

# Friends of state Museum incorporate

By Kevin Hanken

After years of discussion and anticipation, supporters of the state museum in Morrill Hall have formed a corporate organization.

About 50 supporters met Wednesday at the Lincoln Center Building, 215 Centennial Mall south, to initiate the corporation, adopt articles and elect officers.

Allan Griesemer, interim director of the museum, welcomed the group at the luncheon.

"I am very pleased, in fact, very gratified to be here this noon," Griesemer told the group. "I hope you're as gratified as I am. To seek a stronger support base is essentially why we are here today."

Griesemer said he anticipated three major goals to be undertaken by the elected officers and board of directors:

- To develop an endowment base that would provide funds for public services such as mailing lists, brochures, etc.

- Continue the services of volunteer groups, such as the Medical Auxiliary and the Junior League of Lincoln, in providing help for major funding efforts like the Health Gallery and the climate control system.

- Bringing together people of similar interests to discuss and share concerns about natural history.

"Through an organization like this, people can find a place to volunteer their time," Griesemer said. "Besides the camaraderie, people can enjoy working together."

In past years, the museum has received support through volunteer groups like the Medical Auxiliary and the Junior League.

"It became obvious that we needed an organization to pull these groups together cohesively," Griesemer said.

The Medical Auxiliary, which consists mainly of doctor's wives, has helped raise \$340,000 since 1974 and also has helped in building the Mobile Health Program.

The Health Gallery, currently being constructed in the museum, will be concerned primarily with the health of the human body and how it functions and relates to other organisms, Griesemer said.

The Junior League, a community volunteer organization of about 250 women, has raised \$80,000 for the museum in the past five years.

Marilyn Rembolt, chairman of the Junior League's sponsorship of the Encounter Center, said all money raised is given back to the community through various projects. Last year, the league had eight or nine projects, she said.

"Our basic thrust is to demonstrate the effectiveness of a trained volunteer," she said.

The Encounter Center is a "hands on" room located in the museum where visitors can touch organism specimens and explore ideas about them. It also provides visitors with a resource center, laboratory equipment and free services for anyone seeking identification of fossils or rocks they have found.

Kay Young, coordinator for the En-

counter Center, said that interest in the Friends of the Museum has been expressed statewide. Visitors to the museum number about 170,000 annually.

"After high school, most adults don't have time to learn about natural science education," Young said. "In regards to natural history, museums provide one of the most important ways they can educate themselves."

Across the country, museum officials are aware that most people are interested in the services an encounter center can provide, she said.

"The main goals of the museum," Griesemer said, "are to collect, preserve, research and interpret. Interpretation is not as well supported by state dollars and so an organization like this, we feel, can do so."

He congratulated the spirit of the group, adding that he looked forward to working with such a "unique group."

Betty Anderson, a registered pharmacist was unanimously elected to her post as president. Vice President Diane Walkowiak, owner of a small computer systems business in Lincoln; Secretary Lewis Hinkley, a supervising engineer with Lincoln Telephone Co. and Treasurer Jeane Shankland, a retired deputy clerk for the U.S. District Court were also unanimously elected.

The next scheduled meeting of the Friends of the Museum is Jan. 26.

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## Crop-swap may be a mixed deal

One man's gain could be another man's loss, especially when dealing with President Ronald Reagan's new crop-swap program.

While not all the payment-in-kind details are complete, UNL Agricultural Economics Professor Loyd Fischer said the plan is "relatively attractive" for farmers. However, it could hurt small agribusinessmen, he said.

According to the plan, a farmer can cut production in half and receive 80 to 95 percent of their average grain yield from government grain storage, Fischer said. The farmer has the option of storing the grain for five months for free, taking delivery of the grain or selling it. The amount of grain replaced is minus the production costs normally covered by the farmer, Fischer said.

By reducing the amount of surplus grain, the market value of the commodity will rise, Fischer said. While the price of cars or trucks has gone up, the price of grain is lower than 10 years ago, he added.

Although farmers may benefit, the plan could have an adverse effect on farm suppliers, Fischer said.

One farm implement dealer, who asked not to be identified, said business will decline while everyone is waiting for details, talking to landlords and deciding which acreage to farm. He said that sales might drop in the short-term, but might increase in three or four years.

"Farm production is a victim of its own efficiency," the dealer said. "We'll just have to grow a new set of fingernails every month in order to hold on here."

## Shorts

The Baha'i Club of UNL will reserve World Religion Day Sunday at the Willard Community Center, 1245 S. Folsom St., with an international potluck dinner at 5 p.m.

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Ralph Mueller Planetarium is presenting "Light Years from Andromeda" on Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

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