

**WEATHER:** Partly cloudy and windy Friday with a 30 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms. High in the mid-60s. South wind 20 to 30 mph. A 60 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms Friday night. Low in the lower to mid-40s. Variable cloudiness and cooler Saturday with a 40 percent chance of showers.

# Daily Nebraskan

## Inside:

News Digest ..... Page 2  
 Editorial ..... Page 4  
 Sports ..... Page 5  
 Entertainment ..... Page 6  
 Classified ..... Page 7

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Mueller's singing silo takes place of eccentric student

By Kevin Cowan

Staff Reporter

About the turn of the century, an eccentric young student used to sing to fans on their way to Cornhusker football games.

Today the carillon of an octagonal tower greets passersby in the spot where Ralph Mueller once stood between Morrill and Bessey halls.

Mueller used around anymore to provoke the Cornhuskers into their well-known frenzy but the tower carries his tune.



Mueller first came to the university as an engineering student in 1894 and eventually became a multimillion-dollar industrialist. He donated money for the Ralph Mueller Planetarium, the health sciences gallery and Mueller Tower.

Mueller conceived the idea of a bell tower in 1941 when he was requiring the plan for his invention, the "alligator clip." Mueller wanted the tower to look like a giant corn cob, but the chancellors persuaded him to ask for student input. A drawing submitted by George Kuska, a UNL architecture student, was chosen for the tower.

"I was impressed with the tower of the Capitol building, and I was unimpressed with the Georgian style of architecture such as the student union or Love Library," Kuska said.

in a 1948 newspaper article.

The height of the tower was disputed. Mueller wanted it to be 77 feet, but Kuska and the architecture firm supporting him thought it should be at least 100 feet tall. It stands at a compromising 87 feet.

Over the years, the tower has lent its mighty carillon to the fingers of many key boardists. Currently, Alfred Orkell, a doctoral student of educational psychology, plays inside the lofty tower on football Saturdays. Tapes provide the rest of the repertoire.

For those who believe that criticism of aesthetic indulgence originated in the days of the Lied Center, a letter from the dean of architecture to the Daily Nebraskan in 1949 should correct that error.

"I must protest the many thoughtless, malicious and uninformed articles and editorials which have appeared in the Daily Nebraskan, attacking the tower, its music and its design," wrote Dean Linus Bair Smith.

Your latest article of June 25 is in a flippancy and sneering vein, questionable in taste and unworthy of your talent," he wrote.

The article described the tower as a "vertical xylophone" and a "crated king," and described students "bounding across campus to the rhythmic clanging of the bells." The satirical story also describes construction as "champane 28 concrete cement mix." The tower, built for \$80,000, actually was made of limestone.

Despite students' "flippant" attitudes, the tower was completed and later dedicated on Nov. 4, 1949.

It was promptly nicknamed "the singing silo."

"They can call it whatever they want," Mueller said. "It belongs to them."

See **MUELLER** on 3

## Senator: approval ahead for rec center

By Kent Endacott  
 Staff Reporter

Despite negative publicity generated by a controversial bid-proposal policy, the Nebraska Legislature will approve the construction of a \$14.9 million student recreation center, Sen. Owen Elmer of Indianola said Wednesday.

At a debate on the proposed recreation center sponsored by KOLN-TV, Elmer said many senators still have reservations about the project because it stresses athletic at a time when academic programs are being cut. He said that the university's original bid proposal, which would have required that all prospective contractors include a donation with their bid, sparked a wave of resentment among legislators.

In the face of heavy criticism, university officials have announced that a lowest-bidder plan will be used to award the recreation-center contract.

"Senator (Ernie) Chambers is a master at taking things out of context, and the things he was circulating looked like extortion on the part of the university," Elmer said.

KOLN anchorwoman Deb Collins said Elmer was invited to the debate, which will be shown Sunday at 10:30 a.m., because he was believed to be a leading opponent of the recreation center in the Legislature.

Elmer said, however, that he was a proponent of the recreation center as long as it did not hurt NU's academic program.

"If academics can be shown to benefit and colleges shown to benefit and shown to provide more quality people at the time this is built, it will have overwhelming support," Elmer said.

