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East Campus plans await approval

Nothing more can be done on plans for an addition to and renovation of the East Campus Agricultural Engineering Bldg. until the Nebraska Legislature appropriates the necessary money, said George Petersen, associate professor of agricultural engineering.

"We're putting together some preliminary ideas so we can have justification for asking for appropriations," Petersen said. Petersen and several professors in the department have been working "in consultation with the whole staff" on proposals for the building.

The plans are divided into a two-phase project, according to William Splinter, chairman of the Agricultural Engineering Dept. He estimated the total cost of both phases will be \$3.5 million.

The first phase consists of an addition at the current tractor testing laboratory site. The addition would house agricultural engineering shops, the machinery laboratory and a new tractor testing track, Splinter said.

"Because of the size of today's combines and tractors, our farming machinery won't fit in the doors of the build-

ing we have now," he said.

Phase two of the project would renovate the present building. It was built in 1918.

These plans have not gone beyond the speculative stage, Splinter said, because the department is waiting for legislative appropriations.

A program statement describing the function of each part of the proposed building, a construction timetable and a tentative budget schedule has been approved by the NU Board of Regents, according to Thomas Nycum, assistant to the director of the Physical Plant.

Nycum said the program statement will be presented to the 1977 Legislature by Bob Pazlerka, capital construction coordinator. If the Legislature appropriates the \$1 million requested for phase one, plans can begin in July 1977, Splinter said.

He has suggested that the new addition be built of steel instead of the more conventional brick.

"We can save the state money by going to a pre-engineered steel structure," Splinter said. Using steel would cut construction costs in half, he said.

Parking meter hike still below norm

Although its parking meter fee may double, Lincoln still is charging less than some other Midwestern cities. Mayor Helen Boosalis said last week her office is beginning the necessary procedures to double the rate.

The basic hourly rate for parking meters in Omaha, Topeka, Kan., and Sioux City, Iowa, is ten cents. In Des Moines, Iowa, and Kansas City, Mo., it is 20 cents. The new rate proposal for Lincoln will be ten cents.

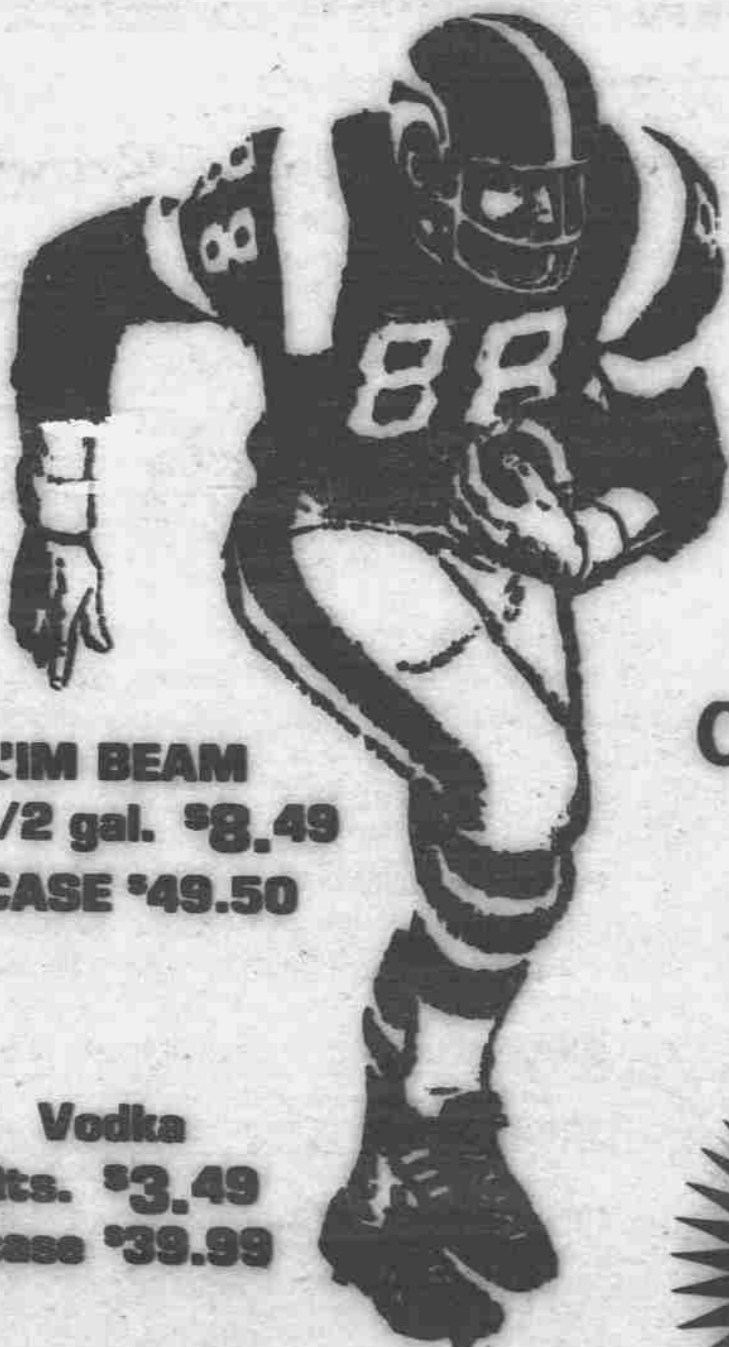
City Finance Director James Mallon said the proposed increase would bring in about 170,000 additional dollars to the city budget. The Nebraska Constitution requires that the city keep only enough of this money to cover court costs, with the rest going to the school districts.

Currently, the city keeps 95 cents of every dollar for court costs. City officials do not know where the additional money will go.

City Traffic Engineer Bob Holsinger said the decision was made so all meters in Lincoln would have the same hourly rate. Holsinger said there are various rates on the meters now.

In addition, the mayor wants to increase the penalty for fines paid after five working days from two dollars to five dollars. The mayor must get City Council approval on all traffic fine raises. Boosalis has not yet made a final draft of her proposal for the council.

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