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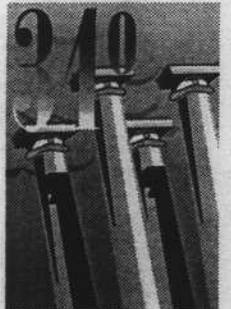
inside **Weekend**

Sports

Christian Peter discusses sexual assault, page 9

Arts & Entertainment

Trekkies critique "Star Trek: Voyager," page 8



January 20-22, 1995

\$10 million expansion planned for Union

By John Fulwider
Staff Reporter

Nebraska Union officials plan to complete a \$10 million expansion of the building by 1998.

Union Director Daryl Swanson said the project would be paid for by increased student fees.

However, he said, student fees would not be increased until the project neared completion, so graduating students would not pay for an expansion that they wouldn't benefit from.

The expansion would proceed north into Broyhill Plaza. Both the plaza and Broyhill Fountain would be renovated, because the plaza's concrete and the fountain's plumbing are deteriorating.

Swanson said a major aim of the expansion was to add more meeting space. He said there were 30 to 40 meetings held each day at the union.

Some of the meeting rooms are high quality, Swanson said, while others are low quality. He said he wanted to provide a more uniform

quality in union meeting spaces.

Swanson also said he wanted to address problems involving union recreation space.

He said the video game room had been successful because of its central location. However, it caused noise pollution in the lounge outside. Also, the basement pool room was poorly located and boring, he said.

Both problems would be solved by locating the video games and pool tables in a recreation room in the basement.

Other areas that could be improved:

● A 56-year-old mechanical system. Swanson said the system should have been replaced after 50 years. The electrical wiring and sewer systems also must be updated.

● Handicap access. The ramp on the west side of the building no longer meets federal requirements because its slope is too steep. It would be modified and covered to protect it from the elements.

Swanson also proposed a new

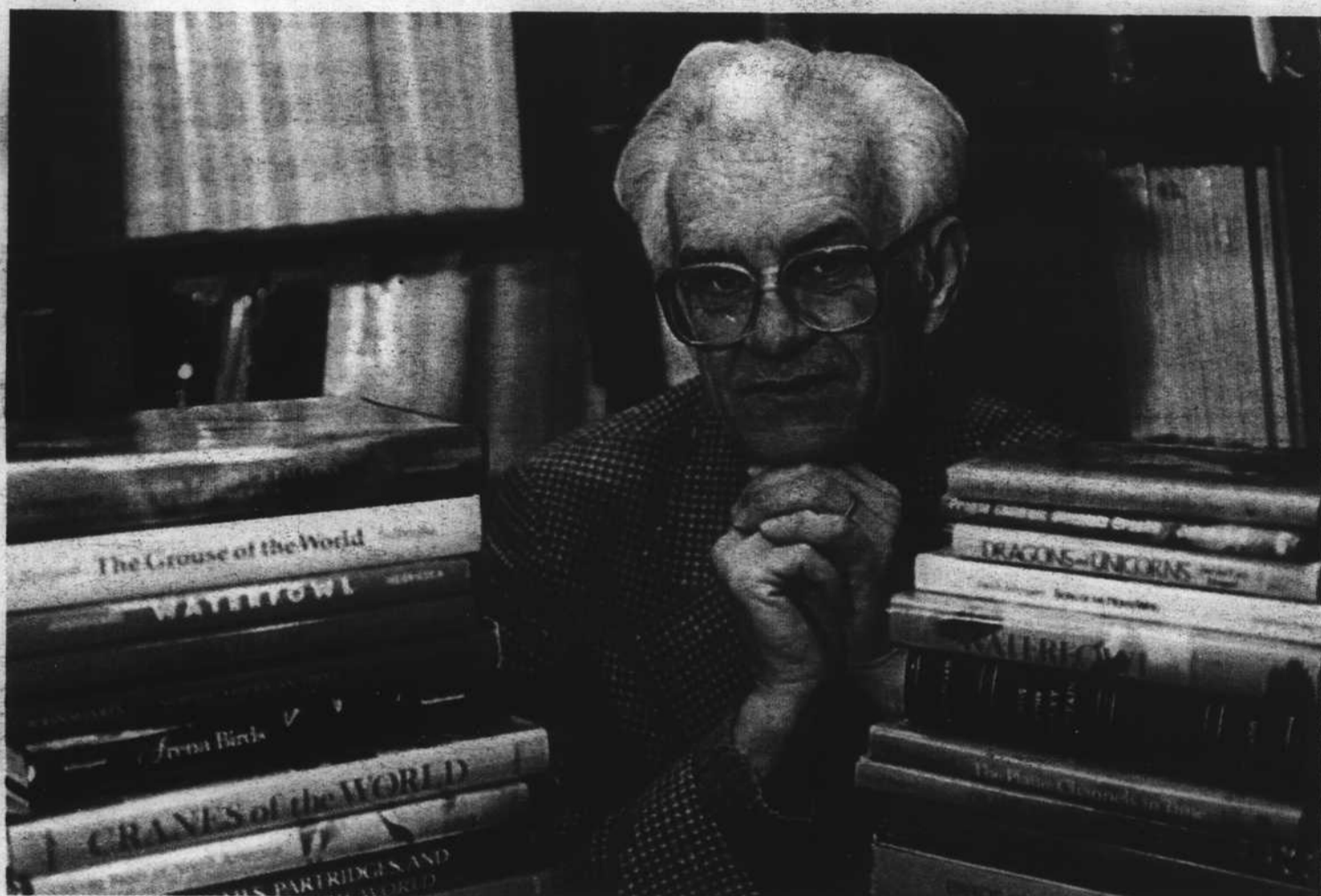
handicap entrance on the ground level of the north side with a passenger elevator serving all union floors.

