

# Committee hears testimony on \$2 million renovation

By Eric Pfanner  
Staff Reporter

The Appropriations Committee of the Nebraska Legislature heard testimony Thursday on LB645, which would authorize exhibit renovation at Morrill Hall.

State Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln introduced the bill, which would authorize \$2 million for the renovation.

Two years ago, Wesely said, \$4 million in funding for renovation and installation of a climate control system was passed by the Legislature. Now, Wesely said, an additional \$4

million is needed to complete the project.

"We got into it and discovered we needed a little more," he said. The additional \$2 million needed will be raised through private funding, he said.

Nancy Beck, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Museum, said some money from LB645 would be used for exhibits rather than improvements on the building when renovation continues.

Museum Director Hugh Genoways said the funding in LB645 would be a "one-time capital ex-

pense" for project contracting. No money would be allocated for permanent staff of the museum.

Beck said LB218, which gave the museum \$4 million two years ago, improved the structure of the building.

The climate control system prevents further deterioration of exhibits in the museum, she said.

Genoways said the renovation and climate control will allow exhibits like the nomads of the great plains exhibit, which would have been destroyed before, to be displayed.

Beck said \$500,000 would go to

replace the mammal exhibit on the first floor, while \$1.5 million would go to renovate the paleontology exhibit on the second floor.

"All these things require money, time and staff," she said. Passing LB645 would send a challenge to the university to match the \$2 million the bill proposes, Beck said.

Dave Sands of the Nebraska chapter of the National Audubon Society said the primary function of the museum should be education by its exhibits.

Sands said that 40 percent of the museum would be empty if there was

no funding for exhibits.

Passing LB645 is important, he said, so that Morrill Hall does not "rest on the laurels" of its past achievements.

William Splinter, acting associate vice chancellor for research at UNL, said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is officially neutral on the bill.

If an unlimited amount of money were available, he said, the university would be supportive of the bill. Then funding for Morrill Hall could conceivably be included in UNL's budget, he said.

## Petersen upholds COLAGE fund cut

PETERSEN from Page 1

ASUN's final consideration of the entire Fund A and B fee budgets March 8.

Griesen said Thursday night that he has been "totally supportive" of past student senate fee decisions, adding: "For all I know the student senate could support something totally different on March 8."

think it's a good process . . . That's democracy, that's how it is supposed to work," he said.

Petersen's decision to put into writing his reasons for upholding the ASUN decision "was very appropriate," Griesen said.

When asked if he felt student fee funding for COLAGE would help to educate students about increasing minority awareness -- a topic of concern for the administration this year -- Griesen said:

"I have no hesitancy in saying that programming aimed at eliminating prejudices in our society has a very

important place on our university campus."

He did not say whether COLAGE serves that purpose.

Griesen said he will have to consider whether "present allocations adequately provide for programming that is diverse in nature yet balanced in terms of political, ideological and personal viewpoints."

Petersen said he probably will approve the rest of ASUN's recommendation for Fund A fee users today. Fund A fee users include ASUN, the Daily Nebraskan and UPC.

**"I respect student government. I think it's a good process . . . that's democracy . . ."**  
--Griesen

Griesen said he believes "first and foremost" that Fund A student fees are "programmatic money to be managed by three student organizations -- student government, student programming and the student newspaper."

That money, he said, is for the students and should be decided upon by the students.

"I respect student government. I

## Forum organizers hope to draw many

By Sara Bauder  
Staff Reporter

An all-university forum planning to draw members of fraternities and sororities, residence hall students and off-campus students together, is scheduled for next month, according to Marc Shkolnick, vice president of the Residence Hall Association.

Shkolnick said he and Kim Beavers, second vice president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, are setting up the forum. He said he would like the forum to be sponsored by ASUN, RHA and the Interfraternity Council.

Finding pertinent issues and choosing a date that will allow the most students to attend the forum are the major concerns in the planning right now, Shkolnick said.

Beavers said some issues they have considered include scholarships and financial aid, parking and opposite-sex visitation in greek houses and residence halls. Shkolnick also mentioned minority issues, drug/alcohol abuse and suicide.

Shkolnick said he hopes the forum will help clear up misunderstandings that often occur between members of fraternities and sororities, residence hall students and commuter students. Shkolnick said he wants the forum to provide an atmosphere allowing students to better understand how other groups feel on important issues.

Beavers said the forum is needed so students can talk directly to the student government.

"We got the idea from RHA's All-Residence Hall Open Forum," Beavers said. "The neatest thing about that forum was that people got to voice their ideas directly to us."

Beavers said the forum would help ASUN get input and viewpoints from its constituents.

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