

Legislature reopens case on sculptures

By Lisa Brown and Liz Crumley

A meeting Tuesday of the Legislative Council's Executive Board reopened controversy surrounding the Interstate 80 Bicentennial Sculpture project.

Grand Island Sen. Ralph Kelley, appointed by the Executive Board to study possible legislative and gubernatorial approval of the sculpture project, referred to a letter written by Gov. J. James Exon which said Exon believed the sculptures may have to be approved by the Legislature and himself.

In an interview Wednesday, Thomas Doyle, Nebraska Roads Dept. director and a spokesman for the Exon administration said a 1975 statute (LB605) requires the governor and the Legislature to approve any gifts to the state of real property valued at \$10,000 or more.

However, Doyle said, a question was raised at the board meeting about another provision requiring only the governor's approval of gifts of personal property worth \$10,000 or more.

The estimated cost of the sculpture project is \$525,000.

Legal decision

The question of whether the sculptures constitute real or personal property is pending on a legal decision to be made later this fall, Doyle said. He said he was not sure who would make the decisions.

A subcommittee was named at the meeting to talk to Exon about implementing LB605, said Art Thompson, sculpture project director.

Members include Senators Ralph Kelly, Wally Barnett and John Savage.

Met specifications

The 10 Bicentennial sculptures have met all the Nebraska Dept. of Roads specifications, Doyle said.

"We would reject any project that was unsafe, difficult to maintain or a liability to the traveling public or to the State of Nebraska," he said, adding that state funds also could not be used in acquisition of the project.

"We have no point of view concerning the artistic value of the sculptures... as long as the provided funds are there and the physical properties met," he said.

1973 proposal

Thomas Yates, a Bankers Life Nebraska executive, proposed the "455-mile sculpture garden" in 1973 when he was chairman of the tourism subcommittee of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

Yates, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and Norman Geske, director of the University Art Galleries and a member of the Nebraska Interstate 80 Bicentennial Sculpture Corp. board of directors, proposed the idea to the Nebraska American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, which adopted it in August 1973.

The sculptures are to be finished by June 1, 1976, according to contracts, and will be unveiled at ceremonies July 4,

Fall victim slightly improved

Abel resident 'serious'

A freshman student was listed in serious condition at Lincoln General Hospital late Wednesday evening after falling through his tenth floor window at Abel Hall Tuesday afternoon, according to a hospital spokeswoman.

David Arthur Zech, 18, of Douglas, was listed in critical condition when he first arrived at the hospital.

Campus Police said Zech apparently fell through the glass window in Abel 1011 about 4:40 p.m. Tuesday, hit a tree, then slammed into a six-foot wooden bench on the west side of the hall. Police said it was a fall of about 100 feet.

Hospital officials refused to elaborate on Zech's condition Wednesday. Lois Ullman, supervisor at Lincoln General, said

Tuesday night that Zech had suffered a fractured pelvis and wrist, several broken ribs and possible head injuries.

Gail Gade, Campus Police chief, said investigation into the incident is continuing with the help of the State Patrol.

Sgt. Tom Keith of Campus Police said about 50 persons have been interviewed by police in connection with the incident.

No one has given police any information that would lead them to any conclusions as to how the incident occurred, Keith said.

Keith asked that anyone having information about the case, or who came in contact with or knew of the whereabouts of Zech between noon and the time of the incident Tuesday, call him at 472-3555.

