

Monument proposal draws fire

Nearly 50 people attended a public hearing Wednesday at the state capitol on a proposal to build a pioneer monument across Interstate 80 near the Greenwood Interchange.

Following a slide presentation by monument designer Jean Dunbar of Omaha, Stan Matzke, director of the State Office of Economic Development and chairman of a special governor's committee, opened the hearing for public testimony.

Much of the opposition of the proposed 240-foot high project was directed at possible development of adjacent land.

"We are not a committee to determine land use," Matzke reminded participants.

Committee member Mel Kammerlohr voiced concern over commercialization of the area, "If someone can make some money they will try to commercialize it."

Mike Epp, UNL architecture student, noting that a motel and retail business area also were planned for the area, asked the designer if the land was purchased first or if the monument was proposed before land acquisition.

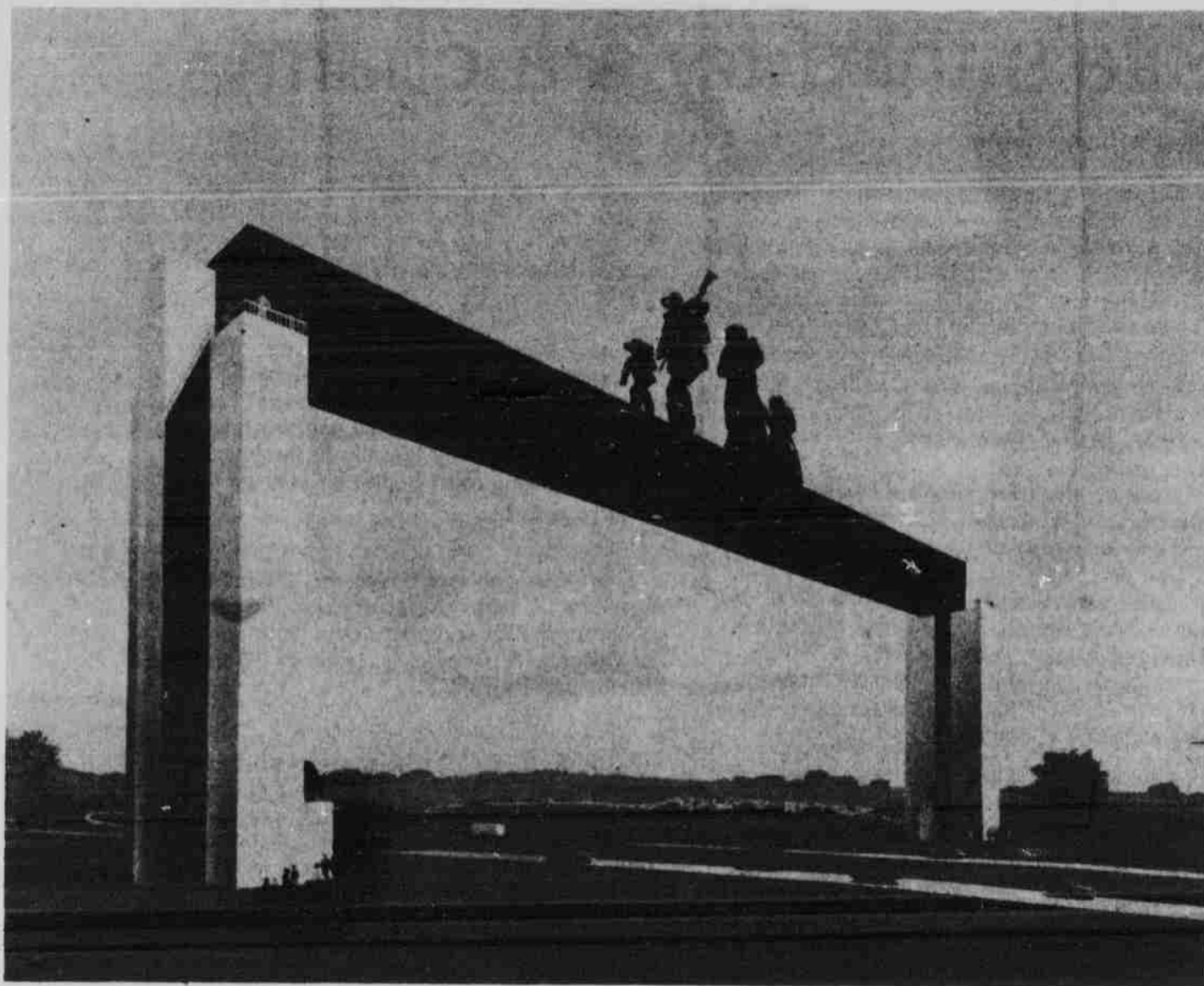
Dunbar refused to comment, saying the question was inappropriate for the purpose of the hearing.

Epp was one of the proponents of a joke plan to place a large statue of a football player north of Lincoln over Interstate 180. He later announced his plan was a hoax designed to protest the "bulldozer mentality of Nebraska architecture."

