

Fire code violations result from storage, maintenance

Continued from p.1

"A lot of the violations listed were housekeeping or maintenance problems," Schrader said. "Many were minor things like proper paint storage, replacement of missing light bulbs, removing bikes from halls and placing furniture so that it wouldn't be an obstruction. Most of these were taken care of quickly."

Of the 267 violations, 104 were minor maintenance or housekeeping problems, Schrader said.

Fifteen major violations that were cited are presently being worked on, he said. Some may take up to two years to design, contract and construct.

Fire exits and stairwells

The priorities set by UNL and approved by then fire marshal Joe Pluta were: (1) fire exits and (2) enclosure of stairwells. Other violations not falling into the two categories were to be taken care of as money was available, Schrader said. In almost all instances, the fire exits have been installed.

"Different buildings are not all as fire prone as another," he said. "Agricultural Hall, because of its wood floor construction, was more fire prone than the Administration Building."

UNL buildings have an additional safety feature because the buildings do not have their own boiler rooms, Schrader said. In most building fires, he said, the fire starts in the boiler room.

"In my opinion, the university buildings are not that unsafe," he said. "That fire in Smith Hall last week didn't spread because of the building's fire-resistant construction. Each dorm room is more or less a self-containing fire zone."

Window escape

The older dorms are more of a problem because of the greater amount of wood used in their construction, he said. But since these buildings are only two or three stories high, he said, a student is not as endangered as it would seem, since a window escape would be available.

"We know of these problems, and we don't pretend that they are not important," he said. "But it is still a matter of setting priorities in view of the money we have available."

The code under which the violations were cited applied retroactively to any buildings, no matter when their date of construction, Schrader

said. This accounted for many of the violations, since the older buildings were not constructed with fire-resistant materials.

The alarm and extensive warning systems in these buildings is low on the list of priorities because of people's reactions to such systems, Schrader said.

Immune to alarms

"People have become immune to fire alarms," he said. "When they go off, the occupants of the building pay no attention to them, unless they smell the smoke or see the fire."

Another problem in complying with the fire safety code is acquisition of the \$1,100,000 from the Legislature needed in the capital construction funds in order to meet the demands, he said.

"The Legislature also sets their own priorities, and I'm sure they'll give us what they see fit," he said.

Interpretation of the fire code is questionable, he said. For example, Schrader said, the fire marshal's report said hazardous areas in the Administration Building existed and must be corrected. Schrader said the janitor's closets would be the only things classified as a hazardous area in that building, and they are separated in compliance with the request.

Depends on interpretation

"We try to take care of things, even if they are not on the order," he said. "I'm not sure if the fire marshal would agree with our interpretation of the code, but everything depends upon this interpretation."

Cooperation with the new fire marshal, Ace Backer, is needed if the buildings are to be made as safe as possible, Schrader said. Meetings will be held with the fire marshal in order to plan for new buildings and repair those with violations.

"As long as we show our measures of budget limitations, submit progress reports, and work with the fire marshal, as we are doing now, they can't ask for anymore," Schrader said.

Charles Herbst, assistant fire marshal, said UNL has until January 1976 to comply with the code. If the violations are not taken care of, Herbst said Backer will probably have to decide whether to close the buildings.

The fire marshal has not closed buildings with occupancies as large as UNL's in the recent past, but this does not mean he will not, Herbst said.

Exon tax proposal

Commissioner favors raise

State Tax Commissioner William Peters, said he is recommending that the Legislature approve Gov. J. James Exon's proposal to raise the state income tax this year from 10 to 13 per cent of the federal tax.

Peters is making the recommendation despite his claim that reductions in the federal income tax "will have a minimum effect on the Nebraska tax structure."

The increase is necessary in order to maintain the state's income at its present level, Peters said. Since the state tax rate is based on the federal rate, a decrease in federal income tax will reduce the state's income, Peters said.

Offset decrease

The proposed percentage increase, therefore, will offset the decreasing federal rate, making the amount of tax paid per taxpayer essentially the same.

Whether or not the increase will be enough "boils down to whether or not the Legislature can stay at the governor's recommended budget level," Peters said.

Not all of the federal tax reductions apply to Nebraskans, he added, because the Nebraska tax

structure bases its tax on the figures for the federal liability as they stand before some of the new credits are applied. The two credits that do apply are the low income allowance and the increase in the standard deduction.

Sales tax revenue

If all the credits in the federal program applied, Peters said, there would be an \$8-10 million decrease in the amount of tax revenue received by the state. As it is, however, the impact is valued at \$2 million.

Peters said that part of the money lost this year will come back to the state through increased revenue from sales taxes.

"It's going to pump a lot of money into people's wallets," Peters said, and added that much of this money will be spent in the state. Some of it will then be passed along to the state in sales taxes.

This is especially true in low income families, where the federal tax reductions will have the most effect, said Gary Chunka, the assistant state tax commissioner.

Most of the money these families receive will be spent on goods these families need, and the state will get the tax, he said.

calendar

Thursday

8:30 a.m.—Student Affairs Staff—Nebraska Union Room 216
11:45 a.m.—Newell School-Grand Island—Union Conference Rooms
11:50 a.m.—Emeriti Association—Union Pewter Room
12 p.m.—School of Journalism—Luncheon—Union 202A
12 p.m.—Lincoln Northeast Rotary—Luncheon—Union 203
12 p.m.—Food & Nutrition Dept.—Luncheon—Union 242
12:30 p.m.—Inter Varsity

Christian Fellowship—Union 337
3:30 p.m.—Latin American Studies "Marco Bruni-Celli"—Union 202
3:30 p.m.—Parking Appeals Board—Union 202A
3:30 p.m.—Student Affairs "Seminar on Grief"—Union 232
5:15 p.m.—Fees Allocation Board—Union 216
5:30 p.m.—Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia—Union Harvest Room C
5:30 p.m.—Council of American Indian Students—Union 232
6 p.m.—Epsilon Chi—Union 203
6:15 p.m.—Red Cross—Union South Conference Room
6:30 p.m.—Alpha Lambda

Delta—Union Auditorium
6:30 p.m.—Builders—Union 343
7 p.m.—Council on Student Life—Union Pewter Room
7 p.m.—Baptist Student Union—Union North Conference Room
7 p.m.—Free University "Dreams"—Union 337
7:30 p.m.—Math Counselors—Union 225 B-C
7:30 p.m.—Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers "Earl Wells"—Union Ballroom
8 p.m.—Union Tassels Interviews—Union 203 & 202A
8 p.m.—St. Louis Symphony Orchestra—Kimball Recital Hall
8 p.m.—"Slow Dance on the Killing Ground"—Temple

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