

Proposed remodeling of Union eliminates bowling alley

By Patti Gallagher

Elimination of the bowling alley, consolidation of the three University Bookstores, and relocation of the Daily Nebraskan staff-room would be three of the major changes in the Nebraska Union Planning Committee's proposed plan for improvements at the City Union.

An open hearing for student reaction on the proposed changes was held in the union main lounge at 2 p.m. on Wednesday. Another hearing is scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5 at the same location.

John Kreuscher, president of the Union Board, said the hearing was held to gain student input and opinions about the proposed plans. He also said the plans are a gradual "stage project" and no definite decisions will be made until further student feedback and Union Board discussion is heard.

Kreuscher said the hearing was "not to defend" the proposals of the planning committee. "We want opinions," he added.

The changes proposed by the committee include several modifications of space utilization in the City Union and would be completed during a five year span.

The changes would "better enhance the income-increasing area of the union," according to Kreuscher.

Specific changes outlined by the committee proposals include consolidating the three University Bookstore locations into one large store, Kreuscher said.

THIS RENOVATED BOOKSTORE would replace the current bowling alley, game room (billiards, pinball and foosball), and the Cellar (north and south conference rooms). The proposal would eliminate the bowling alley and relocate the game area to the current University Bookstore supply store.

UNL student Dave Dudek spoke on behalf of student bowlers objecting to the alleys' removal. He said that 300 credit hours in physical education would be eliminated with the alley removal and presented the Nebraska Union Planning Committee with a petition, "Save Our Lanes," signed by 200 UNL bowling league members.

Another student objecting to the bowling alley removal, Bob Welch, said that the first visible facility when entering the union is the game room and its relocation would result in a loss of profit.

Welch also said, "You take out the bowling alleys and where the heck are we going to bowl?"

The proposed moving of the Daily Nebraskan newsroom from Room 34 of the Union to the main text University Bookstore would better serve the public by better serving the increasing DN staff, according to Amy Lenzen, editor in chief of the student paper.

Lenzen said that because of a staff increase from 30 to 130 members during the years, the transition to a five day publication and the addition of production work (for example, typesetting) to the newsroom, "we desperately need more room."

UNL student Dave Hutton, questioned the necessity of keeping the University Bookstore in operation and asked where the profits for the store go.

There is little profit, if any, for the bookstore, according to Roy Coffey, business manager of UNL. The price of textbooks is required by the NU Board of Regents to be set by the manufacturer's list price, and this set-rate causes other area bookstores to keep comparable prices for competition.

This "internal price control" is a reason to keep the University Bookstore in operation, Coffey said.

If the University Bookstore were to be consolidated, the committee has proposed that the freshmen text store be converted to a commuter lounge with lockers, vending machines and TV viewing.

OTHER PROPOSALS include modernization of the North Crib into a fast-food restaurant, remodeling the first floor women's lounge into leasable space, renovation of the Rostrum (small auditorium), and remodeling the South Crib.

Kreuscher said approximated renovation costs would

be "in the two million range" and said the project would be funded by revenue bonds and surplus funds available by petitioning the Board of Regents.

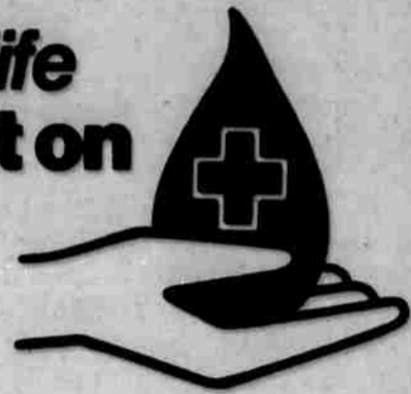
The bowling alley lost \$28,000 in 1978 according to a national accounting company, Touche, Ross and Co., Kreuscher said. The bookstore serves more people than the bowling alley, he said, and therefore the committee recommends keeping the bookstore while eliminating the bowling alley.

The Nebraska Union Planning Committee was formulated in May, 1979 on request of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Richard Armstrong, and has developed their five year renovation plan in that time.

No decision will be reached on the proposals until after second semester begins, Kreuscher said.

He encouraged students to voice their opinions in letters to either the Union Board, Room 220, Nebraska Union, or the Suggestion Box in the union.

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