

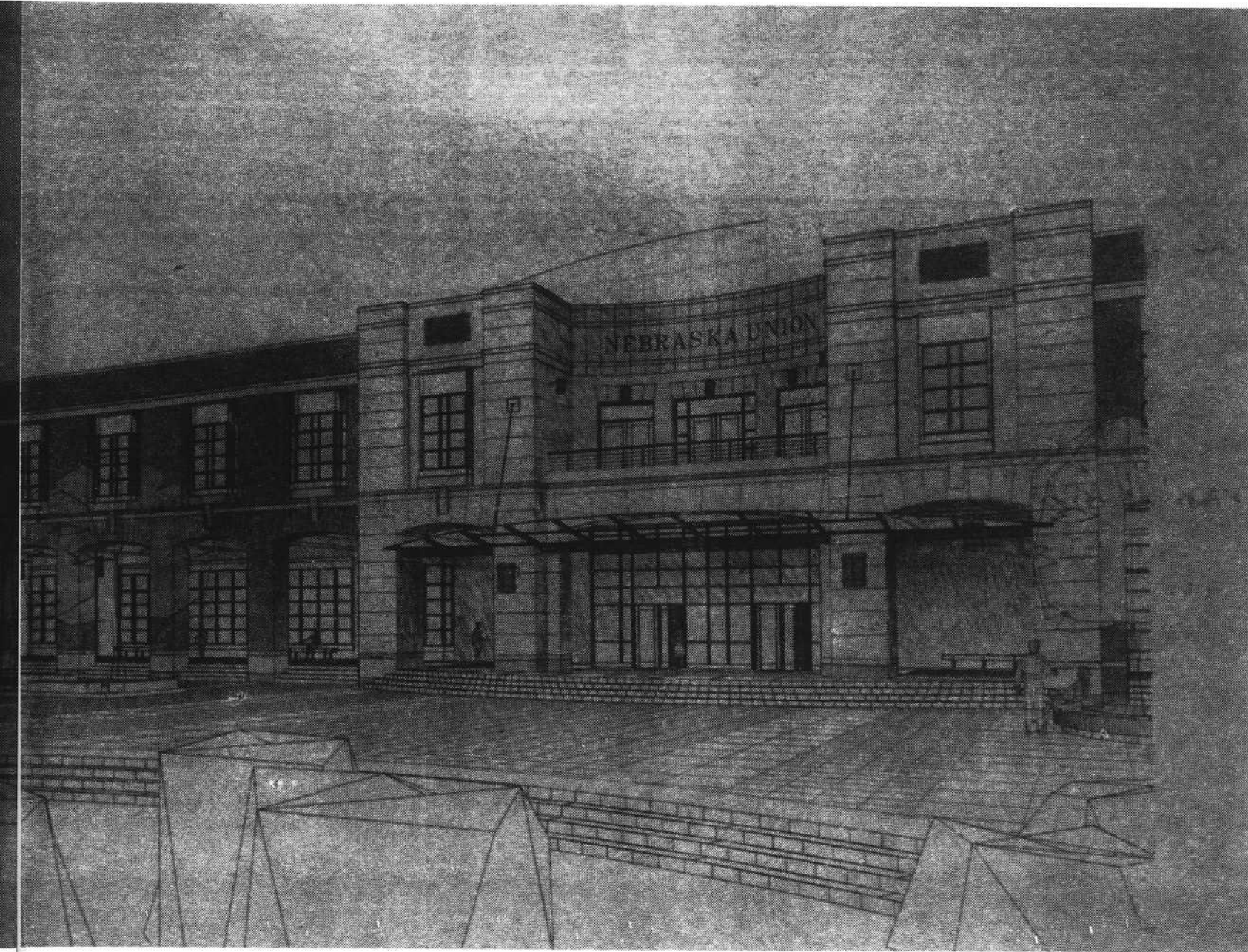


**LEFT:** Broyhill Fountain, a popular gathering place for UNL students since its construction, will be demolished this winter to make room for an expanded Nebraska Union and plaza.

PHOTO BY MARNI SPECK/DN

**BELOW:** An artist's sketch of the north side of the renovated Nebraska Union. Construction is scheduled to begin in November. The project will be complete in the summer of 1998.

SKETCH COURTESY OF NEBRASKA UNION



## Construction to start on union in November

asbestos. The workers will begin in the north part of the food court, using a dust wall to protect the people still using the building, he said.

In December, workers are scheduled to remove asbestos from the billiard room, the union administration and Office for Student Involvement on the second floor.

Those offices will be relocated to a ballroom, which will be closed to public use for about a year, Swanson said.

During winter break, the workers will remove asbestos from the remainder of the food court.

"Students will see the most significant change in January when they return from Christmas break," Swanson said.

At that time, the north entrance to the union will be closed while construction crews begin demolishing the north columns of the union, he said.

Swanson said two temporary entrances will be built on the west side of the union, one serving the University Bookstore and the other serving the main floor. The entrances will be

used for more than a year.

The current handicap-accessible west entrance will be demolished, disrupting 24-hour access to the computer room until the expansion is finished, he said.

There will be a temporary handicap-accessible entrance near the center of the west wall, which is the area where the grandfather clocks are now. There will also be a temporary ramp. The temporary entrance will be turned into a window when the permanent handicap entrance is finished.

Swanson also said some of the parking in the meter lot east of the union will be taken by the asbestos removal crews.

Eventually, the whole lot will be used by construction crews.

Plans for specific additions are:

- An extended-hours convenience store in the basement of the union and expanded book store.
- A new recreation area in the basement, including a big screen television lounge, a billiards room, and an expanded video game lounge.

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**DARYL SWANSON**  
Nebraska Unions director

- An expanded computer room and copy shop.
- An art lounge, which will display various local and traveling exhibits on the main floor.
- A larger lobby, including additional booths for use by student organizations and salespeople.
- A new handicap-accessible entrance on the west side of the union.
- Additional seating in the food court.
- A new, high-tech auditorium and renovated meeting rooms.
- A second-floor balcony overlooking the green space.
- A security office for volunteer community service officers.

Swanson said the expansion of the building should be completed during the summer of 1998. The plaza, including a new fountain and stage area will be completed before the fall semester of 1998-99.

"This is the hard part of the process," Swanson said. "We hope we can get through this part while continuing to serve our community."