

Fate of Selleck questionable, decision expected in spring

By Rusty Reno

Whether Selleck Quadrangle will remain a residence hall or be closed next year probably will be decided next spring, according to Housing Director Richard Armstrong.

Armstrong said the total capacity of all residence halls, excluding Selleck, is 4,534 while the number of residents this year is 4,553. In other words, UNL now has 19 residents in excess of the capacity of all the other halls, excluding Selleck, he said.

If Selleck were closed down, then residence would be relocated in other residence halls, Armstrong said.

Armstrong noted that this year there are 276 fewer residents than 1973's total of 4,829.

"The answer lies with occupancy in the future," he said, "but because occupancy is uncertain then the situation in Selleck is uncertain."

"I am not disguising my response that Selleck does not have a future," he continued. "But it appears that if we must convert residence halls to other uses then Selleck is our leading consideration."

He said Selleck is in need of "big dollar" repairs. However, it is too early to forecast, he said, and stated three factors in Selleck's favor:

—Housing does not wish to destroy the Selleck community that has been set up over the years.

—Housing believes that renting of private rooms, whose number would probably be decreased if Selleck closes, is a good program.

—There are 371 persons living in private rooms this year as compared to 257 in 1973.

—Other universities have shown an increase in occupancy and, because the future can't be predicted, Housing is reluctant to close Selleck.

"All three points are relative to the economy of the situation, so if we are losing money then the whole thing has to be re-examined," Armstrong said.

Benton and Fairfield Halls, which are in Selleck Quadrangle, are occupied this year by the Department of Anthropology, Teachers College and Nursing. Possibilities for the remainder of Selleck, if it is closed, include married student housing or academic purposes, he said.

"If during the year we get sufficient indications that the drop in occupancy in 1975 will be by this year's amount, then it will be awfully difficult to maintain Selleck as a residence hall," Armstrong said.

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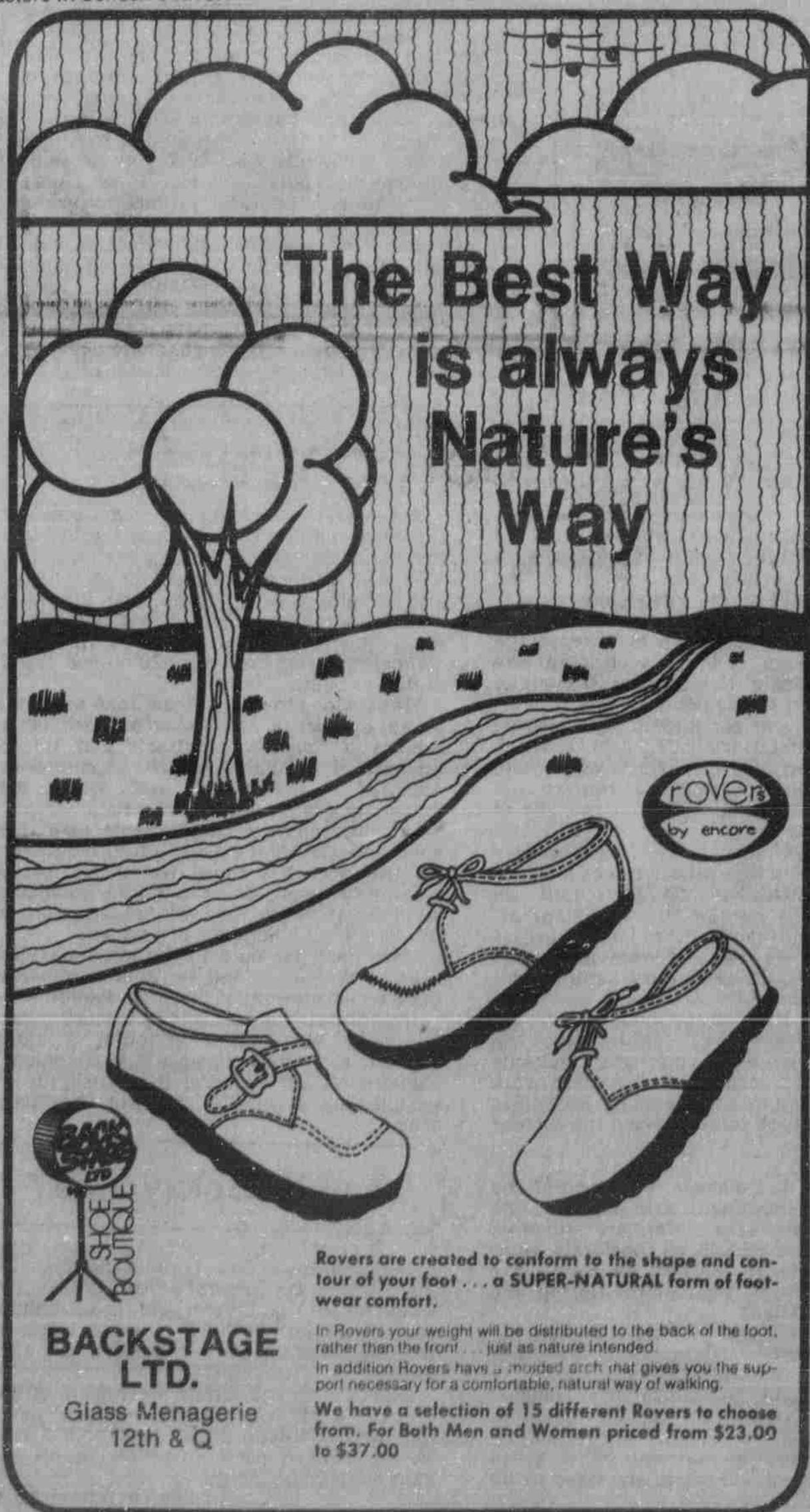
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