Northeast Radial opponent says roadway is bad idea

By Jim Faddis

At any discussion of the Northeast Radial you can expect to find Florence Bridge.

Bridge, a 45-year-old UNL student, has long been a strong opponent of the proposed roadway. She has voiced her opposition to the NU Board of Regents, the Lincoln City Council, ASUN and the Residence Hall Association and is a member of the Radial Reuse Task Force.

The radial is not needed and the millions of dollars spent on it would serve no purpose, she said. Additionally, it would destroy the Clinton and Malone neighborhoods and force more than100 people to be relocated, said Bridge, who is vice president of the Clinton Neighborhood Association.

The City Council is considering three options for the roadway that will connect downtown Lincoln to northeast Lincoln. The no-build option suggests not building the radial at all. The 19th Street option would build a corridor to northeast Lincoln through 19th Street. The 22nd Street option would place the radial through 22nd Street.

If the radial is built on the 22nd Street corridor, the west end of the Clinton neighborhood would be chopped off. The 19th Street corridor would save more of the neighborhood, but would be too costly, she said.

"The only choice left is not to build it," Bridge said.

But her opposition to the road also is motiviated by personal reasons, Bridge admits. Her house at 2200 Potter St. would be destroyed no matter what corridor was used.

"I grew up in this house and I don't want to see it destroyed, or have to move" she said.

Bridge said the radial already has had an effect in the area by creating a number of vacant lots.

"It's devastating to look out the window and see empty lots where your neighbors used to live," she said.

Bridge disputes claims by the NU Board of Regents and City Councilman Joe Hampton that the radial will allow 16th and 17th streets to be closed by the university.

Bridge said the city already has plans to close the streets even if the radial is not built.

The radial also will not serve to connect the UNL City and East campuses as some have claimed, she said.

"The radial dead-ends at 27th Street, nowhere near the East Campus. The radial is not going to help connect the two campuses or keep some of the programs at UNL from being moved to Omaha," Bridge said.

Gavel Club aim is better speakers

By Ward W. Triplett

Although it has been around for a long time, the Gavel Club is not one of the most widely known organizations on campus. Currently, 25 members belong to the speaking club, but President Mark Freese gladly will accept more.

"We're interested in anyone who is interested in helping themselves," Freese said. "We're open to all visitors, so there is no obligation for membership if you come to a meeting."

The Gavel Club is an affiliate of the Toastmasters Association. Both groups prepare people to speak in front of audiences. Unlike most speech clubs, the Gavel Club is not designed for experienced speakers, but for people who are unsure of their ability to handle themselves in front of crowds.

"We get some people who are superb speakers right away," Freese said. "But most of what we do is help people get over their nervousness and feel more sure about themselves. I think while they're talking in the club, they gradually become able to feel comfortable speaking in front of any crowd."

The club meets at 8:30 p.m. each Thursday in the East Campus Union.

"We have the joke for the day and the thought for the day," Freese said. "Then there is open discussion that allows the individual to talk off the top of his head. Then we have three different speakers who come with a prepared topic to talk about." That way, Freese explained, everyone should get a chance to speak at each meeting.

A further advantage is the presence of evaluators, students and an adviser who give "constructive criticism" after each session, Freese said.

Freese has been a member of the Gavel Club since the spring of 1979, after a suggestion by professors who thought it would improve his confidence. He said he feels greater attendance would help the group.

New members must pay $3 a semester, which in part pays for a manual, Freese said.

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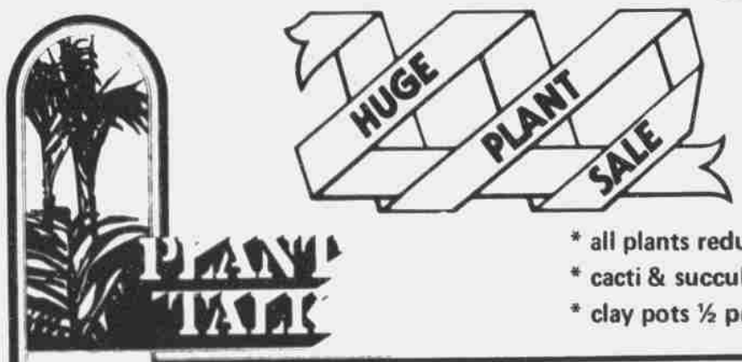

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