

Recreation building urged

ASUN opinion

Editor's Note: Ron Clingenpeel is the ASUN president.

If you were going to play a game of handball, where would you go? One would first think of the Fieldhouse, but one might find that it is closed, in use by the athletic department or that the walls are in such terrible condition it is hard to drive a ball against any of them and that the boards in the floor are loose or stick up in places. Let's face it, the courts are not always in the best condition and they aren't always at the disposal of the student body.

Have you ever thought that on a bright, sunny, spring day you just might like to go ice skating? Maybe you don't have access to the Abel-Sandoz sauna but would really like to take one every other day. Where do you go?

I've often wondered about these things and think I now have some answer. Recreational facilities on this campus are, at best, the worst for any campus this size. I'm not saying the Recreation Department has not done a good job. When I first came to this campus, recreation and intramurals were not that active or numerous. But in the last four years things have changed quite a bit. Recreation and intramural programming have reached a substantial number of the student body. Almost every night of the year, the basketball courts of this campus are full of students. But is basketball the only thing this campus can offer?

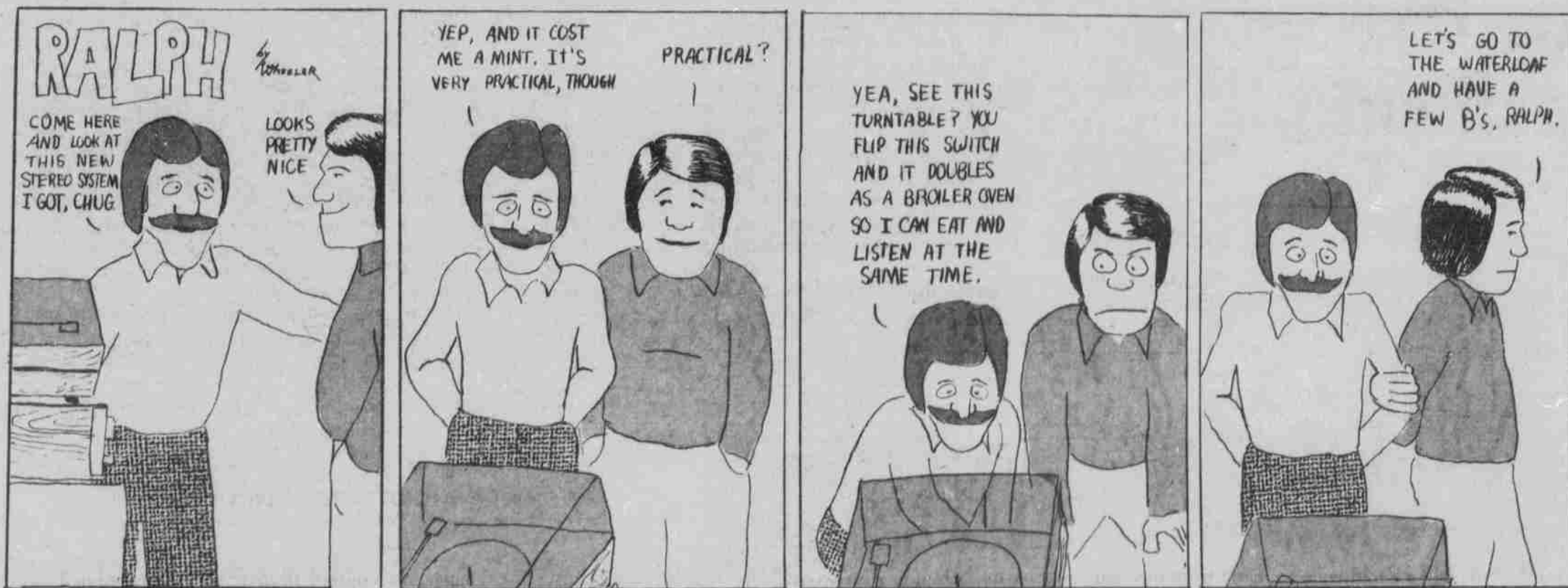
It seems this campus is lacking a good indoor facility that will accommodate other types of recreation. I have visited the recreation facility at Colorado University. Students voted to pay for this building. Notice, students voted to pay this extra money; the administration and governing board did not mandate this extra payment.

The CU building houses lockers for students (faculty have second priority), saunas, a diving pool, a racing pool, an ice rink that can be and is used for hockey, a number of handball courts, a weight room and a number of other areas. The athletic department does not use this building!

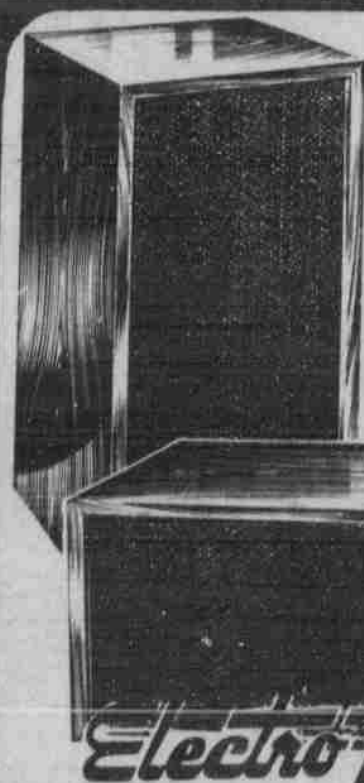
I'm not saying we need a facility that has a swimming pool. This campus has enough of those. But, why can't UNL have a recreational building that is open to student use, open most of the day, equipped to handle some other types of sports, other than basketball and swimming, and not used by the athletic department?

It seems to me such a building is possible, but just because one person would like to see such a building on this campus does not make it possible. What does make it possible is you, the student.

Do you want a recreational building run for students and only for recreational events?



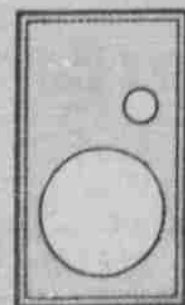
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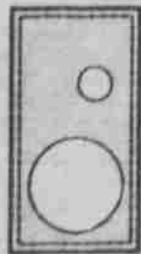
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