

High water in Valley releases a flood of generosity

By Mary Fastenau

Here was more than one flood in Valley, Neb., last week.

The first flood was one of water, but it was followed by floods of kindness, gen-

erosity, helpfulness and friendship from townspeople and interested groups.

Jeannie Kirchmann, a UNL junior, has lived in Valley all her life. She said she has never seen anything like the destruction caused by the flood.

Kirchmann said the cleanup job appears endless, but most are relieved that no one was injured or killed.

"People really learned the meaning of friends," she said.

Kirchmann's home is two miles north of Valley. She said the water filled the basement of their house and ruined the furnace, water heater and refrigerator. Her father's farmland is "pretty turn up," she added.

The Kirchmann family did not leave Valley until 7 a.m. Monday, although the dike broke Sunday night. When they left, there was only one road open, she said.

The dike broke about a mile and a half from her home, Kirchmann said. She first ran outside to take pictures, she said, but then started thinking about the destruction, and the safety of her friends and family.

Kirchmann said she did not realize what

was happening until the water got closer. The water was running so fast that it clipped off light poles, she said.

Kirchmann said she watched the neighbor's 15- and 17-year-old boys move their farm machinery to higher ground. They were on their last trip when the water swept the pickup away.

Later, she said she learned the boys had swum to safety.

Mike Zies, a UNL sophomore, lives only three and one half miles north of Valley but first heard about the flood on television. There was no water near his house, he said, but he helped clean up.

Zies said a family friend had 700 hogs in a confinement house near the place where the dike broke. All the hogs drowned, and the Health Department said he must move them as soon as possible.

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Photo by Bob Pearson

UNL freshman Julie Whitney wheels around campus on a hot Thursday afternoon.

Abortion to be debated in April

Abortion will be the topic of a series of public debates at UNL during April.

The debates will be in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sundays, beginning April 2 and continuing through April 23.

The first debate will feature a panel of ministers. Subsequent debates will

feature discussions by state legislators, doctors and others with a professional interest in the subject.

The final debate on April 23 will be broadcast on the Nebraska Educational Television network at 3 p.m.

The debates are sponsored by the Young Americans for Freedom and the Middle American Debating Society.

Union Board to have hearing on deli, flower shop additions

By Georgene Cetak

The Nebraska Union may undergo a change next year, after the Union Board finds out how students feel about its ideas.

An open hearing in the Nebraska Union lounge on April 5, at 7 p.m. hopefully will show board members student opinion.

At a Wednesday meeting the board tentatively approved plans for a delicatessen, travel agency, variety store, bakery expansion, plant shop and a barber shop move.

The plans were presented by the Union's food service and operations committees.

Although the board accepted the proposals without question, board members were concerned with student acceptance of the plans.

"We will not make basic changes without honest input. Unions Director Al Bennett said. We need to take that input and really work it over."

Bob Richeson, assistant director of food service for the Union, said a delicatessen near the north desk would serve salads and a variety of sandwiches on six different types of breads. Tentative business hours for the deli would be 11 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Richeson said the deli probably would

not affect food sales in the Harvest Room or the Crib.

Also in the food service plan is a bakery expansion renovation that would include a candy and ice cream store.

Other plans include a plant and gift shop in the present small TV lounge, a travel agency in part of the ladies lounge across from the South Desk and moving the barber shop from the basement to the now-defunct record lending library room across from the south desk.

The plans to move the present barber shop and lease basement space, north desk area renovation and the plant shop could bring in \$16,000 for the Union, according to Frank Kuhn, assistant director of operations for the Union.

Cost for the entire project will not be determined until all plans are final.

Diagrams of proposed changes will be on display in the Union starting April 3.

Kuhn said students unable to attend the hearing should place ideas in the Union suggestion box.

In other business, the board, as requested by Greek houses, voted to reduce the rent of Centennial Ballroom from \$100 to \$35 for the April 17-18 blood drive.

Also at the meeting, officers for this year were given final approval. Officers are Mark Knobel, president; Vance Colling, vice-president and John Kreuzscher, secretary.

University nears contract case settlement

NU is nearing a settlement for money the university claims it lost when a subcontractor hired for work on Manter Hall construction allegedly defaulted.

NU general counsel John Gourlay said he believes negotiations, which are entering the second year, are "nearing an end."

According to Gourlay, Giebelhaus Plumbing and Heating Inc. was declared in default of its contract by NU on Oct. 1, 1976. A costly delay resulted, he said.

Giebelhaus Inc. had begun work on its \$1,412,995 contract when they defaulted, according to Tom Nycum, assistant director of the NU Physical Plant. Nycum said the amount being negotiated is considerably less than the original amount of the contract and represents the cost of work not done by Giebelhaus Inc.

The building was to be completed in August 1976 but was not ready for occupancy until a year later, said Bob Pazderka, capital construction coordinator. The building was completed on Feb. 14, 1978, and will be formally dedicated April 5.

"The life sciences building has been a bad dream for us," Gourlay said. He said Giebelhaus Inc. arranged a package deal with six firms to bond itself and insuring the job would be done. Giebelhaus and one of the bonding firms then went out of business. Gourlay said.

NU is negotiating with two of the remaining five bonding firms for alleged losses. The National Indemnity Company and Heritage Insurance Company of

America are representing all five firms.

The claims of Commercial Heating and Air Conditioning Co. also are being considered in negotiations, Gourlay said. Commercial Heating was hired by Giebelhaus, Inc. to do the required labor. The company claims they were not paid for work on Manter Hall, Gourlay explained.

Commercial Heating filed suit against the NU Board of Regents and other university officials for their alleged losses, but that suit was dismissed, Gourlay said.

If a settlement is not reached through negotiations, the matter will be settled in court, Gourlay said.

"All construction litigation is extremely complicated," Gourlay said. "Everybody points their finger at everybody else."

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