

# Ol' brown Bessey just ain't what it used to be

By Wes Albers

In 1917, Bessey Hall was a modern building meeting the needs of a growing College of Life Sciences. But 57 years can make a big difference, according to faculty members.

Inadequate storage and work space, crowded classrooms and poorly designed laboratories cause faculty members to describe Bessey Hall conditions as "pretty awful."

Staff members say the college simply has outgrown the building. They hope for the construction of a new life sciences building.

"It's been on the priority list since 1965," said J. M. Daly, college

director. "We're very hopeful that this year is the time."

In his budget recommendations last month Gov. J. James Exon called for a \$2 million appropriation to cover capital construction costs for the building in fiscal 1974-75.

The building is expected to cost \$6.2 million.

Prior to his budget announcement, Exon said he favored using existing buildings at UNL to house life sciences activities.

According to Daly, the college already is spread among several campus buildings, including Lyman and Hamilton Halls as well as Bessey.

"A new life sciences building would allow us to pull the faculty together in one spot for the first time," he said. "It would give us the chance to arrange laboratory space so that the use of equipment could be maximized."

Faculty members say classrooms and laboratories are crowded in Bessey. According to Assoc. Prof. John Brumbaugh, six people work in one small Bessey office.

"We have to say 'excuse me' a lot," he said. "There just isn't adequate room for all those people to work."

The crowding in Bessey goes beyond classrooms and labs. Rows of books line the hall outside the life sciences library. Hallways in the basement are filled with overflow from storage areas.

If constructed, the new building would have 5,000 sq. ft. of library space, Daly said. He said a central storage area designed for better handling of supplies also is planned.

Problems in Bessey are not always immediately noticeable. Research facilities often are outdated.

Brumbaugh, who works with an electron microscope in the Bessey basement, called facilities for that

equipment "adequate" in size but poor in design.

He said the structure of Bessey is such that "when they use the piledriver for construction on campus we can see the shake in the ground through the microscope." This makes research difficult, he said.

Tissue culture experiments requiring a "regulated, clean environment" also are conducted, Brumbaugh said, but "we have no adequate way of controlling environmental conditions and once in a while we lose an experiment."

Prof. Jerry Hazel, who works with aquatic animals in Bessey, complained of inadequate facilities to handle the water involved in his work.

"This lab has only one water faucet and no supply of distilled water," he said. He also said the room was not equipped with any floor drains.

"It's virtually impossible to have anyone clean the tanks without getting water on the floor," he said. "And without a drain the tile has begun coming off the floor."

"I'm not complaining much. The department has been more than fair with what it has," Hazel said. "But I sure wouldn't fight it if we moved to new facilities."



Much of the College of Life Sciences Library in Bessey Hall is actually in the hall because of space shortages.

## calendar

### Wednesday

12 p.m. - IFC Chapter Advisers' luncheon - Union  
12 p.m. - Chancellor's Office luncheon - Union  
1 p.m. - Counseling Center Career Concerns - Union  
1:30 p.m. - Student Development Staff - Union  
4:30 p.m. - Fees Allocation Board - Union  
5:30 p.m. - Neb. Human Resources Foundation HEP Dinner - Union  
5:30 p.m. - Engineering

### Toastmasters - Union

5:30 p.m. - Kappa Kappa Psi - Union  
5:45 p.m. - Arts and Science Advisory Board - Union  
6:30 p.m. - ASUN Student Mass Meeting - Union  
7 p.m. - NU Meds - Union  
7 p.m. - Free U - "Human Sexuality" - Union  
7 p.m. - UNL Ski Club - Union  
7:30 p.m. - Neb. Objectivist Club - Union  
7:30 p.m. - NU Wildlife Club - Union  
7:30 p.m. - math counselors - Union  
7:30 p.m. - Bahai Assn. - Union  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. IFC Lambda Chi Alpha Colonization - Union

## daily nebraskan

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