

Daily Nebraskan

Tuesday, May 1, 1984

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 83 No. 149



David Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

Four heated bus shelters will be built in downtown Lincoln early this summer on the west side of 11th Street between O and N streets. Current downtown bus shelters, like this one at 13th and Q streets, are not heated.

Planner hopes shelters lure patrons

By Pam Alward

Four \$75,000 custom-designed bus shelters will be built downtown this summer as part of a \$758,000 city redevelopment project, Lincoln's transit planner said.

Alice Althaus said the shelters, which will be built on the west side of 11th Street between O and N streets, will have glass walls, Plexiglas domes, ventilation and electric heating systems.

Gold's Galleria, which is west of the shelters, will indirectly pay for \$645,000 of the \$758,000 project—\$210,000 from special assessments against the property and \$435,000 from tax-increment financing. The area, which has been declared blighted, also will receive restructured underground vaults, landscaping, new pavement and streetscaping, Althaus said.

The shelters are secondary to the project, she said.

A Federal Urban Mass Transportation Administration grant of \$90,000 city street improvement financing of \$18,000 and private financing of \$5,000 also will help pay for the project.

Fourteen new bus shelters in outlying areas also are planned for this year, Althaus said. The new

shelters, not including the four at the Gold's site, will be like the existing models, Althaus said.

The city also will buy eight small buses this year as part of the Capital Improvement Project, Althaus said. The buses will replace some of the Scooter buses and crosstown buses.

Gold's Galleria was picked for the four special shelters because of the high number of patrons at the site, she said.

"The site has received the highest boarding count of the city for several years," she said.

The makeshift shelter previously at the site was old and inadequate, Althaus said.

The four shelters will be about 208-square-foot each with a capacity of 80 persons seated or 130 persons standing.

The shelters, hopefully, will lure people downtown, Althaus said, as well as improve the city through beautification.

"Downtown has been very supportive of the transit system," she said.

The first phase of the project, including curb replacement and vault restructuring, already has begun, Althaus said. The second phase, which includes the shelters, probably will begin in early July and end in October, she said.

Date not yet set

Interfaith agency to provide farmers with crisis hotline

By Gene Gentrup

Financially troubled farm families may be closer to having a new crisis hotline after Sunday's Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska workshop.

IMN, a planning and programming agency of cooperating denominations in Nebraska, will continue fact-finding and planning for the crisis hotline today after a morning information session on the extent of the farmer's financial crunch.

Mel Luetchens, executive secretary of IMN, said the hotline will help farmers share resources with state agriculture department representatives, state farm groups and church officials.

Luetchens said many factors led to the future formation of the crisis hotline.

"The unavailability of money, the low amount of money farmers get for their products, the devaluation of land and natural weather conditions such as drought are the biggest problems facing the farm family," Luetchens said.

A 1980 census showed Nebraska had more than 68,000 farms, he said. Of these farms, more than 25 percent showed annual incomes of less than \$7,000. Despite these findings, Luetchens said, the extent of farmer's plight is unknown. But, he said, "all indications are that the crisis has worsened."

Although Luetchens said he thinks there is a "sense of urgency" to start the hotline as soon as possible, no target starting day has been set.

When the hotline is installed, it will be modeled after a similar Iowa service sponsored by Rural America.

The morning session about the farmer's finances will include these panelists:

- Kathy Votau of First National Bank of Lincoln
- Bud Riblet of the Farmers Home Administration
- Tom Weber of the Production Credit Association
- Larry Bitney, professor of agricultural economics at UNL
- Kathy Severens of the Legal Aid Society
- Dwight Dell and Raymond Rehbein, Nebraska farmers from Holmesville and North Bend, respectively.

UNL Health Center will undertake massive \$3 million expansion in fall

By Bill Casari

Bids for a \$3 million expansion of the UNL Health Center will be taken by the NU Board of Regents this month, said the health center's director of business services.

Gary Wilkinson said construction probably will begin in June and be finished in January 1986.

Creating a more efficient atmosphere and modernizing are the two main reasons for the expansion, Wilkinson said.

The current health center was built in 1958 to accommodate 10,000 students. Wilkinson said proposals to enlarge the center were presented in 1965 when student enrollment was more than 15,000. However, expansion plans did not begin until 1980. The expansion will almost double the health center's interior space from 25,592 to 45,979 square feet.

Stephen Blom, a health center administrator said the expansion will also

increase the number of examination rooms from 14 to 20. Also, the pharmacy, radiology and physical therapy departments and minor surgery treatment rooms will be upgraded, he said. Most departments will increase in size, but the number of in-patient beds will decrease from 14 to six.

The building will be enlarged at the northeast and northwest corners, Wilkinson said. He said radiology will be housed on the northwest side of the building. The medical clinic and physical therapy rooms are part of the northeast expansion, which accounts for 80 percent of the increased space.

About \$2.75 million of the total \$3.1 million construction cost will be paid by unappropriated bond surplus funds. Eighteen dollars of student fees is used annually to maintain buildings, and the accumulated interest on that money makes up the bond surplus, Blom said. He said the rest of the money will come from health center reserves.

Chi System Inc., a health care consulting firm, was contracted in April of 1982 to conduct a year long study of

the center and possible expansion areas.

During that period, Chi System looked at the center's programs and spoke with officials and students to evaluate the health center's effectiveness.

In April 1983, Chi System presented its report. The report recommended the health center building be expanded so it could continue providing health care service to students. Along with that, it supported the center's role of providing health education and awareness programs.

Wilkinson said the health center will be able to provide service to 50 percent more students after its expansion. He said the current health center size ranks sixth among the Big Eight Schools. The Missouri health center is the smallest in the conference, he said.

Schemmer Associates Inc., of Omaha are drafting the expansion plans.

Wilkinson said students should watch the Daily Nebraskan in the fall for relocation notices of some services. Because of the renovation, some services will be moved to other campus buildings, he said.

Tuesday

Inside

- UNL Division of Continuing Studies wins two national awards Page 2
- All is not peaches and cream with *Summer and Smoke* Page 10
- Huskers expend minimum effort as they split a pair from the UNO Mavericks ... Page 10

Index

Arts and Entertainment.....	8
Classified	11
Crossword	12
Editorial	4
Off The Wire	2
Sports	10