



Resolving to "put our priorities where they belong, once and for all," the Nebraska Legislature voted unanimously yesterday to replace the Sower on the Capital with a 50 foot plastic likeness of Turner Gill. For all this frivolity and more, turn to Page 9 of the parody issue, the Daily Harassment.

Union Board considers new budget

By Ward W. Triplett III

The Nebraska Union Board looked at its 1982-83 budget for the first time in its final meeting of the semester at the East Union.

The board also decided on the new Memorial Plaza design, and extended union hours.

Union Director Daryl Swanson said the union's budget request from the Committee for Fees Allocation comes in a yearly time frame. According to Swanson, the budget the board began discussing Wednesday night will not go into effect until July.

"We're projecting then for nearly 19 months," Swanson said. "That makes it a somewhat more difficult assignment."

The first draft budget has the union making a \$660,571 request. The amount would mean an increase of 17 percent in student fees.

However, the budget also estimates that the income-producing departments should make back enough money to lower the increase to 8.75 percent, making the request the request \$613,624.

Any increase in the student fee request would mean the unions would not be able to request the same student fee amount for the fifth consecutive year.

"That was a record we were very proud of," Swanson said. "But we knew when we started to look at our costs for next year

there was no way we would be able to hold the line on them (fee increases) again."

The budget could change yet for several reasons. One is that the budget was set with the assumption the Nebraska Legislature would approve a 10 percent increase in staff salaries, and a 13 percent increase in staff benefits.

"I've had it said to me that those guidelines are probably unrealistic," Swanson said. If it is decided later to increase the salaries and benefits by something much less, Swanson said he wouldn't be surprised if the CFA would want the budget revised.

Another potential change stems from the possibility that the unions may have to pay their utility expenses out of student fees as well. Utilities come to \$275,000 for the current year, and the estimated increase for the next year is \$375,000, Swanson said.

The details of the bills are still before the administration, but Swanson said the union may have to pay at least \$81,000 in utilities.

"That could mean we would be asking CFA to increase our student fees to \$3 dollars per student," Swanson said. "That presents graphically the problem I had always felt we would be forced into once we got stuck with paying our own utilities," Swanson said. The unions would be caught in a "tremendous inflationary spiral represented by the rising cost of energy, and it is an issue of the utmost concern," Swanson said.

Cather residents extinguish lit Christmas tree in lounge

By Leslie Kendrick

A Christmas tree fire in the 12th floor lounge of Cather Residence Hall caused a 5 a.m. Thursday evacuation of all Cather residents.

Someone set a small real Christmas tree on fire, said Doug Zatechka, director of housing. The tree was owned by some 12th floor residents who decorated it and put lights on it, he said.

The decorations were taken off the tree that was moved to the lounge and set ablaze, he said. Student Assistant Kevin Block and residents Mark Thompson, Mike Cunningham, John Jay and Lee Terry extinguished the fire. Jay pulled a fire alarm a little after 5 a.m. The city fire department and police answered the alarm, Zatechka said. Both the police and the state fire marshal's office are investigating, but no one had been arrested as of 10 a.m. Thursday, Zatechka said.

"I just happened to be awake around 5 or 5:30, and when I went outside my room I heard a crackling noise," Thompson said.

Thompson said he then saw the tree ablaze and woke up Block.

Thompson then grabbed a blanket out of his room and attempted to put out the fire with it. The blaze was put out finally with a fire extinguisher, he said.

"It had to be set on fire because the tree was never plugged in and it didn't have any lights on it," he said.

Roommates Cunningham and Terry ran outside their room when they heard someone yell fire, Terry said. They helped put out the fire with a blanket and wet towels, he said.

"We used wet towels to cover our faces because by this time the halls were full of smoke," he said.

The four residents and the SA were the only ones who stayed on the floor to put out the fire, he said.

Scorches on the ceiling probably were caused by fire traveling up the walls, Thompson said. In addition fire damaged the carpeting and couch in the lounge, Jay said.

The university considers setting fires a crime, not a prank, Zatechka said.

Conviction for arson may lead to penalties of severe fines and a jail sentence, Zatechka said. University action could include possible probation or suspension from the university and restitution for fire damage. The culprit housing contract may be cancelled also, he said.

"I can't say, 'yes, the contract will be cancelled,' but it is a very distinct possibility," he said.

Police to get different office, tired of crowded quarters

By Tricia Waters

Because of a lack of space at their office, UNL police will move to a remodeled building at 17th and Holdrege streets next year.

Police Director Gail Gade said the police hope to move into the new office by the first part of February. The building will give the police more than 2,800 square feet of office space, compared to the 2,050 square feet in their present office at 1024 Avery Ave.

The building, called the Cubbison building, was formerly leased by Outdoor

Marine as a training building.

The present office was enlarged from a one-room stone building about six years ago to include a modular attachment for offices. The attachment has a connecting link. About four years ago a room was added to serve as a lineup and conference room and lunch room. Gade said officers eating lunch in the room often have to move when people have to meet there.

"We're probably one of the most crowded departments on campus," Gade said. Compared to standard office design figures recommending 90 square feet per person, the police office rooms allow about 50 square feet, Gade said.

The police use other campus buildings for storage, such as the West Stadium.

Gade said the university has a plan to locate all the service departments in that area of the campus. Another plan calls for the corner of 17th and Holdrege streets to become the entrance to the university.

The new building will have a communications room twice as large as the old one. It will have a separate conference room, holding and evidence rooms and a lineup and lunch room.

Bob Myers, in the administrative division, said the larger communication room will be valuable because the dispatch area is the "hub of the department." More room was needed for files and for the dispatchers to work, he said.

Myers said the new location will also give the police better access to some parts of the City and East Campus.

Kim Todd, campus landscape architect, is working on the 17th and Holdrege street project, which is part of a city project, reaching from Y Street to the State Fairgrounds.

Todd said the corner near the police station will have a pie-shaped mouth of earth, or berm, about six feet high and 40 feet in diameter. The berm will have flag poles on top and a crescent-shaped bench built into it.

Gade said police officers and workers made recommendations about what they would like in the new building.

He said the police would like to rename the building after a lieutenant who died this summer. Lt. Henry Gourdin died of cancer. University approval is needed to do that.

In other discussion, the board unofficially discussed closing the Colonial Room because of its failure to generate income. The board had considered changing the format of the room to a soup and sandwich offering, but some members felt that might turn away some of the room's regular patronage, most of whom, the board guesses, are administrators.

Arched sign chosen for north union plaza

The new Nebraska Union Memorial Plaza sign was selected during the Union Board's meeting Wednesday, ending a contest that drew more than 50 entries.

Drawing student John Duensing designed the winner, which will contain a lighted sign within a brick arch.

"I think it is one of the more creative designs we got and I feel it will add a feeling of warmth to the plaza," Operations Committee Chairman LaVern Heggem said.

The arch — about 7.5 feet tall and about 4.5 feet wide — should be up next fall, Frank Kuhn, assistant director of operations for the Nebraska Union said.

Duensing's design was picked 6-5 for the space north of the union. Duensing will receive \$25 for his design.

Although the arch will require steel reinforcement Heggem said, it's cost won't exceed the \$5,000 budget allotted for it this fall.