Another UNL student, Daniel Smith, expressed



Epp's hoax . . . perpetrated to "protest the bulldozer mentality of Nebraska architecture."



Proposed pioneer monument . . . would span Interstate 80 near Greenwood.

opposition to the project which could be built close to his home on a farm near Ashland.

"The state speaks for itself," Smith told the committee. "We don't need to build a monument for something that stands before us."

Saying the view of Nebraska would be marred by its construction, Smith said: "Having a monument reminds me of taking a bus ride through Yellowstone (National Park)."

Bob Hanna of Lincoln told the committee if the monument is built, "a precedent would be set." There would be no guarantee, he said, that additional monuments might not be built over the Interstate.

He also criticized comparison of the monument to the giant arch in St. Louis, calling the Nebraska construction a "super billboard."

Under the proposal for construction of the monument Dunbar and Dunn, Architects Inc. of Omaha would build the monument with the state having the option to take control in 30 years.

The building would be paid for by an admission charge of \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children and souvenir and food sales profits.

A 388-foot beam crossing the four Interstate lanes would be supported by two 150-foot towers. On top of the cross bar would be four statues of a pioneer family.

The glass walled towers would each hold an elevator with observation decks and a photo mural

gallery would be inside the horizontal beam.

Mrs. Michael Edwards questioned whether it would be a "true monument or a method to stop the tourist and exploit his money."

She added that there seems to be an ulterior purpose of commercially developing surrounding land which could possibly lead to an "amusement park."

Edward's feelings were similar to Robert Schluntz, who said the proposal was not a monument to pioneers but a "device for making money."

"We are building monuments to our ability to conquer the land," Schluntz said. "Is there a need for such a monument?"

Tom Laurie, speaking for construction, said the monument would be a method of "detaining" travelers as they are speeding across the state. They could then possibly see some of the beauty Nebraska has to offer, he said.

Other supporters of the monument termed it a "most thrilling and exciting project, something we can be proud of."

One person said it could be a "painless way of educating" children who are bored by traveling.

Support for the building came from the Greenwood Village Board and the mayor of Ashland.

Matzke said the committee would be meeting in early December to make their recommendations to the governor. The committee would continue to take written testimony for another 10 days, he said.

Committee will alter selection of SAs

A new method of selecting Student Advisors (SAs), one that will allow the individual residence hall director to have more say in choosing his staff, will be initiated this year.

Dori Bush, residence director of Smith Hall and chairman of the committee that decided on the changes, said: "What we were after was something to shape up the system, something to make the interview situation more real life. In the past the interviews have been too time consuming, they usually take up the month of February, now we hope to concentrate them into a couple of weekends."

Georgia Glass, residence director of Womens Residence Hall agrees that the time involved was a major reason for the change.

"We interview three hundred students for sixty or seventy jobs. We used to spend hundred of hours at it."

The applications, after being screened to make sure that they have the mandatory 2.5 grade point average, will be sent to each residence director who will choose the persons to be interviewed for his residence from among them.

Those people chosen for interviews for a specific hall will receive a notice in February to come to an interview in the Nebraska Union where the residence director and a committee of his choosing will decide on the SAs for the next year.

Applicants who weren't asked to interview for a residence hall that they may have especially wanted to be an SA will have a chance on the next weekend to interview in that residence.

For the last two years the SAs have been chosen through a series of two interviews. The first was an individual one where the applicant met with a committee formed of a residence director, two SAs and two students.

The second interview had a group of applicants together for a discussion with students, graduate students, and SAs.

In the interviews to be conducted this year there is a no requirement that there be students on the interviewing committee. According to Glass though, most of the residence directors feel they want to have students on the committees anyway.

People's Food Co-op looks for new home

After only a few weeks in its new location at 33rd and Holdrege Streets, the People's Food Co-op has been forced to move.

According to co-op member Jay Pashalek, the landlord of the new building gave them 30 days to vacate. In place of the co-op, patrons soon will find a slot-car race track.

The co-op sells bread, dairy and poultry products, vegetables and fruits to members at near wholesale prices.

Pashalek said the store must liquidate its entire stock of staples before moving.

Checks with both the City of Lincoln and the University about vacant buildings have proved fruitless, according to Pashalek.

Efforts currently are underway to find a new headquarters for the co-op, but Pashalek said that unless another building is secured before mid-December the co-op may have to move to the Nebraskans For Peace building at 35th and Holdrege.

Since that building is owned by the Cotner School of Religion, its board of directors would have to approve use of the building, he said.

Union 'institution' moves

An institution in the Nebraska Union is about to change locations. The "ride board" located near the elevator in the Union will be moving shortly, possibly to the hall on the south side of the Union.

"This is my fifth year at the Union and that board was here long before me, according to Art Thompson, Union Programs director.

The "ride board" consists of two maps, one of Nebraska and one of the United States, and hooks to hang cards on underneath them. People looking for rides and drivers looking for riders may both place cards on the rack.