

daily nebraskan

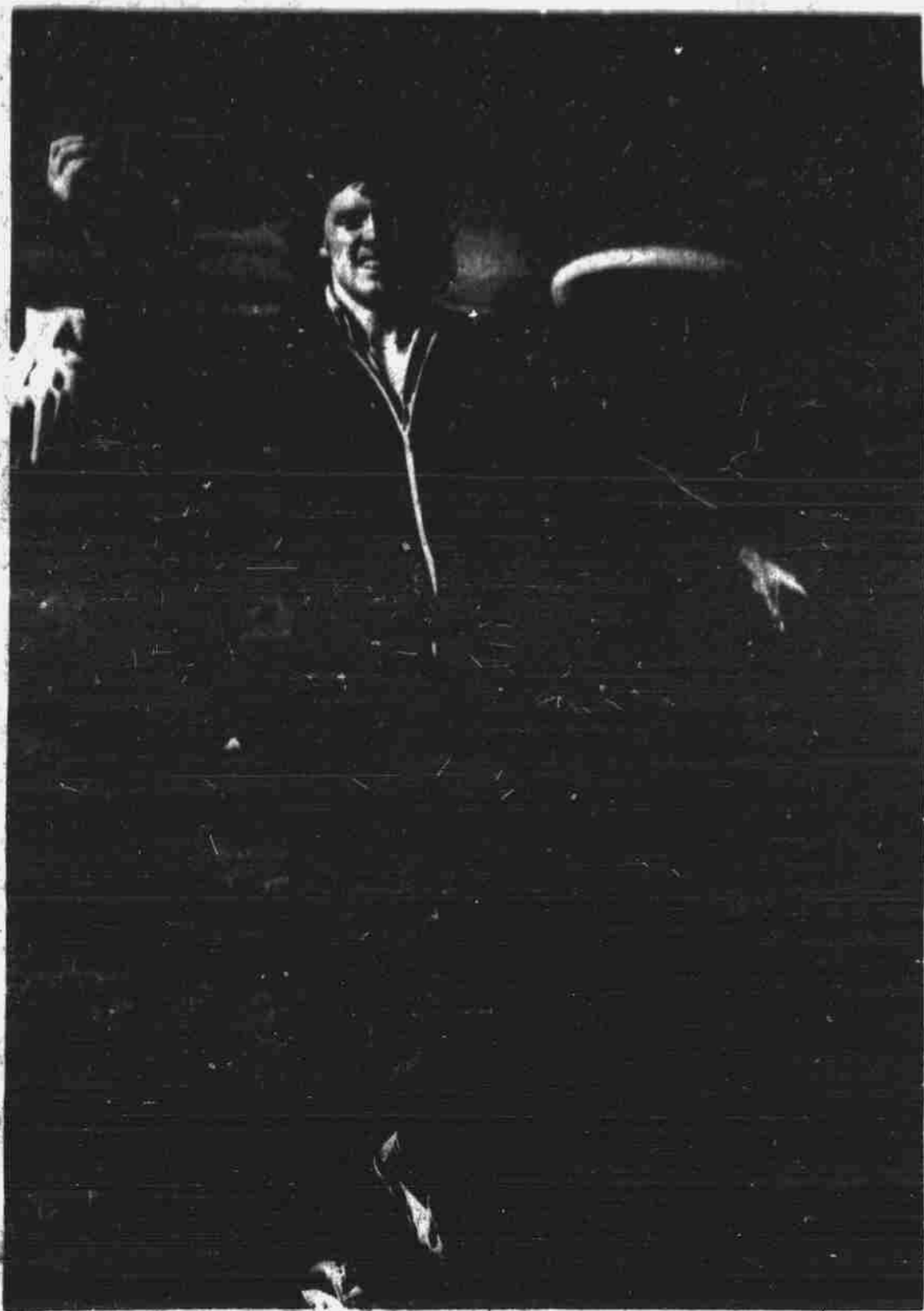


Photo by Mary Anne Golon

Here, catch! It's spring and that means frisbees.

Universities interested in Chinese-UNL exchange

By Karen Wittwer

The possibility of a UNL exchange program with the People's Republic of China is good, NU President Ronald Roskens said Tuesday during a news conference describing his recent trip to China.

Roskens and his wife led an educational special interest group of 25 Nebraskans on a three week tour sponsored by the Center for Study of Comparative Education at Kent State University. Roskens returned to work March 3.

Roskens said he visited four of the six major universities and all expressed interest in exploring exchange programs of students, faculty and publications with UNL.

The group visited Peking University, Nanking University, Fudan University in Shanghai and Sun Yat Sen University in Canton. A delegation from Canton is scheduled to visit UCLA and Washington D.C. in April and Roskens said he invited them to stop in Nebraska.

Low enrollment

Enrollment in China universities currently is well below capacity because the universities were virtually closed during 1966-71, Roskens said.

The Gang of Four had labeled universities as worms destroying socialism and insisted that university faculty go out to the fields and learn to work with their hands, he explained.

In addition to the universities, the tour visited primary and middle schools in Nanking, Wushi and Shanghai.

Roskens said the Chinese educational system is a national system as opposed to individual school systems in the United States. Children enter school at age six and attend classes six days a week, five hours a day.

Children in the cities attend school for 10 years before entering a university and children in the country attend school for seven years before going to college, he said.

In the schools the Chinese emphasize examinations, discipline, continuous, quick revision of books and the key school concept, Roskens said. The key school is designed to educate talented students from across China and through them show the wisdom of education to the entire country, he explained.

