

I-80 sculpture hearings delayed

By Lisa Brown

Legislative hearings throughout the state on the Interstate-80 Sculpture Project scheduled for Oct. 27 through 31 have been postponed until Dec. 1 through 5.

The five hearings, one each in Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte and Scottsbluff, have been rescheduled to avoid conflict with the Legislature's special session, said Sen. Ralph Kelly, chairman of the Legislature's Executive Board subcommittee studying the sculptures.

The hearings are (designated) to learn citizens' reaction to the sculptures, which will be built at 10 Interstate-80 rest areas.

The question before the governor and Legislature is whether to accept the sculptures as gifts from the I-80 Sculpture Corp., Kelly said. A 1975 statute (LB605) requires the governor and Legislature to approve any gifts to the state of real property, valued at \$10,000 or more.

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If acceptance is approved by the governor, it probably will go before the Legislature early in January, Kelly said. He added he will attend each of the hearings and has encouraged senators from all the areas to attend.

Sen. Wally Barnett of Lincoln, who serves on the subcommittee with Kelly and Sen. John Savage, said he will not attend any of the hearings except perhaps the Lincoln hearing because he doesn't think it is the Legislature's responsibility to decide whether the sculptures should be accepted.

It is the responsibility of the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) to study the matter and make a recommendation, Barnett said. Its members are appointed by the governor and are responsible to him.

Jerald Ness, NAC executive director, said the I-80 sculpture project is not the council's responsibility since it is not their project.

"NAC has supported it, has helped with technical advice and staff assistance and has given a small grant for their public education program, but we have no direct influence or control, nor would we attempt to have any," he said.

Ness said he will attend the Omaha hearing and NAC members and constituents have been encouraged to attend those in outside Nebraska.

Art Thompson, I-80 Sculpture Corp. director, said he will attend all the hearings and has requested supporters from local host committees to attend.

Most of the sculptures are still in planning stages, except for the sculpture to be placed near York, which, according to Ness, is two-thirds completed.

Hearings will be in Omaha, Dec. 1; Lincoln, Dec. 2; Grand Island, Dec. 3; North Platte, Dec. 4; and Scottsbluff, Dec. 5.

calendar

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| <p>Thursday
 8 a.m.-5 p.m.—Fall Social Work—Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. (NCCE).
 8:30 a.m.—Student Affairs staff—Nebraska Union 243.
 10:30 a.m.—International Studies—Dr. Camara-Barbachano—Union 202.
 Noon—Hamburg, Iowa school—Union North Conference Room.
 12:30 p.m.—Placement luncheon—Union 203.
 4:30 p.m.—Teaching and Learning Center—Union 203.
 5:30 p.m.—Council on Student Life—Housing Policy Committee—Union Pewter Room.
 5:30 p.m.—Council of American Indian Students—Union 232.
 6:30 p.m.—Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia—Union Harvest Room.
 6:30 p.m.—Residence Hall</p> | <p>Association—Union.
 6:45 p.m.—Baptist Student Union—Union 202.
 7 p.m.—Council on Student Life—Union Pewter Room.
 7 p.m.—Assertiveness Training—NCCE.
 7 p.m.—Gemstones and Genealogy—NCCE.
 7 p.m.—Graphanalysis—NCCE.
 7 p.m.—Publications Board—Union 203.
 7 p.m.—Women's Resource Center Advisory Board—Union 337.
 7 p.m.—Bahai Association—Union 216.
 7 p.m.—Minority Affairs—Union 225.
 7:30 p.m.—Math Counselors—Union 225.
 7:30 p.m.—Concerned Pro-Life Students—debate—Union Main Lounge.</p> |
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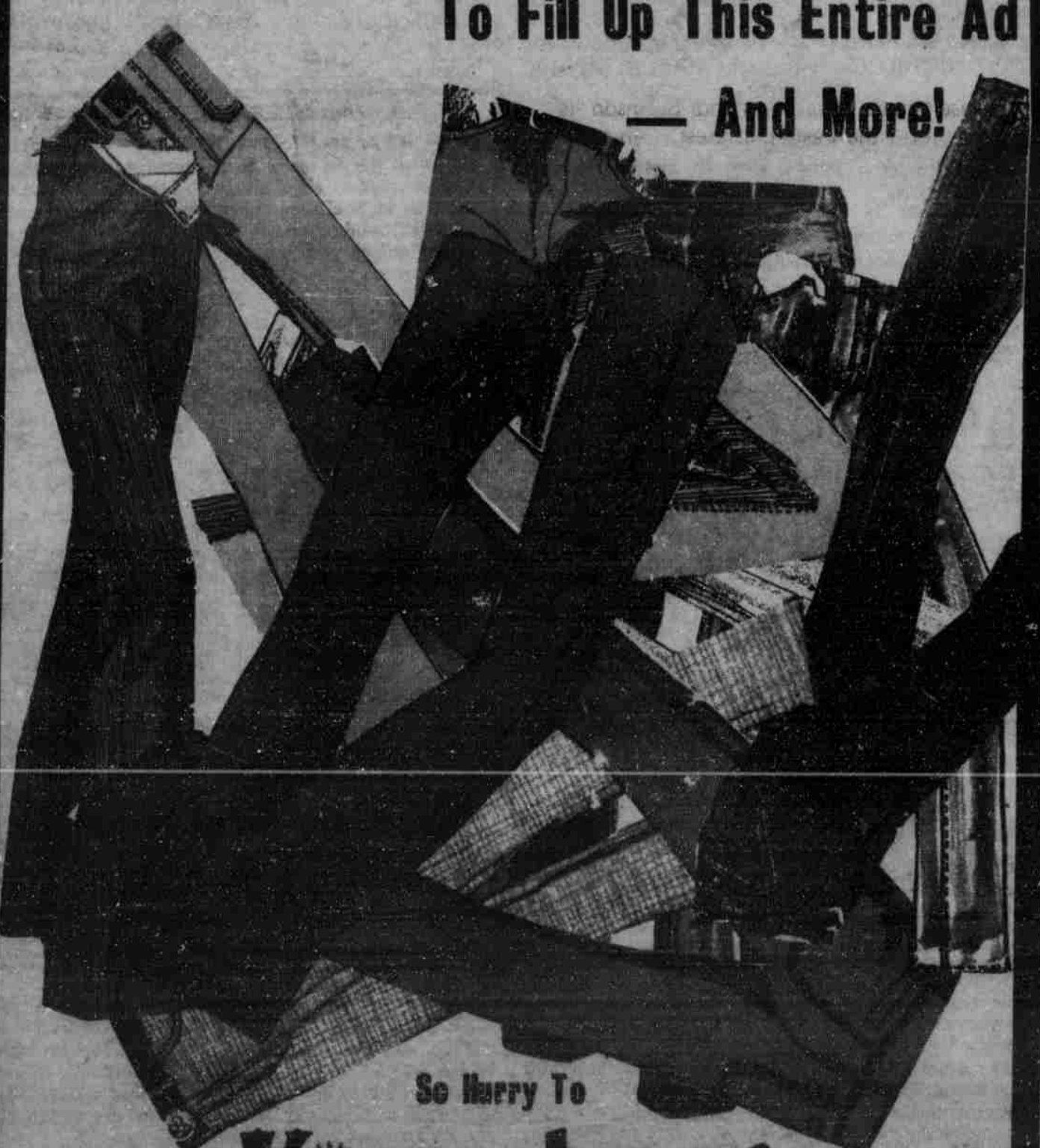


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