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Out on a limb

Carl Landenberg, front, and Matt Grahm from UNL Landscaping Services trim pine trees outside Architecture Hall Tuesday morning.

Travis Heying/DN

Senators hear debate on multicultural bills

LB179, LB52 supporters express concerns, dislikes to education committee

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

For more than four hours Tuesday, the Legislature's Education Committee heard comments from supporters and opponents of proposed bills that would alter planned multicultural curriculums for Nebraska schools.

More than 30 people addressed both support and concern to the committee about LB179 and LB52—two proposed bills that would amend a law requiring Nebraska secondary and elementary schools to develop and implement multicultural programs by the 1993-94 school year.

The multicultural program law stemmed from LB922, sponsored by Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha and passed last spring.

The bill's multicultural programs were not designed to add new classes or teachers to the schools, Chambers said, but rather to require schools to integrate multicultural education into existing programs.

The multicultural curriculum would be implemented on a test basis for the 1993-94 school year, then revised and installed permanently beginning in 1994-95.

LB179, also sponsored by Chambers, would create a Multicultural Education Advisory Committee, which would be established by the Nebraska Board of Education to oversee implementation of multicultural curriculums.

It also would create a permanent, full-time position within the state Department of Education that would oversee the multicultural program once it was installed.

"For something of this magnitude to work the way it was intended, there has to be some-

one present to see the whole picture," Chambers said.

The full-time position would not require additional funding, Chambers said, because the Department of Education's budget already can accommodate it.

LB52, introduced by Sen. Kate Witek of Omaha, would delay the first phase of LB922 until the 1994-95 school year because, Witek said, multicultural programs in the state's secondary and elementary schools need to be studied further.

"I have no qualms about multicultural education," Witek said. "My main concern is that for something that is supposed to be implemented next year, there are many, many questions from all levels."

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— Witek
state senator

"This is such a large task, we simply need more time to investigate this further."

Doug Christensen, associate commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education, said he supported LB179, and that additional staffing was needed at the state Department of Education to implement such a sweeping curriculum.

He said the current department staff was not representative of the diversity of students in Nebraska's schools, and that it would be "absolutely arrogant" to proceed with the program without better administrative diversity.

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Peace park, maze planned for rural site near Lincoln

By Doug Kouma
Staff Reporter

Inspired by the wave of freedom that has encompassed the globe in recent years, a group of Lincoln residents is working to create a new vision of peace and understanding for the Heartland.

The Prairie Peace Park and Maze, which is sponsored by the World Peace Center and is being built seven miles west of Lincoln, is scheduled to open in June 1994. Featuring hands-on activities and exhibits, the park will promote a better understanding of the principles of world peace, organizers said.

Don Tilley, park director, said

“When the people of Nebraska see this wall, they will be moved by it, because they will see themselves in it.”

— Tilley
Prairie Peace Park director

Tuesday that one of the premier exhibits would be the World Peace Mural, to be created at the 1993 World Clay Stomp. The clay stomp will be in Flagstaff, Ariz., May 24-27, and bring together people from more than 50 countries to share their cultures and ideas for the future.

Almost 16,000 "stompers" will blend and condition 10 tons of clay for the hundreds of artists who will create the 80-foot-by-10-foot wall. Musicians from all over the world, playing simultaneously on instruments indigenous to their cultures, will create a unique atmosphere for the event, park promoters said.

"The whole intent of the project is to transcend differences and cultures of people and create a vision of coming together," said Joel Pfeiffer, the stomp's director.

Tilley compared the mural to the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in

Washington, D.C. But while the Wall is a memorial to a tragic event, the peace mural will be full of life and positive emotions, Tilley said.

"When the people of Nebraska see this wall, they will be moved by it, because they will see themselves in it," Tilley said.

Former Nebraska Gov. Frank Morrison, a member of the peace park's board of directors, said the wall

would be symbolic of a new cooperation among different cultures.

Morrison said just as the Berlin Wall was built to divide society, the peace wall would be a symbol of international unity.

In addition to the mural, the peace park will feature different exhibits and learning centers, such as an electronic light show, a life-size human conflict maze and several sculptures.

"Amber Waves of Grain," an 8,000-square-foot exhibit of nuclear warhead replicas, was permanently loaned to the park by artist Barbara Donachy as a call for nuclear disarmament.

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CFA works to prevent student fee increases

Fund increases expected for DN and ASUN

By Michelle Leary
Senior Reporter

The desire to keep student fees down for 1993-94 is extremely important for students at UNL, said Shane Tucker, president of the ASUN Committee for Fees Allocation.

"We're trying to halt the student-fee monster that we're burdened with each year," Tucker said. "We'd hate to see an increase in student fees next year."

Last year, student fees rose \$10, bringing the total up to \$171.

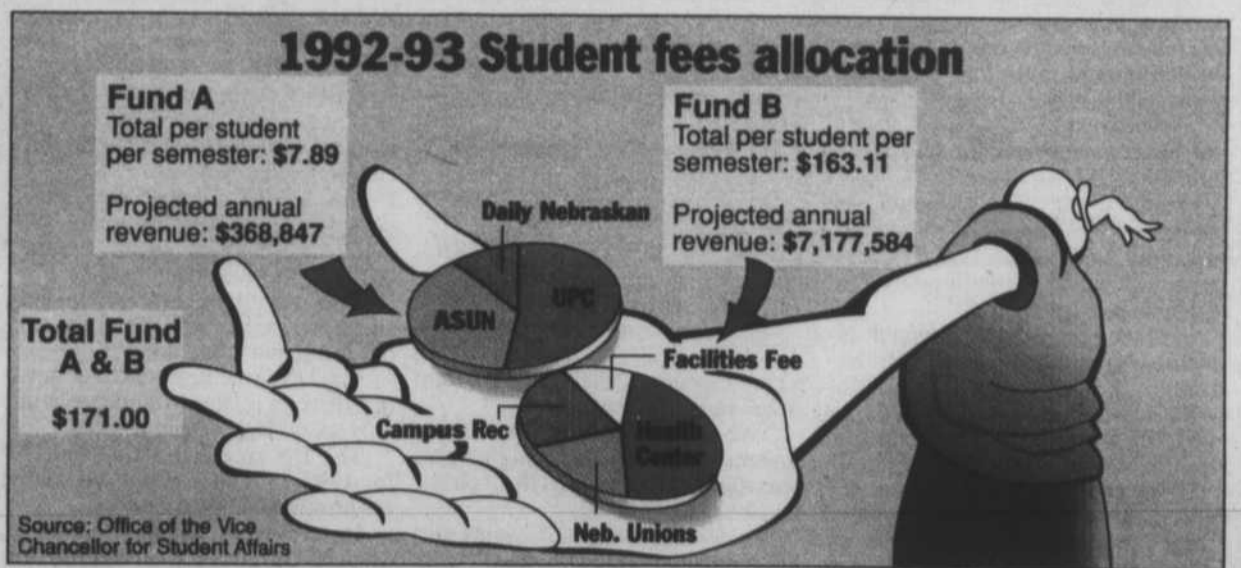
CFA members, who review fund requests made by student organizations, are working to prevent another increase for next year, Tucker said.

Andrew Sigerson, ASUN president, said one of his top priorities was keeping student fees at the same level they were this year.

"Students need a break from the increasing tuition costs and the costs of living," Sigerson said.

Student fee assessments vary according to the number of hours for which a student enrolls each semester. In 1992-93, students taking 6 or less hours paid \$80; those taking 7 or more hours paid \$171.

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Source: Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Brian Shellito/DN