was a drug lord, he was ugly, but he wasn't a Communist."

Mexico and the United States share many problems, including drugs, migration and urban problems, Fuentes said. Mexico City, which serves as the point of destination for millions of rural Mexicans, has problems with crime and unemployment, he said.

One of Mexico's problems is a population growth rate of 2.3 percent, compared to the .8 percent population growth in the United States. Fuentes said a predominately Roman Catholic population makes birth control a touchy subject in Mexico. The pope tells people not to use birth control and to have as many children as they want, he said.

People must be persuaded to use birth control to solve the problem of rapid population growth, Fuentes said. Persuasion already has worked partially, he said. In 1970, Mexico's population growth rate was 3.9 percent.

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Officials require researchers to use women

By Mindy Wilson
Staff Reporter

An aspirin a day keeps the heart doctor away -- but maybe only for men.

The study that discovered the beneficial aspects of aspirin was done only on male subjects, said Ernest Prentice, the assistant dean for research and vice chancellor of the institutional review board at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Most research projects only use males, so researchers don't know if the results of these studies can be applied equally to females, he said.

The National Institutes of Health in Washington recently reissued a policy that requires scientists to include more women in medical

research, an NIH official said.

UNMC examined the enrollment of women in its human subject research projects eight months ago to comply with the institute's policy, Prentice said. It adopted a policy that advocates using women in research, provided there are no risks.

The NIH's policy first came out in 1986, said Ann Dieffenbach, NIH information officer. The institute has reissued the policy to tell scientists that it was "serious business," she said.

The institute now plans to enforce it more rigorously, she said.

Recipients of federal grants are told that if they don't include women in their medical research, their grants will be taken away, she said.

Currently, NIH is meeting with the Institute of Medicine in Washington to develop guidelines to safely include women, she said.

William Berndt, vice chancellor and dean of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said that although UNMC was not dependent on NIH for clinical research support, officials still are trying to increase the number of women used in research.

Most of the clinical research done at UNMC is financed by industrial groups, he said. Clinical research is research done on patients using new drugs.

Prentice said some sponsors of research projects, such as pharmaceutical companies, prohibit women because they fear litigation.

Dieffenbach said the fear of endangering women of childbearing age has kept women

out of research. Birth defects caused by the drug thalidomide, a sedative marketed in Europe in the 1950s, made researchers wary of using women in medical research, she said.

The UNMC Institutional Review Board is asking drug companies that exclude women from clinical research to give documented reasons for doing so, he said.

"We concentrate on if any researcher restricts research only to men," Prentice said. "Then we ask why."

Researchers take several precautions to ensure that participants in the study aren't pregnant, he said. Women are given pregnancy tests and also are provided with adequate birth control during the research project, he said.

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UNL unites with Cairo

Exchange will provide tractor technology for Egypt

By James P. Webb
Staff Reporter

The UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources is linking up with its Egyptian counterpart to beef up Egypt's outdated technology in testing agriculture equipment, an official said.

Glenn Hoffman, head of UNL's biological systems engineering department, said the Agricultural Mechanization Research Institute in Cairo, Egypt, will exchange faculty and graduate students with UNL to acquire technology for testing farm equipment.

The Egyptians' testing facilities are 15 years old and their equipment is obsolete, Hoffman said.

"It's going to take a lot of effort to bring their equipment back up to operating condition and to train people on what they need to do," Hoffman said.

The U.S. Office of International Cooperation and Development and the U.S. Agency for International Development are sponsoring the program. The agencies will provide about

\$550,000 to both institutions for research, equipment and training, Hoffman said.

The OICD/AID selected the University of Nebraska-Lincoln agriculture equipment testing laboratory because of its worldwide reputation, Hoffman said. UNL has the only lab in the United States that is approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce to test tractors.

The exchange program will run for about three years and could be extended if necessary, he said. Egyptian representatives visiting UNL will observe research done in the IANR departments.

One UNL faculty member already has visited Egypt under the exchange and has written a proposal for the program.

Louis Leviticus, a professor of agricultural engineering and associate director of the center for agricultural equipment, met U.S. representatives and members of Egypt's Ministry of Agriculture last week in Alexandria and Cairo to discuss agriculture equipment problems from design to performance testing.

Leviticus said he visited manufacturing sites and found that engineers don't know how to measure the efficiency, traction and other performance variables of the tractors they build.

The industry needs technology to make its equipment more competitive because tractors are a big investment for farmers and imported tractors are expensive, he said.

But the challenges facing the Egyptians are more complex than testing alone. Leviticus said design research is costly and unsafe.

Currently, the method of manufacturing in private industry is to copy foreign machines without paying attention to research, he said. If a machine fails after a manufacturer tests it, the manufacturer may go under, he said.

"They do not have the wherewithal to test whether the metals and the materials they use are any good," he said.

Premature breakdowns because of wrong selection of metals and poor

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Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

UNL professor Louis Leviticus sits on a tractor being tested for its braking ability. The tests are being performed on the tractor test track on East Campus.