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Union's main lounge to house computers

By Suzanne Teten
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

The Nebraska Union Board voted unanimously Thursday evening to construct a computer room in the southwest corner of the Nebraska Union Main Lounge.

The 29'x19' glass-windowed room will adjoin a closed-in entrance, Mary Marcy, board president said. This entrance will provide 24-hour access to the computer room even though the rest of the union may be closed, Marcy said.

The main lounge location was selected over the proposed women's lounge for several reasons.

Marcy said the primary reason was because the women's lounge would not be accessible to handicapped people during non-Union hours. The board also was "sensitive" to the individuals who use the women's lounge regularly, she said.

In addition, a wall mural in the women's lounge has historical significance to the university, she said. Marcy said there was a question about the safety of the mural if the women's lounge were converted for computer use.

Marcy said Brigid O'Neil, planning committee chairwoman, initiated the main lounge location after attending a Handicapped and Disabled Students meeting.

"Board members worked on the options until they found the most efficient use of space that wouldn't hinder the services we already offer," Marcy said.

In addition to providing better access for handicapped students, Marcy said renovation of the lounge will be less expensive than renovating the women's lounge.

Board Member Sue Hansen said she has heard people talk about what the computer room will do to the rest of the lounge area. She said she was afraid the computers might "disrupt the honey atmosphere" of the lounge.

However, Frank Kuhn, assistant director of Union operations, told board members that the room's double-paned glass windows would cut off noise from the computers.

Daryl Swanson, director of Nebraska unions, said the space renovation and furnishings would be paid for by a \$13,000 capital bond. However, he said actual construction costs may be less.

Swanson said the 16-20 computer terminals and two to three printers will be provided by the university, which also will pay for the terminals' wiring to Nebraska Hall.

The initial installation will connect the terminals to Nebraska Hall by telephone line, Swanson said. However, the system eventually will be connected by about 4,000 feet of "hard wire" through an underground utility tunnel.

Marcy said the University Program council has some concerns about the computer room location, but it will work out a plan so that its program can operate just as efficiently as before.

Construction of the computer room will begin as soon as possible, with a completion date set for the beginning of second semester, Marcy said.



Brad Staman/Daily Nebraskan

Tammy Fischer (right) and Paula Purchal give Bill Beyers, Wally McCandless of Capital a parting kiss after his speech on child abuse at the Nebraska Union Thursday.

Soap star uses name to fight sexual abuse

By Lisa Nutting
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

At 3 p.m. Thursday, about 75 people, mostly women, anticipated the arrival of "Wally," at the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

"Did you see him yet?...I've seen his show...I watched it all summer...He's cute..."

Bill Beyers — more commonly known as day-time soap-opera star Wally McCandless of "Capitol" — spoke to a group of UNL students about the severity of sexual child abuse.

"The majority of people don't even admit that this (sexual child abuse) is going on," Beyers said.

Beyers, national youth ambassador for the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, said he wants "to create a media blitz so they (society) become aware."

Beyers became involved with the prevention of child abuse last November when his niece filed a six hour deposition against her father. Beyers' niece, 12 at the time, had been sexually abused since she was five.

"People don't feel things until they

hit home," Beyers said.

Thus began his crusade against child abuse. As ambassador for the committee, Beyers travels a 32-state tour, reaching 36 city chapters. Beyers uses his popularity to attract much of the crowd, he said.

"I'm in a position where attention is," Beyers said.

And Beyers is right. His popularity attracts the crowd.

"I came here because I watch Capitol," said Elaine Menzel, a freshman from Bassett. "And to see a real celebrity."

Although Beyers enjoys the fans he said that his plans to continue with the child abuse prevention program are indefinite.

"I think my friends were amazed," he said. "I don't think they expected me to be as dedicated or to work as hard."

"I'm proud of what I'm doing," said Beyers. "I hope you think about it — don't just throw it away."

Beyers will speak at Irving Junior High today at 10 a.m. and Sheridan Elementary School at 1:15 p.m. He will also visit with adolescents at the Regional Center and appear on local radio and television talk shows.

Ethnic director promotes need for better program

By Ward W. Triplett III
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

Miguel Carranza's job as director of the UNL Ethnic Institute is somewhere between that of an academic counselor and an administrative button pusher.

In one 15-minute stretch last week, two calls came to Carranza's Oldfather office concerning the teaching staff, or lack thereof, at the Institute. During that same time, two students dropped by who were trying to set up an ethnic studies minor.

For Carranza, the Institute job is the culmination of one career goal. On one hand, it will help him get administrative experience. On the other, it will give him the chance to work an already solid program into a university strength.

"Some people say, 'why do you have an ethnic studies institute since there are so few ethnic students here?' I think that's precisely the reason we do need to have one.

"Many of the students who graduate from Nebraska leave the state. They won't be in a place like Nebraska where there are only three communities. They need to know what ethnic people are all about," Carranza said.

The institute began in the early 1970s as a black studies program and gradually expanded to include other ethnic minorities. The department arranges courses within the institute or with other departments, such as political science, sociology and history. It offers a 12-hour minor in one of four fields — ethnic studies, black, Hispanic or American Indian studies.

Three of the program's former professors, all black, have left UNL in the last two years, leaving seven institute professors this semester. Carranza received permission to advertise for one of those positions just two weeks ago. The others, he said, might not return to the institute.

"We really do need to fill those positions," Carranza said. "But when a position is vacated here, (or anywhere in the university) it doesn't automatically go back to the department. It goes back to the vice chancellor for academic affairs. The department has to reapply for that position and give justification for it."

Carranza said one of the big arguments the institute has used is that each of the professors who were hired by ethnic studies also has helped the department they were placed in. Michael Combs, who left UNL for Louisiana State this summer, not only taught ethnic studies

courses, but also taught political science core courses, Carranza said.

"It's actually an advantage to the university to have minority faculty on campus," he said. "They not only help us, but they're a great help to their departments as well."

Carranza said ethnic studies mainly is a complementary program as far as academics is concerned.

"I not only stress the importance of having majors, but also having minors that complement the major," Carranza said.

"If someone wants to study law, for example, and they may be interested in civil rights, one of our minors can help them. It really gives them a concentration in a particular area."

An often overlooked component of the department is the counseling aspect, Carranza said. It's another reason to have more minority faculty on campus since their presence tends to encourage minority students, he said.

"There are so few minority faculty on this campus that it's not unusual to have minority students come in who may not ever take your course, but want some advice as to which courses to take," Carranza said.

Carranza came to UNL in 1975 after earning a doctorate at Notre Dame. An associate professor in sociology with a joint appointment with the Ethnic Institute, Carranza established a course on Chicanos in American Society through the sociology department. He became the director this summer when Ralph Grajeda resigned to return to full-time teaching.

"I would like to see us strengthen our curriculum, offer more courses within the department," Carranza said.

Carranza said he would like the institute to offer more special topics classes than its one freshman seminar.

He also said he would like to see some attitude changes as to what the ethnic institute does and stands for.

"We think of them as being for the benefit of minority students. That's one thing, but the overall benefit is for non-minority students," he said. "One of the goals of a liberal education should be to have an education about the ethnic groups around you."

"Lots of times, the information we do receive are very distorted. We learn them through mass media and through television. Stereotypes exist, and they are very hard to remove. You can always fall back on stereotypes, but to really learn about the culture and language of someone else takes a little effort."

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