● University Bookstore would be expanded because more storage space is needed, Swanson said.

For three years, the bookstore has had a tractor-trailer attached to its loading dock for extra storage space. Swanson said the trailer was an eyesore and needed to be removed, be removed.

● The computer room would be

See EXPANSION on 3



Damon Lee/DN

Paul Johnsgard, professor of biological sciences, is surrounded by some of the 33 books he has written about birds. Johnsgard said he hoped to have a complete shelf on his bookcase filled with his own books by the time he retires.

Teacher's passion is for the birds

By Tanna Kinnaman
Staff Reporter

Paul Johnsgard, known as "the bird man," is living proof that compulsions can be beneficial to people and animals.

Johnsgard's compulsion — and passion — is birds. He studies birds, draws birds, photographs birds, writes about birds and carves birds out of wood.

Johnsgard, a professor of biological sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lin-

coln, said he was fascinated by a "bird's sense of freedom that other animals don't have."

"I have always envied the ability of birds to fly away," he said.

Johnsgard has published 33 books about birds since he came to UNL in the fall of 1961. The majority of his books are written for the academic world, where he has written more books about birds than any other author.

Many of Johnsgard's books are planned

years in advance. He said it usually took him four to five years to write a book, but he is always working on three or four books at a time.

He said his most popular books among mainstream readers had emerged in his mind through sudden inspiration.

"Song of the North Wind: A Story of the Snow Goose," published in 1974, is one such book. Johnsgard's inspiration came at

See BIRD MAN on 3

Voters may make Nelson decide state pardon cases

By J. Christopher Hain
Senior Reporter

The governor will become the sole decision-maker in pardon cases involving the death penalty if a resolution introduced to the Judiciary Committee Thursday becomes law.

LR9CA calls for a constitutional amendment to be placed on the 1996 election ballot. If approved by voters, the amendment would drop the attorney general and secretary of state from the State Board of Pardons in capital cases.

The three-member board would remain intact for all other pardons cases.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, who serves on the Judiciary Committee, questioned why the board would remain intact for lesser cases but not for those involving the death penalty.

"If in the most serious case, where a life is at stake, one person is in control, why is it necessary to have

three people making decisions on less serious matters?" Chambers asked.

The resolution was introduced to the Legislature on behalf of the governor by Sen. Eric Will of Omaha.

Lisa Johns, legislative aide to Will, introduced the bill to the committee and noted that in nearly two-thirds of other states, the governor already was the sole decision-maker in death penalty pardons.

Furthermore, Johns said, there were reasons for the secretary of state and the attorney general not to sit on the board.

She said the attorney general had a conflict between his roles as the state's chief prosecutor and as a member of the pardons board.

Johns also said the secretary of state's job description had nothing that made it logical for him or her to sit on the board.

Secretary of State Scott Moore, who took office this month, testified in opposition to the resolution.

"A decision of this magnitude should be made by a board of three people," Moore said.

Moore has not yet participated in a pardons board meeting, but said he didn't feel the amendment was necessary.

"Obviously the constitution outlives all of us. We should make sure it is created with the best long-term interest in mind."

In other legislative action, Sen. Chris Abboud of Omaha introduced a bill (LB735) that calls for the creation of a separate engineering college at UNO. 13 other Omaha area senators co-signed the bill.

The idea of an engineering college at UNO was rejected by University President Dennis Smith and the Board of Regents.

Abortion rights discussed at rally

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Abortion rights supporters must rely on strength and not succumb to fear in light of the recent killings at abortion clinics, advocates said Thursday at an abortion rights rally.

More than 100 people attended the rally "Women's Choices — Women's Lives" at the Lincoln Women's Center, which was sponsored by the Pro-Choice Coalition of Nebraska.

Kay Siebler, coalition president, said if abortion rights supporters gave in to terrorism and

fear, women would resort to self-induced abortions in back alleys.

"We are survivors," she said. "We have to empower ourselves and not hang our heads in mourning."

"We should be filled with rage, not fear." Siebler said the abortion rights movement had to stop referring to its opposition as "pro-life" and address it as "anti-choice."

The abortion clinic killings were "assassinations," not murders, she said, because they were plotted, terroristic acts.

Nebraska is not isolated from the violence

that claimed the lives of four abortion clinic workers last year, she said.

"There is not an abortion provider in this country who has not received death threats," she said. "I'm sure doctors in Nebraska wear bullet-proof vests. It could happen anywhere."

A 40-year-old Lincoln woman self-induced an abortion with a crochet hook because she was afraid to face protestors at a clinic in Omaha, Siebler said.

"People can beat their fists against reality,"

See RALLY on 3