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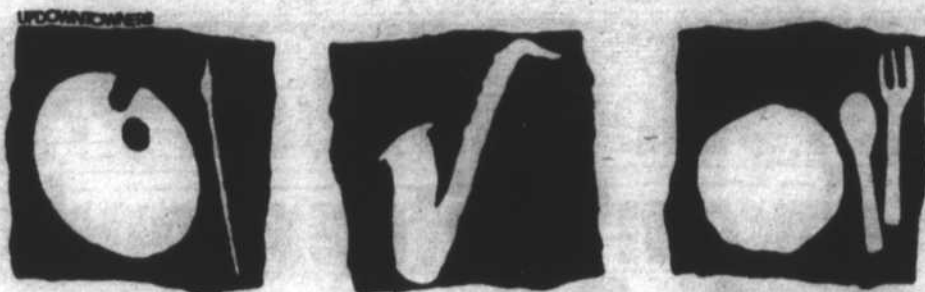
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## Evals

Continued from Page 1  
said David Brinkerhoff, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He said the new policy would be more in-depth.

"It still needs a little fine tuning and has not been fully established," Brinkerhoff said.

Harvey Perlman, dean of the University of Nebraska's College of Law, said the five-year plan would be appropriate. Yearly evaluations are not very easy to do on administrators, he said, because they are expected to have long-term goals.

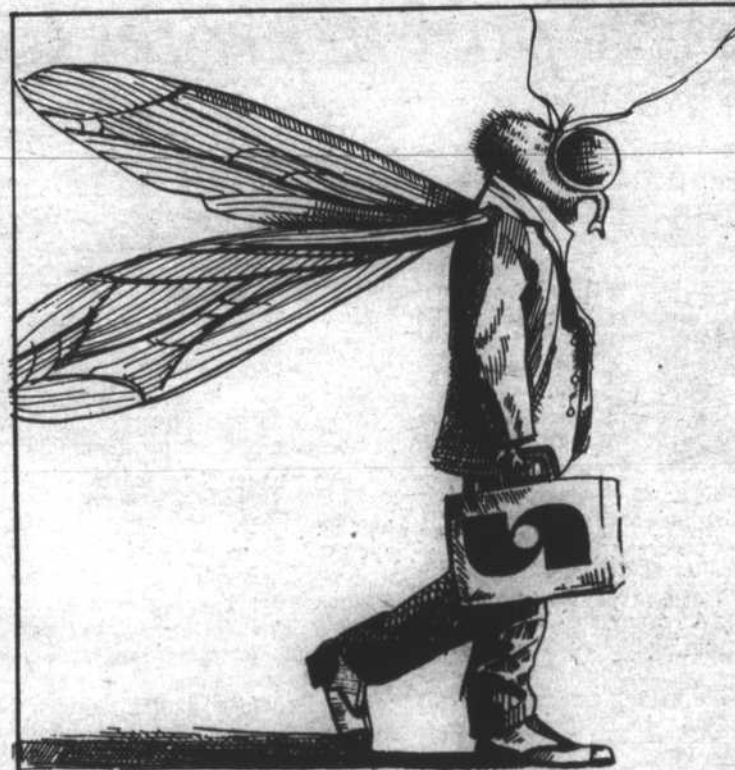
Robert Simerly, dean of the Division of Continuing Studies, said the new policy would enable administrators as well as those working for them to communicate about expectations and job environment.

"This is a very far thinking idea," Simerly said. "I think it's a very positive step and I wholeheartedly endorse it. We need to have that two-way communication."

There has been no opposition to the plan as of yet, Spanier said.

Choobineh said the goals of the five-year plan were to create a better faculty-administration relationship, giving way to a better working environment and consequently a better learning environment and better university.

"I think this is going to be a step in the right direction to achieving those goals," he said.



David Badders/DN

## Insects donated to NU

By DeDra Janssen  
Staff Reporter

An insect collection donated recently to the University of Nebraska State Museum gives researchers a view backward in time, which enables them to look forward to the future, an insect expert said.

Brett C. Ratcliffe, Professor and Curator of Insects at the NU State Museum, said a collection of about 4,000 insect specimens given to the museum by Erwin Froemel of Columbus, as part of his estate, contains a number of species that can no longer be found in the Platte County area.

Because the natural habitat of that area has been significantly altered to accommodate agriculture, Ratcliffe said many of the insects in Froemel's collection have been wiped out in that area.

"Insects found there in the 1930s can't be found there anymore," Ratcliffe said. "This collection gives us a view backward in time as to what the ecosystem was like in those days."

But, it will also provide insight for the future.

"The more we know about what happened in the past, the more we know about what could happen in the future," he said.

Beginning in about 1930, Froemel's collection covers a 50-year span. It includes mostly butterflies and moths native to Nebraska, which Froemel caught with a light trap in his backyard.

Particularly abundant in the collection are Underwing Moths, which have brightly colored orange and red markings on their hind legs. Ratcliffe said these specimens, which are especially hard to catch, are all perfectly labeled and mounted.

The collection also includes some tropical butterflies and moths, mostly from Asia and Africa, that Froemel purchased from dealers. It also includes some other specimens, such as beetles.

Froemel also left NU some books and cabinetry from his estate.

Ratcliffe said the appraised value of Froemel's collection was \$17,000, but that figure is conservative.

However, Ratcliffe said, the real value of the collection lies in the educational value it provides.

As well as documenting 50 years of change in the Columbus area, Froemel's collection represents some species that the museum has never had in its collection of about 2 million specimens.

"We have increased our diversity," Ratcliffe said. "This puts us in a better position to identify insects people bring in. It increases our reference capability."

And some of the new specimens, like the Birdwing Butterflies, would be nearly impossible to obtain now because they are protected by law as endangered species, and collectors are not permitted to collect them anymore.

Ratcliffe said the insects also made a fine teaching tool.

"In the USA, most people are afraid of insects or don't like them," he said. "Yet adults interact with insects more than any other lifeform. Most people recoil when they see an insect because they are not educated."

"We're all screwed up as a society in the way we think of insects; we're led as a society to fear them. It's really crazy. They're more beneficial than harmful," he said.

Ratcliffe said he was pleased that Froemel left NU the collection because all the information it contains would have been lost if he hadn't.

"If it had remained in the attic, his collection would have been totally degraded," he said. "What a loss that would have been — we would have lost a lot of good scientific information."

Since proper care is essential for the preservation of such important information, Ratcliffe said he wants other collectors to know about NU's facility. The museum does not have funds to buy new specimens, so it must rely on gifts such as Froemel's to continually diversify its library.

"It might sound like a funeral home, but we offer a perpetual resting place for their collections," he said. "This is the state depository for animals in the state of Nebraska."