

Tunnel linking UNL buildings termed unsafe

By Lynn Silhasek

The lifeline of UNL is a four-mile stretch of tunnels underneath the university that houses telephone and electrical cables and



Tom Nycum, assistant physical plant director, inspects UNL's underground tunnel system.

steam pipes servicing buildings on both campuses as well as the State Capitol.

That lifeline is in danger of being cut off in some places.

Water damage and old age have caused the ceilings and walls in some tunnel sections to weaken, and UNL physical plant administrators said last week they fear those sections may collapse.

A *Daily Nebraskan* photographer and this reporter descended into the tunnels Friday with Tom Nycum, assistant physical plant director, to view the conditions.

"Now I know where to go to keep warm this winter," Nycum said, walking along the main tunnel which runs south from the UNL power plant. The steam pipes running through the tunnels heat campus buildings, but also heat the tunnels, sometimes up to 150 degrees, according to Nycum.

"A man can't work down here for eight hours," he said. "He can work for half an hour, but then he has to come up."

Portions of the tunnels don't have an adequate ventilating system to reduce the heat, Nycum said. Grates located on sidewalks are part of the ventilating system, he said.

The S Street section has suffered water damage, Nycum said, as excess water from lawn sprinklers on that side of the street seeped through the concrete sidewalks and weakened the tunnel's ceiling.

Weakened walls also were evidenced by

chunks of concrete which had crumbled from the sides into piles on the tunnel floor. Some of the wooden wall props placed at intervals along the tunnel had collapsed, no longer able to support the sides. A three-foot passageway ran between the steam pipes and the other side of the tunnel.

According to Harley Schrader, physical plant director, the tunnel doesn't provide enough room for maintenance workers and is too narrow to escape from quickly if a steam line should break.

The tunnel will be rebuilt this fall after a contractor is hired, Nycum said. Construction will involve tearing up the sidewalk on the south side of S Street, closing parking spaces for a half block on 16th Street and on S street, he said.

No work is scheduled to be done on the Architecture Hall tunnel, according to Nycum. The tunnel, nearly 60 years old, is built of bricks in an arched shape. In the dim light along the tunnel's narrow passageways, canvas covering the steam pipe insulation was torn in several places.

Rusty wall reinforcements also could be seen as bricks which had covered them had crumbled, leaving cavities in the walls.

"We send men down to service things like this," Nycum said, pointing to the valve. If small maintenance work is kept up, the dangers of a pipe break are lessened, he said.

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Pub Board to purchase new typesetter for Daily Nebraskan

UNL Publications Committee (Pub Board) members unanimously voted Friday to spend \$18,000 on electronic typesetting equipment for the *Daily Nebraskan*, replacing a typesetter installed last summer.

The nine-member board publishes the *Daily Nebraskan* and comprises five students, two UNL faculty members and two professional journalists. Two student posts remain to be appointed.

The old typesetter, installed Aug. 13, was too small and inefficient, according to Kathy Policky, *Daily Nebraskan* production manager. She said the present machine is insufficient for the *Daily Nebraskan's* needs.

The decision to buy a new typesetter came after Pub Board chairman Kelley Baker issued a report to the Regents Sept. 5, expressing the hope that the *Daily Nebraskan* could cut its student fee request by 25 per cent for 1976-77, compared to 1973-74. The *Daily Nebraskan* received \$47,847.50 in student fees for 1973-74.

To cut its student fee request, ways to increase efficiency in producing the paper would have to be found, Jerri Haussler said at the Sept. 14 meeting. Haussler, the *Daily Nebraskan* business manager, said the board could afford to buy a new typesetter because the paper profited \$16,040.63 in 1973-74.

In the two-hour session Friday, board members agreed to replace the present compugraphic brand typesetter with IBM equipment.

Policky said the present typesetter will be sold on the open market.

Board member John Edgecomb, editor of the *Geneva Signal* said the Pub Board could sell the present typesetter for about \$6,000. The new equipment would cost about \$12,000 after the present system is sold.

Baker said the new typesetter will be installed before the start of the spring semester. The present equipment will probably be used until the end of this semester.

Library lending code revised

A revised library lending code doesn't discriminate against undergraduates, although faculty members are still exempt from paying fines.

The revised lending code became effective at the beginning of this semester, according to Mary Doak, circulation services librarian.

Library lending regulations are no longer categorized for undergraduates, graduates and faculty, according to the new code, Doak said. Most books may now be checked out for four weeks regardless of university status.

She said a study sponsored by ASUN indicated that changes which would equalize lending procedures would improve library service, Doak said.

Undergraduates were complaining that the two-week loan period was not sufficient, Jan Goering, assistant circulation services librarian, added.

Equalization of loan periods, reduction in the number of different loan

periods and uniformity among the branches are the objectives of the revised code, according to Doak.

Most loan periods were lengthened for undergraduates by the revised code, he said.

However, periodicals from the periodical room, which includes the current and most popular issues, may no longer be checked out, Doak said. Provisions of the old code allowed these to circulate for two hours or overnight.

The new regulations make no distinction between graduates and undergraduates for loaning procedures or penalties.

According to the old regulations, graduates could check out most books for two months and no overdue fines were charged on them.

Faculty members are not fined for overdue books, except those on reserve, according to the new code.

Copies of the revised code are available at all UNL library branches.

Students to lobby for increased state funds

A decision to lobby for state legislation increasing the amount of matching state funds for a federal student grant program received full support from student government officials of three Nebraska state colleges and NU system schools at a meeting in Kearney Saturday.

ASUN President Ron Clingenpeel proposed collective government action to increase the amount of state money used as matching funds for the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) Program. The program was funded by the Education Acts of 1972.

Information he had received from financial administrators, however, had indicated that if state funds were not increased next year, SSIG money would be cut off for the next school year, Clingenpeel said.

Clingenpeel said he didn't know the total amount of money allocated to Nebraska through the program. The amount of increase to be lobbied for was not set at the meeting, but was termed a "cost of living increase" to meet rising educational costs.

In the *Daily Nebraskan*, Sept. 19, Clingenpeel was reported as saying the state had not matched federal funds received under the 1974-75 school year under a program identified as SSIG by Jack Ritchie, UNL scholarships and financial aids administrator.

At the meeting, however, Clingenpeel said the federal money had been matched with state money.

Clingenpeel said he did not know the views state senators held on the issue of state education aid. But he commented that he favored lobbying for the increase by proposing legislation similar to LB 427, a bill which died in committee in the 1974 legislative session.

The bill, introduced by the Interim Committee on the Coordination of Higher Education, would have created a Nebraska Commission on Post-secondary Student Aids, a central office to administer a financial assistance program to students attending state-supported colleges and universities. Under the bill, the commission also would have participated in federal student financial aid programs.

The state "got a bad taste in its mouth" from a state financial assistance program offered to students several years ago, Clingenpeel said. The program, however, was a loan program with no method of payment and was financed out of the state's teacher retirement fund, Clingenpeel said. Senators were upset at the high delinquency rate among students in repaying the loans, he said.