

Lack of funds reduces scope of capital improvements

By Shelley Smith

Some residence hall students will not be seeing some expected improvements or repairs on their hall floors due to a lack of funds for capital improvements.

Richard Armstrong, vice-chancellor for student affairs, said the housing office, the unions and the University Health Center will be resorting to the capital improvement reserve fund for new money this year. The housing office has been asked to cut its proposed budget to allow enough funds for repairs in the health center.

Doug Zatechka, director of university housing, said the cut will eliminate new carpet for several residence hall floors, thermostat repairs, air conditioning in one residence hall director's room, the purchase of a steam kettle, shower rod partitions, a dessert bar and several minor repairs.

Armstrong said \$228,945 out of the \$234,000 in the

reserve fund will have to be used for mandatory repairs in the health center and residence halls. He said \$388,357 will be used from previously allocated projects.

The total amount requested, \$617,302 will be debated by the regents at their meeting Friday.

Armstrong said nothing has been cut, just shifted to another source of funding because of recent spending for fire and life safety items, and a one-and-a-half million dollar payment to re-purchase the bonds which serve as a mortgage on the university's buildings.

Zatechka said housing originally asked for \$390,000, but when he found out only \$234,000 was available for the unions, health center and housing he said he knew "we'd better start looking somewhere else for money."

The housing office is now proposing that certain projects, previously approved by the regents that have been identified as less important than those presently being requested, be eliminated so that these funds can be ap-

plied to support the current requests.

The report indicated that \$2,000 allocated for the purchase of two pianos in Sept. 1976 was never used.

Zatechka said he didn't know why the pianos were not bought, and other allocations not used.

"What I have done now is informed my staff that if a project is important enough to be approved by the regents, it is important enough to be ordered immediately. From now on if they sit on an order for more than six months, I'll eliminate that project," he said.

The report also cut in half the January 1978 approval of \$200,000 for solid core doors in Cather-Pound-Neihardt, part of the fire and life safety program.

The main improvements still in the budget, according to Zatechka, include repairing the water leaks in the dormitories, replacement of worn out lounge furniture, new draperies, and new chairs and tables in the Cather-Pound-Neihardt cafeteria.

Schwartzkopf wants student regent to be elected at large

By Randy Essex

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of in-depth profiles of the eight members of the NU Board of Regents.

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf says he can understand why UNL students sometimes feel the NU Board of Regents "doesn't give a damn" about them, but he doesn't agree with that view.

The board member of 12 years said students come to the regents in crisis situations rather than contacting the board regularly.

Schwartzkopf, who lives in Lincoln and represents Lancaster and Saunders counties, said he tries to seek out student opinion on regular basis by coming on campus.

He said he would like to see the student regent position separated from the duties of the ASUN president. He explained that the student regent is not always able to attend board meetings, and can not represent all the students.

Student participation

"I would like there to be more than one student regent, (per campus) and I would like to see our board meetings less formal," Board Chairman Schwartzkopf said.

He explained that before there were student regents the elected regents met with 10 or 12 students from each campus before monthly meetings to discuss student concerns. He described that form of student participation as better than the present method.

"Students should present positive things to the board as well as negative," he said.

"I would be willing to meet with students on a regular basis in order to gain desirable input. I would like to hear the students' concerns about the quality of education, and the other kinds of concerns that exist every day, rather than just hearing from them in times of pressure."

Second in seniority

Schwartzkopf, 59, said he decided he wanted to be a regent when he was a student in the 1940s. He was selected as the student representative to the Athletic Board, a body composed of administrators, faculty members and a student, that governed athletic policy.

He said he thought about becoming a regent someday after meeting some members of the board then and working with the chancellor.

Schwartzkopf is now second in seniority on the board. Robert Raun was appointed six months before the Lincoln native was elected for his first term. He has been re-elected twice, most recently last month when he defeated Leo Hill.

Schwartzkopf was a Cornhusker lineman when he attended the university. He played on the only Nebraska team to go to the Rose Bowl. NU lost the 1941 game to Stanford, 21-13.

Great game

Schwartzkopf said it was a "great game," and said football enthusiasm was abundant even in the '20s. The Huskers played to packed houses of 40,000 in those days, he said.

"We have a great football heritage. We were the only team to beat the Four Horsemen (Notre Dame) and Red Grange (Illinois). Football has always been a great unifying force in the state."

Football was more important to the students then than now, according to Schwartzkopf. He shared his memories of huge bonfires and student rallies.

"But we used scrap wood for our fires," he said. "It bothers me to see furniture destroyed." Schwartzkopf said permits were (and still are) required for bonfires, and "we got them. And we didn't have our bonfires in the street."

Students arrested for their activities before the Nebraska-Oklahoma football game distressed the regent.

"Our number one objective is to educate students and encourage positive, constructive, law-abiding activities," Schwartzkopf said.



Twelve-year regent veteran Ed Schwartzkopf

Photo by Ted Kirk

However, he said he would not trade the NU student body for any other in the nation.

"We have fine young men and women here, second to none."

Schwartzkopf said football is only a phase of the university. The importance of quality education is "not as easily understood" by the people of the state.

"It's harder to get statewide support for academics (than for football) because the result of our investment is not as easily seen," according to Schwartzkopf, who has a masters degree in school administration from NU.

The long-time educator and administrator in the Lincoln Public Schools explained that students are not being trained for today, but for 10 years from now.

Years ahead

"Because we're looking ahead, we need the latest technology and equipment available. It's easy for people of the state to think we only need equipment that will do the job; it's easy to forget that our preparation is for the years ahead.

But, he said, taxpayers are capable of understanding the needs if they are informed of the reasons.

Just as taxpayers can understand the need to spend money for quality equipment when all of the facts are available to them, Schwartzkopf said, the regents can come together with the students—when the students provide their opinions.

Board members listen to what they hear, as most regents did last year on speaker funding. Schwartzkopf said he got calls and letters from many constituents reacting to the Young Americans for Freedom's letter-writing campaign against mandatory funding for political speakers.

Resented letters

Recent student court action placing the YAF on probation was needed, he said. The letter-writing campaign "did a great disservice to the state and the student body."

YAF "deviated from the truth of the situation" in their letters, he said. After he told those citizens who contacted him what the situation really was, they didn't want anything to do with opposing the speakers' program.

Schwartzkopf said he resented the involvement of non-students in the YAF effort, and the use of phrases like "left-wing Marxists" and "homosexuals on campus" in the letters.

But, he said, the result of inviting Jane Fonda to campus was predictable.

"It's a rough way to learn a lesson, and now future student bodies will suffer (from the lack of mandatory speaker funding)," he said.

Pleased with support

He was pleased with the cooperation among campus organizations to bring speakers to UNL without student fee support.

He pointed out to those on the board who have said there has not been a political balance of speakers that Gen. William Westmoreland represented the conservative point of view.

He said because Westmoreland represented the military establishment, some negative reaction to him was to be expected.

The regent, like Westmoreland, was a military man.

Schwartzkopf was a major in the Army during WWII, and served in the South Pacific for 32 months. He left the university before graduation to enlist in the military shortly before Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese.

Conflicts of interest

"I went to school on the 10-year plan," he said. He describes his political beliefs as "pragmatic reasonableness." He said he can sometimes be described as conservative, moderate and maybe even liberal. He bases his decisions, he said, on a study of available facts.

He tries to take a stand on every issue before the board, he said, with the exception of times when he declares a conflict of interest. He declared a conflict once last year when the university sold 200 acres of East Lincoln land to his business partner's son.

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