Although no state funds will be used to build the recreation center, state law requires that the Legislature approve the project because \$3.5 million will be borrowed from student revenue bond surplus funds. The recreation center also will be financed with donations and a \$3.50 surcharge on football tickets.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said administrators hope to award bids at the regents' April meeting.

But Cyndi Halpin, a student opponent of the recreation center, said many students want to delay the construction of the recreation center to give them more time to evaluate the issue. Halpin said students recently collected about 900 signatures against the recreation center in four days.

Earlier this month, the UNL Faculty Senate voted 29-8 to request the administration to delay construction of the recreation center for one year.

Halpin said many students are opposed to the sharp increase in student fees needed to finance the project. Under the plan, student fees would be increased by phases up to \$30 or \$35 a year to fund the project.

Griesen said that student fees for recreation are low because there is no indoor facility to support. He said an indoor recreation center is badly needed and that UNL ranks at the bottom of the Big Eight in student recreational facilities.

Bryan Robertson, a registered lobbyist for ASUN, noted that two student organizations — ASUN and Interfraternity Council — have voted to support the project.

The Panhellenic Association, Residence Hall Association and Campus Recreation Advisory Council also have issued statements of support.

## Gov. Orr appoints Roy Frederick state ag director

Dr. Roy Frederick, UNL professor of agricultural economics, was appointed Thursday by Gov. Kay Orr as the new Nebraska agriculture director.

He will replace Chuck Shroeder, who left Feb. 1 because an opportunity with another group, said Jim Willett, the governor's press assistant.

Willett said Frederick was chosen because of his background in agricultural economics and his farm experience. He will leave his position as a UNL professor and serve full time as agriculture director starting April 1. He will serve in that position as long as Orr is in office.

Frederick was unavailable for comment.

## AAUP seeks to up faculty salaries

By Jen Deselms  
 Senior Reporter

A tight university budget and low faculty salaries have university officials and faculty members searching for ways to increase faculty pay.

Although both groups have the same purpose behind their plans — to attract and keep faculty members — the ideas of the administration and the UNL chapter of the American Association of University Professors differ.

A policy statement that would authorize colleges and departments to use outside income to increase faculty salaries was discussed during the March meeting of the NU Board of Regents and will be considered at its April meeting.

The plan sponsored by Lee Jones, executive vice-president and provost, and Richard Wood, general counsel, would allow UNL and medical-center faculty members to increase their salaries from excess grant funds, donations, contracts and fees. Salaries could be increased by up to 25 percent from these outside sources.

Jones said the policy would set the framework for departments and colleges to form their own plans within the guidelines. Each supplemental compensation plan must be approved by NU President Ronald Roskens.

Jones said a salary-compensation plan is used for clinicians at the medical center and professors in the College of Dentistry. He said similar plans are commonly used at other medical schools, but he knew of no college in the area that has expanded the plan universitywide.

Some UNL faculty members are concerned that the plan will take away from funds now used for maintenance and equipment and cause disparities in salaries. Jim McShane, associate professor of English and faculty senate member, said proposals to use overhead money from grants to supplement salaries would hurt equipment and maintenance funds.

McShane said he is also worried that faculty members would be led, into areas of research not because they were interested, but because of financing.

In a letter to the regents, the president of the

UNL chapter of AAUP, Dermot Coyne, outlined the group's concerns about management, and academic and political issues raised by the policy. AAUP questions whether income from outside sources would divide faculty loyalty between the outside sources and the university.

The AAUP also has its own plan to prevent faculty exodus and demoralization.

On March 11 the group released a four-point program that calls for:

- The NU Foundation to guarantee, on a short-term basis, the funds necessary to retain faculty now receiving offers from other institutions.

- The administration to prepare a special salary package request for the Legislature's immediate consideration.

- The NU Foundation to commit itself to a fund drive specifically targeted to establishing endowed faculty chairs awarded on a competitive basis throughout the university. The foundation should seek a commitment from the Legislature to match each dollar raised from private sources for this fund.

Photo courtesy of University Archives