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UNL finishing, starting new buildings

By Marella Synovec

Bids will be taken Aug. 24 for a \$10 million plant science complex on UNL's east campus, according to Tom Nycum, physical plant assistant director.

The complex will consist of a "headhouse greenhouse" on the north side of the campus, and a laboratory building north of Keim Hall, Nycum said. The bid may be approved at September's board of regents meeting.

The plant science complex is one of several construction projects planned, underway or completed on UNL's campuses. Nycum said that construction is generally progressing.

An \$8 million Animal Health Center is under construction on the east campus. The veterinary diagnostic center is in use and Jan. 1 is the scheduled completion date for a basic science building and an animal research building.

The new buildings will add faculty, staff and expertise to the department, said Lawrence McGill, assistant professor of veterinary science. Toxicology and virology programs will be added this year to the department's course offerings, he said. Also, new faculty positions will be added during the next few years to bring the department's total to 25, McGill said.

Strong support

The health center will be used for research and to help control animal diseases in the state, McGill said. There was strong support from the state's agriculture industry for a center of this type, he said, as well as a need for the new buildings.

"The department was competing with the cockroaches and mice for space in the old veterinary science buildings," he said.

Construction of the \$6.2 million Life Sciences Bldg. on the city campus is almost complete, Nycum said. Parts of the building may be used in the fall semester and the building should be finished by January, he said.

The building moves the department from 60-year-old Bessey Hall. The School of Life Sciences will be centralized in one building and provided with modern equipment and specialized laboratories.

East campus' \$1,533,000 Barkley Memorial Center is finished, Nycum said. The speech and audiology department has used the building since April.



Joe Marostica, M.W. Anderson Co. employe, washes each brick as exterior work on UNL's Life Sciences Bldg. nears completion.

Union almost finished

Construction of the \$4 million East Union is on schedule and parts of the building may be ready for occupancy Jan. 1, Nycum said.

The construction industry is more stable and not experiencing the rapid inflation of a few years ago, Nycum said.

"The construction situation in Lincoln is getting back to normal," he said. "Bidding is less erratic and estimates are closer to what they should be."

Nycum added that one reason for the stabler conditions is that the recent building surge in the city is trailing off. Construction during the past year has not been hampered by strikes as it was last year.

This reflects a more stable economy, Nycum said, and willingness of labor unions to agree to more realistic wage and price conditions.

Capital construction funds were not affected by the Legislature's budget cut of operating funds, Nycum said.

Inside

Search committee has 30 candidates

Over thirty nominations for a new NU president have been received by the search committee charged with finding a replacement for NU President D.B. Varner, said Paul Schorr III, chairman of the committee.

What does it take to be a university president? According to Schorr, the committee stipulated that NU presidential candidates should have the following qualifications: major administrative experience, a philosophy devoted to the development of higher education, intellectual distinction and the ability to interpret the needs of the university community to the rest of the state.

Schorr, a Lincoln businessman, said the search committee sent about 100 letters to various persons and agencies advising them of the open position. Letters went to other universities, to persons within the academic profession and an announcement was published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, an education trade magazine.

Schorr said the date set to close nominations is Aug. 11. The 16-member committee has been divided into three subcommittees for quicker review and follow-up of candidates, said William

Swanson, NU corporation secretary and secretary of the search committee.

He said from five to seven names of candidates will be submitted to the NU Board of Regents by Oct. 1.

The deadline set for selection of the new president is Jan. 1.

NU President D.B. Varner resigned last month, effective on or before Jan. 1, to become chairman of the board of directors of the NU Foundation.

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For an unhampered, unjostled, unred view of Memorial Stadium, see p. 4