

Space hinders expansion

By Liz Crumley

General classifications from superb to horrible categorize the recreation buildings and equipment at UNL, according to James O'Hanlon, acting chairman of the Department of Physical Education.

Five indoor areas and three outdoor areas provide the space for students at UNL. The indoor areas are the Women's Physical Education (PE) Building, Men's PE Bldg., the Coliseum, the fieldhouse and the East Campus Activities Bldg.

The oldest of the five, the coliseum, built in 1925, contains two basketball courts, a men's swimming pool, weight room, handball courts and squash courts.

According to O'Hanlon, PE will take over the coliseum from the athletic department after the new fieldhouse is built.

Renovation plan in

The renovation plan for the coliseum was submitted to the UNL Central Planning Committee, O'Hanlon said. It was placed ninth in priority.

The plan was then given to the systems office, priorities for the entire university, and O'Hanlon said, they were ranked 26th out of 41. This is extremely low, he said, and they are not as optimistic about their chances for the renovation.

The plan calls for the construction of another floor above the main basketball floor, allowing for a total of six gyms. On the stage, O'Hanlon added, 15 handball courts would be constructed above the present gym.

The plan would also call for the improvement of the swimming pool and the construction of locker facilities for women.

Purchased for \$1

If the renovation were to take place, he said, the Men's PE Bldg. would be torn down. The university purchased the government building after World War II for \$1. The bricks make it look nice, he said, but it's basically a Quonset hut.

The East Campus Activities Building was built in 1927. It contains open gyms, basketball courts and volleyball courts.

The fieldhouse, built in 1942, contains paddleball courts. According to Dan Steller, director of the Department of Recreation, these are in bad condition.

"But the question is whether we want to spend the money to fix them and then have to drop the rest of the facilities.

Women's building superb

The Women's PE Bldg., the newest of the buildings, constructed in 1968, contains open gyms and a swimming pool and, according to O'Hanlon, has superb equipment.

Students and faculty are allowed to use these buildings whenever classes are not in progress and when they are not being used by athletes, Steller said.

"The buildings are primarily used for their (PE and athletic departments) purpose only. We use it afterwards" "They're responsible for maintenance of the facilities out of their own budget. . . we couldn't afford to operate them at this time," Steller said.

Skating rink built

A new outdoor recreation area on East Campus was finished this summer, said Steller, and contains some new structures. These are an outdoor ice skating rink and a climbing wall used to simulate mountain climbing. Other space includes tennis courts and outdoor handball courts.

The total cost of the area was \$340,000, Steller said. There are 36 tennis courts on campus, he said, and usually are open until 11 or 12 at night.

According to Steller, the University of Colorado (CU) complains about UNL's recreational areas.

O'Hanlon said there are no areas which received more than one complaint that were directed at him.

Intramurals cause complaints

Steller said the majority of complaints he receives are based on the lack of room during basketball intramurals. There were a total of 264 men's teams, 10 women's teams

and 25 co-rec teams. This allowed for only one open gym for general recreation, Steller said.

Two solutions can be implemented, he said. Either limit the number of intramural teams or build a multi-purpose recreation building.

"With the limited type of facilities we have, we feel a multi-purpose recreation building would be ideal," he said.

According to Steller, the University of Colorado (UC) just constructed such a building. The building included handball courts, an indoor ice rink, and weight rooms.

\$6-8 million cost

An average of 9,000 people use the building per day.

The cost for such a building, according to Steller, would be \$4-8 million. The money would either have to come from student fees, federal grants or personal gifts.

Colorado students paid an additional \$16.50 per semester in student fees for their building, Steller said.

Bonds were issued so the building could be built immediately, said Steller, adding that they will be paying for the building for 20 years.

If federal money is spent, he said, a building would have to be open to the public.

Steller said he did not expect a multi-purpose building to be constructed at UNL for at least three or four years.

Answer to Monday's crossword puzzle.



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