

Official asks chicken, egg question of vet school

By Patti Gallagher

The process and planning to build a regional College of Veterinary Medicine at UNL has been a chicken and egg business, according to Earl Dickinson, head of the UNL department of veterinary science.

Talk of building a veterinary school in Nebraska has been around since as early as 1892. This year in the Nebraska Legislature, LB245 proposes funds to begin construction plans for a college.

The problem now, as in the past, is one of timing. Dickinson said, LB245 has recently been amended to stipulate federal funding must be secured by 1983 if the school is to be completed.

Thus, the chicken and egg question: Which comes first, the state money or the federal dollars?

Dickinson said he believes Nebraska should take the lead in the project. Passage of the bill would indicate to the federal government that state support does exist and federal grants for the college should be allocated, he said.

"If Nebraska is going to take the lead spot, we've got to take the lead. I think we're doing that with LB245," he said.

A timing problem exists however, because the U.S. Congress is soon to end consideration of funding legislation. Unless the Nebraska Legislature moves LB245 soon the opportunity to gain federal funds will be lost until next year.

Construction scheduled for 1982

That delay would move the construction date for the college back a year, Dickinson said. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 1982, be completed by 1984, for enrollment of students that fall, he said.

"We haven't given up the hope that it will be in the federal work-up for this year," he said. He added that everyone he has dealt with on the project feels construction should not begin without a federal commitment.

"We're not going to make the possibility of wasting the taxpayers' money," he said.

Dickinson said he is fairly sure the federal money will be forthcoming, if not now, at least in the future.

"We are cautiously optimistic that we are going to get the federal funds but they are not in hand."

Last week, Gov. Charles Thone sent a letter to state senators warning that he does not favor allocations of state dollars before federal ones are committed for the veterinary school.

Dickinson said he doesn't want to second guess the governor, but said he believes Thone has been a vet school supporter all along. He said he hopes the governor doesn't veto the bill, which is now ready for final floor approval by the Legislature. If he does, Dickinson said he hopes it is returned to the house for an override.

\$1.4 million allocated

LB245, in its current form, would allocate nearly \$1.4 million for 1981-82 to draw up plans for the College of Veterinary Medicine, to be located on UNL's East Campus.

An amendment on the bill would terminate plans for the college if the anticipated federal funds are not secured by Dec. 31, 1982.

Of that \$1.4 million allocation, \$1.3 million is pegged for drawing up formal architecture and engineering

designs and \$119,000 is targeted for continued planning by the Old West Regional Commission.

The Old West Regional Commission, composed of Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, began drawing up plans for the veterinary college in 1973. In 1974, a legislative committee and the NU Board of Regents requested reports on the possibility of building the college.

The total construction cost for the veterinary school will be just under \$30 million. Of that, \$5 million will come from Nebraska's general fund, \$8 million from other states' contracting fee payments, about \$15 million is expected from the federal government and \$2 million has been committed by private sources in the livestock and agribusiness industries.

The current cost to NU for educating its students will be \$1,138,000 this year, according to Dickinson. It is spent on contracting agreements with various mid-west veterinary schools for 96 students. Additionally, nine Nebraska veterinary students attend the University of Missouri on a reciprocity agreement.

Dollars should stay home

Dickinson's objection to the contracting situation is that Nebraska dollars being spent out-of-state could be

kept here to improve programs.

The proposed college will have between 60 and 94 seats, 35 of which will be for Nebraska students. Of other states in the Old West Region, North Dakota and Wyoming have passed legislation supporting the idea of the regional college.

South Dakota has terminated all plans for a school and Wyoming and Montana, being part of a separate commission division, have not committed themselves to the college proposal.

Outside the Old West Region, the states of New Mexico, Nevada and Arizona have expressed interest in sending students to the veterinary college, Dickinson said. None have formally agreed to participate yet, he said.

In 1979, the Legislature passed a bill for the veterinary school contingent on receiving federal funds and commitments from two other states before beginning construction.

The federal government also approved the college construction in the 1977 farm bill. The bill would provide 50% matching funds for any state wanting to build a veterinary college if the state has made an effort to establish a regional school with other states and if the school program includes programs for food producing animals.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Mr. Robin's neighborhood

Lucky Mr. Robin takes time out to enjoy a cool spring day as he checks out a worm lunch.

Tenants petition commission to reject two permits

By D. Eric Kircher

Students, downtown employees and a retired woman will protest the leveling of their apartment building at the 1:30 p.m. City-County Planning Commission meeting today.

Donald Bowman, together with Kenneth Juilfs, owns the Orlo and Fanetta apartment buildings at 14th and K streets. He is asking the commission to approve two special permits which would allow a planned office complex to exceed height restrictions of the area and to be built next to the sidewalk. Buildings near the capitol can be four stories high, or five stories with a special permit.

The planning department has recommended the commission approve the special permit allowing a taller building and that it approve a request to eliminate a 20-foot front yard requirement along 13th Street, but that it require a front yard along K and 14th streets.

At a strategy meeting Monday night, the tenants decided to present to the commission more than 100 signatures on a petition that asks the commission to reject the permit applications. They also planned to show that their apartments were not delapidated. Although they acknowledged that the apartments could be demolished without the permit, they said that blocking the permits could make it less desirable to build the office building.

Traveling lunch

If the commission approves the permits, they discussed

asking state senators and council members to a "traveling lunch" in their apartments to show the rooms and protest the destruction of downtown housing. The council can approve or deny the commission's action.

One tenant, Jack Saltzman protests what he said was a common assumption that anyone wanting to live downtown could afford only a small, cheap apartment.

Bowman wants to tear down the two "dilapidated" apartment buildings and construct an underground parking garage and office building, but the residents of the Fanetta took to the media pleas for more downtown housing, starting with saving their apartments. They said the buildings are solid structurally and show good examples of historically significant architecture.

An earlier capitol environs study stated that the Orlo was historically significant.

Bowman told the residents in a tenant-landlord meeting Monday night that he would like to remodel the buildings, but the high cost makes it unprofitable. He said that feasibility studies on remodeling the Orlo ranged from \$750,000 to \$1.3 million. Rent would be more than \$300 a month to pay for the remodeling, he said.

Studies were rigged

He protested rumors that the feasibility studies were rigged. He said he spent \$15,000 on the studies. He said the only way to make money on downtown housing was to "go up," and the rules forbid tall buildings near the capitol.

The tenants told Bowman that their apartment didn't need renovation. Saltzman's room in the Fanetta, where the group met, was covered with beige curtains, mirrors and was lit with a silver and crystal chandelier.

After the meeting, in which both sides listened but neither side was convinced, the tenants said the two buildings were allowed to run down. Janet Goebel, a UNL graduate student and teacher's assistant, said Bowman didn't raise the rent during the five years she lived there so that he wouldn't have to repair the Fanetta.

"You haven't made us a compromise or anything," Goebel said. Bowman did promise to give the tenants two-months notice before removing them. He said any action could be up to five years away.

inside wednesday

That's Entertainment: A UNL student has recently written, directed and produced a melodrama, complete with villains, heroines and heroes **Page 6**

A New Stage: The Glass Onion Restaurant has opened its doors for the independently produced *Bingsley-on-Sea* opening this Thursday. **Page 8**

Florida Gold: Nebraska swimming Coach Cal Bentz won a recruiting battle with Indiana and Florida for Cliff Looschen of Cocoa Beach, Fla. **Page 10**