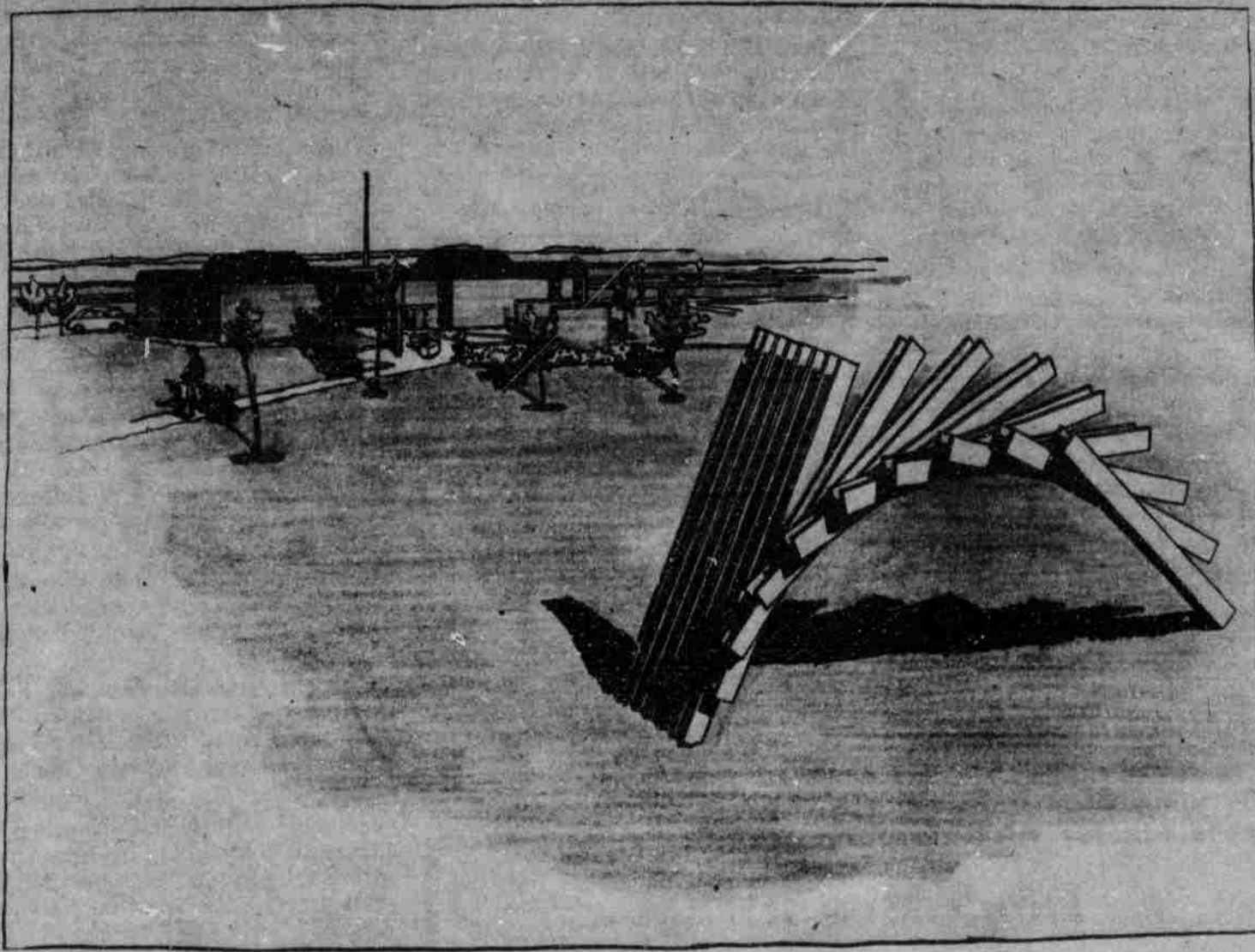


Photo courtesy Interstate-80 Sculpture Project

Artist's drawing of Linda Howard's "Up/Over" as it will appear, when completed, on the Ogallala west-bound rest area on Nebraska's Interstate-80. It is one of eight sculpture projects.

1976.

Sculpture criticism

Many Nebraskans have criticized the sculptures in local newspapers and in letters to the I-80 Sculpture Corp. because, they said, the works are too abstract.

"Most of the negative criticism has dealt with things other than the sculptures themselves, such as the use of state tax funds." This criticism is totally incorrect, he said.

Others have criticized the sculptures for not representing Nebraska's heritage, he said.

Horizon's Division

"We tried to base the sculpture project under the Horizon's Division" which represents the future and is one of the three divisions of the Bicentennial celebration, Thompson said.

Other areas of the Bicentennial celebration are Heritage, the past, and Festival, the celebration today.

Some people also complained because there were no Nebraska artists as sculptors, Geske said. Eight of the 121 sculpture proposals received were from Nebraska artists, and only one of these made it past the first screening.

Even though none of the artists selected were from Nebraska, he said, all of the sculptors visited Nebraska and studied the local landscape.

Estimated cost

About \$400,000 will be used for artists' commissions, construction and artists'

travel to Nebraska. Seventy-five thousand dollars will go for salaries and publicity for the Nebraska Interstate 80 Bicentennial Sculpture Corp., a non profit organization whose purpose is to promote the sculpture project. Fifty thousand dollars in services and supplies are being asked from Nebraska businessmen.

Granting money to the project are the

Nebraska Bicentennial Commission, \$100,000; American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, \$12,500; National Endowment for the Arts, \$20,000; Nebraska Arts Council, \$2,500; and Nebraska businessmen, who are expected to donate \$340,000.

About \$300,000 of the \$475,000 has been raised, Thompson said.

Bus cut affects students

By Marian Lucas

It appears that more than one NU student will have to alter education plans this year because of the scheduling of the intercampus mail bus.

According to Paula Dollevolt, a Life Sciences graduate student, a handful of Omaha to Lincoln commuters are changing classes because the shuttle bus which runs between the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and UNL has discontinued its 5 p.m. return trip to Omaha.

But officials at NU's Mail Dept., which runs the service, said the main object of the bus is to transport mail between campuses. Dick Schenaman, assistant supervisor of campus mail, said the 5 p.m. return was eliminated because it was no longer needed as a mail service.

Students depending on the service for their afternoon classes purposely moved closer to UNMC to catch the bus, Dollevolt said.

"Now they are stuck in the middle of town and can't find car pools," she said.

Equipped to carry 14 people, the bus has made more opportunities available to the commuter student. Dollevolt added that a three month internship at UNL was made possible for a UNO student last year. Without this service, his internship would not have been granted, she said.

Dollevolt said last fall 12 regular commuters attempted to gain reserve passage on the bus. The mail department told us they were certified to carry mail and were under no obligation to carry passengers," she said. "We really have no recourse because there is no good commuter transportation between Lincoln and Omaha.

Another student, Ian Duncanson, said he was forced to quit the masters program in accounting at UNL because of the transportation problem. Duncanson, now taking classes at UNO to be a Certified

Public Accountant, said a budget cut reduced the department's number of trips.

"It was never a question of whether the mail would be late or not since it is already delayed one day," Duncanson said. Alternatives existed, but the mail dept did not want to change the schedule, he said.

According to Schenaman, the possibility of adding the 5 p.m. bus to this semester's schedule is very slim.

This year's departure times are:

Trip 1	
UNMC	6:30 a.m.
UNO	6:55 a.m.
Lincoln, 14 and S St.	8:15 a.m.
Statehouse	8:35 a.m.
Lincoln, 14 and S St.	8:45 a.m.
UNO	10:10 a.m.
UNMC	10:25 a.m.
Trip 2	
UNL Nebraska Hall	1:00 p.m.
UNO	2:20 p.m.
UNMC	2:50 p.m.
Lincoln	4:30 p.m.

inside today

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Thursday's forecast calls for sunny skies with highs in the mid-nineties and humid conditions, according to the Lincoln Weather Service. Winds should be southerly at 10 to 15 mph.