

Residence hall changes provide 'next door' help

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles examining differentiated housing during its first year in UNL residence halls.

By Rusty Reno

Help with an assignment may not be as close as next door for UNL residence hall students, but the Housing Office is working to provide this academic aid in a closer proximity than ever before.

Assistant Housing Director Kenneth Swerdlow discovered last July that certain majors tended to request residence at certain residence hall complexes.

From the residence hall preferences Swerdlow established a nonblinding complex designation for 10 majors.

"The student still has the freedom to choose the dormitory he wants, and we will honor that," emphasized Richard Armstrong, housing director. "We are just setting up possibilities."

Swerdlow's plan names the following majors to these residence halls: Abel-Sandoz: engineering, architecture and business; Burr-Fedde: agriculture and home economics; Cather-Pound-Neihardt: teachers college and undeclared majors; Harper-Schramm-Smith: arts and science; Sel-

leck: graduate, professional and nursing students.

Part of change

Special interest floors were part of residence hall changes made possible by the NU Board of Regents last spring after the Council on Student Life (CSL) recommended that alternatives to traditional residence hall living be adopted.

Between five to 25 persons of one major would be placed on a floor, Swerdlow's report states, but no floors were set aside for just one major.

"We have not thought of having individual floors with a concentration of majors, because it would have a reverse effect than what we are trying to accomplish," Armstrong said.

He feared that students attending classes, eating and living together would restrict their view of college.

"A student is more likely to become a complete person if he is exposed to more views rather than a one-sided narrow point of view," he said.

Increase academic strength

Armstrong commented that majors who live in the same complex could only have their academic strengths and interests reinforced.

Differences between students should not be excluded, he said, and the creation of a floor clique would injure that possibility. "There are things that bring people together besides academic interests," he said.

Swerdlow hopes eventually to have a dean's office for the majors represented in a residence hall. In this way, the "campus can be decreased in size," according to Armstrong, and communication between a student and his advisor will be increased.

Contact with the colleges to seek out opinions about an outside office has not been developed, Armstrong said.

Change in literature

The plan will cause a revision in residence hall literature sent to prospective residents, he said, including Swerdlow's designation of majors to the particular residence halls.

James O'Hanlon requested Cather-Pound-Neihardt be designated for undeclared majors to offer a special program to them.

Although the plan brings students of the same major within a closer proximity, Armstrong stressed the importance between the difference of academic and residential life at UNL.

"We do not want to produce carbon-copy students," he said.

ASUN acts against Union renovation

The ASUN Senate Wednesday night unanimously passed a resolution to oppose recently revealed remodeling plans for the Nebraska Union.

The plans involve providing retail business space in the southwest corner of the Union first floor. They would involve remodeling or relocating the Union Program Office, the Women's Resource Center and the study lounge. The plans were explained by Union Director Al Bennett in a Wednesday, Oct. 23 *Daily Nebraskan* article.

The purpose of the resolution was to oppose the "Glass Menagerie-type setup" that renting building space to businesses would allow, according to Senator Mark Hoeger. He introduced the resolution for the Senate Executive Committee.

Ron Clingenpeel, ASUN president, said he introduced the resolution to the committee. The remodeling would provide additional services within the union but at the same time would jeopardize organizations contained in the areas marked for business, he said.

The money spent in remodeling could be used in areas with a greater need for the money, such as residence halls, according to Senator Tim Evensen, Residence Hall Association president. The remodeling plans could cost about \$160,440, according to Bennett.

The proposals will be submitted Thursday to the Union Board, a student advisory group to the union director.

Results of an earlier ASUN resolution—to place on the homecoming ballot a choice of voting for homecoming queen or homecoming person next year—were announced by Sharon Johnson, ASUN first vice president.

According to Johnson, 338 students voted to change the royalty vote from homecoming queen to homecoming person. Students voting to retain the title of queen numbered 808, and students who did not vote on the question numbered 358, Johnson said.

The Senate also considered a government bill which would provide ASUN funds for salaries for ASUN committee chairmen. Chairmen for two of the three committees, education and student services, have resigned since the beginning of the school year.

According to Clingenpeel, salaries are necessary for the chairmen's work. The bill was tabled until next week when it will be voted on, according to ASUN procedure on government bills.

Fred Stehlik, a Law College freshman was approved as senator for the Graduate and Professional College. Senator Sarah LeRoy who represents the College of Arts and Sciences has resigned.

Building allows for handicapped

By Chuck Beck

One building on East Campus is different from the others. Its rough-handled door levers, blinking fire-warning signs and automatic doors were designed with some special people in mind.

This building, the new Home Economics Building (HEB), was designed to be easily accessible to handicapped people.

Light switches are built low to allow people in wheelchairs to reach them. The rough-handled door levers mark doors leading to staircases, warning blind people of potentially dangerous areas. Lois Schwab, associate professor of Human Development and the Family said. Blinking fire signs warn the visually impaired of a fire in the building and automatic doors remain open long enough to allow people confined to wheelchairs to get through them.

The \$1.7 million structure was formally dedicated last Saturday, ending ten years of planning, according to Audrey Newton, chairman of the Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design. Funding for the building came from an appropriation by the 1972 legislature.

The building will accommodate the 1,000 home economic majors and 1,000 other students taking home economics courses, Newton said.

"The old building was a re-adjusted dormitory and so the floor space was not used as efficiently as in this building (HEB), Hazel Anthony, dean of the College of Home Economics, said. "I don't think there is any space in this new building that isn't used efficiently."

Model for other buildings

The 32,500 square feet of floor space in the HEB is divided among two classrooms, ten laboratories, eight research and extension areas, a demonstration laboratory, an auditorium and office space for 42 faculty members. It also houses administrative offices for the college and classroom offices for two departments within the college: textiles, clothing and design and education and family resources.

Another feature of the building is its wall hangings, Newton said. Alex Girard designed a series of brightly-colored, modernistic tapestries that hang in the stairwells. Faculty members

also determined color combinations for their offices, Newton said.

Because of the building's easy accessibility for handicapped people, it serves as a model for other buildings on campus, Schwab and Newton said. A \$70,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare went for the construction of safety devices for handicapped people, Newton said.

Clothing displayed

Historic clothing, such as old UNL cheerleaders' uniforms, is displayed in hallway cases. A room will contain other displays not yet assembled.

Also located in the building are laboratories to train teachers and counselors of handicapped people, Schwab said.

Another laboratory contains equipment to test fabrics, Newton said. A fabric's laundry properties, and its fading and flammability are tested in the laboratory.

"In terms of efficiency and the artistic angle, this building surpasses the old home economics building," Newton said.



Lincoln Municipal Court Judge Janice Gradwohl discussed job potentials for women in law at Women/Speak '74 Wednesday in the Nebraska Union.