Emphasis on exercise

The Chinese curriculum emphasizes physical intellectual and moral education, Roskens said. A Chinese school day begins with a half hour of vigorous calisthenics and marching and there are exercise breaks throughout the day, Roskens said. The Chinese believe exercise will prevent the flu and other sicknesses and enjoy the competition offered by sports, Roskens said. Eye exercises also are practiced in the classroom to help prevent poor eyesight, he said.

Chinese moral education teaches the five loves: love of the motherland, people, science, public property and physical well-being, according to Roskens.

Chinese educators are concerned with many of the same problems that U.S. teachers are, he said. They worry about the need to improve facilities, staff quality, exam policies and the control outside authorities have on their schools, he said.

Problems blamed on Gang

Politically, all of the current problems in China are blamed on the Gang of Four which was deposed in 1977, Roskens said. According to current leaders, the Gang of Four was responsible for devaluing scholarships, disrupting production, obstructing foreign trade and falsifying the last testament of Chairman Mao Tse Tung, Roskens said.

The Gang of Four was a group made up of Mao Tse Tung's wife, Chaing Ching, and three others who pursued a radical policy following the death of Mao. They were subsequently purged by the Houa Kuo-Feng regime, now in power.

Today, China's objective is to modernize its economy through the modernization of agriculture, industry, defense and science and technology, Roskens said.

The Chinese are requesting U.S. help to modernize their country and Roskens said he believes it would be to the advantage of the U.S. to offer help because in 10 to 15 years China will be a major modern power with whom to contend.

Policy briefings

During a briefing at the U.S. Consulate in China early in the tour, Roskens said the group was told that U.S. policy was a continuation of dealing with both the People's Republic and Taiwan.

The group also was briefed on the
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Lack of funds threatens Temple proposal

By Randy Essex

Because of a lack of money, renovation of UNL's Temple Theatre building might be tabled, members of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee said Tuesday.

Urban senators on the committee were more supportive of the plan than outstate lawmakers, but even the two Omaha senators on the committee said funds may not be available for the project.

LB385, introduced by Lincoln Sen. Dave Landis and Bellevue Sen. Frank Lewis, would allocate \$6.6 million dollars are four years for addition to and renovation of the building.

However, the NU Board of Regents capital construction request asked for \$50,000 during the next two years for planning the project. The project was listed 21st on the regents' request.

Committee Chairman Jerome Warner of Waverly said he will be surprised if more than one or two of the projects actually receiving financing.

Warner said he doesn't think there will be enough revenue available for the Temple project. He said he supports keeping the budget under a 7 percent increase, which leaves only slightly more than \$20 million for new projects.

Fowler to support Temple

Lincoln Sen. Steve Fowler said he will support the Temple project in committee, and that he thinks the funds necessary are available.

"But it shouldn't be assumed that the project would be adopted at the expense of another university project," Fowler said.

He explained that the plan is competing for money with requests for new state patrol cars, non-university construction projects and additional staff for state agencies.

Fowler said the Temple renovation should be one of the highest university cap-

ital construction priorities, despite the regents' request.

He said he does not think passage of LB385 goes against a 1977 Nebraska Supreme Court ruling that the regents have ultimate control of the university, and not the Legislature.

"We can appropriate funds on each capital construction project as we see fit," Fowler said.

The allocation process did not change after the court ruling, he added.

Senators' power questioned

But Don Dworak of Columbus, Myron Rumery of North Platte and Ron Cope of Kearney questioned the appropriateness and ability of the Legislature to go against the regents' judgment.

Dworak said his first reaction is to follow the regents' priorities. Cope said he doesn't like the idea of telling anyone how to run their business.

Dworak explained that NU employs people to determine the priorities, and said it would be irresponsible for the Legislature not to look at the management decision seriously.

"I just don't think we can go against what these people are paid to do," he said.

Dworak added that the committee only heard seven people with an interest in theater say the building should be a higher priority. He said he also hears from agriculture and electrical engineering students, asking for improvements in their buildings.

No final decision

But Dworak said, he realizes the Temple building is in bad shape, and hasn't made a final decision yet.

Rumery said he doubts that the Legislature has legal power to change the regents' priority list. He said his position on the Temple project was established last year, when he voted for planning funds,

but he would not disclose how he will vote in committee.

Omaha Sen. Bernice Labeledz said she realizes the need for improvement of the building, but doesn't think the project can be fully financed this year. She said she will support partial work on the building.

But Cope said he thinks partial work is a waste of money. The Kearney senator said patchwork spending on the building would do no good.

"It's all or nothing," Cope said.

The regents have total control of the project, and because they have given it low priority, he's not sure if the Legislature should allocate the money, he said.

"I would love to see the funds allocated, but given the total amount of money available, it's a tough one," Cope said.

Hoagland limited

Omaha Sen. Peter Hoagland said he will support the idea all he can, but limited funds limit his support. He said if the funds can be found anywhere, he thinks the project should be approved.

Lincoln Sen. Shirley Marsh said she supports the project, but she is not sure where money would come from.

Randy Moody, administrative assistant for Gov. Charles Thone, said it is too early to determine what the governor's position will be. But, Moody said, he thinks Thone has set the tone for spending this year in his budget message. Thone recommended \$3,025,000 for university capital construction, compared to \$9,422,800 in the regents' request. Thone has also said new construction plans will have to wait.

Moody added that the regents' ultimate control of NU would be another consideration in determining the governor's position if the Temple project reaches his desk.

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