

Cat nap

The Kansas State men's basketball team capped a 69-63 victory over NU Saturday with a 7-0 run in the final two minutes. PAGE 7

Imported action

Chow Yun-Fat, a world-renowned film veteran, makes his American film debut with "The Replacement Killers." PAGE 9

RAINY DAYS AND MONDAYS ...
Chance of rain, high 46. Cloudy tonight, low 31.

Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 97

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 98

Centennial Mall rebirth discussed

■ The environs commission wants to extend the architecture of the State Capitol to campus.

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

The cracked concrete and crumbling steps bear the toll of 30 years of footsteps.

But while the fountains remained dormant and gray Friday morning, the Capitol Environs Commission announced its plans for the rebirth and renewal of Centennial Mall.

The commission, along with Denver architects, unveiled the new face of Centennial Mall in colorful drawings and plans.

The plan is designed to connect the Capitol to the university campus using art deco ideas to make the mall an extension of the Capitol's architecture.

"We want people to continue walking and strolling once they get outside the Capitol," Gov. Ben Nelson said. "Right now it is more of an 'ugh' when people get outside."

The new design incorporates three main plazas, one at each end of the mall, and a larger festival plaza in the middle, said architect Russ Butler.

"We want to create a grand civic space," he said.

"We want to create a grand civic space."

RUSS BUTLER
architect

All of the steps will be removed and replaced by two graceful, curving walkways that span the entire mall, Butler said.

The 20-foot-wide promenades, characterized by colorful paving, will incorporate the history of Nebraska in displays along the walks: cultural history on the west side and natural history on the east.

The walkways will be flanked by long lines of oak trees leading up to the Capitol.

The Denver firm EDAW has worked on projects such as the Olympic Park in Atlanta and Washington, D.C., monuments, but Butler said this is the most significant project he's ever done.

Unlike the current mall, the new plan incorporates streets into the design.

While the streets will remain open to traffic, the colorful walkways and other elements will continue across the asphalt to better connect the entire mall.

Like the current mall, fountains

Centennial Mall
Spirit of Nebraska Plaza
©1998 BVH+EDAW



COURTESY EDAW/BAHR VERMEER AND HAECKER
AN ARTIST'S RENDITION of the proposed changes to Lincoln's Centennial Mall looking south from 15th and R streets. Denver landscape architecture and urban design firm EDAW and Lincoln's Bahr Vermeer and Haecker hope to begin work on the project by 1999.

will remain an important part of the new design.

The main plaza, near Pershing Auditorium, will feature a fountain with flush-mounted jets, so people can walk right through it, Butler said.

The new mall also will include a law enforcement memorial in remembrance of Nebraska servicemen who have died in the line of duty.

But before construction can begin, there are several issues that must be resolved, including funding and ownership, said Gary Rex, environs commission chairman.

The project will cost about \$17.5 million dollars and will take 20-24 months to complete, Rex said. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 1999.

The money will come from state, city and private contribu-

tions. "We must decide who will pay for what and who will own the mall when it is complete," Rex said.

There are also other issues such as the loss of parking and the effects on downtown businesses, Rex said.

"We want to rebuild the mall into something inspirational and useful."

Protesters gather to support prisoners

BY KIM SWEET
Staff Reporter

Words encouraging awareness, action and perseverance rang from the Centennial Mall Friday as protesters gathered in support of releasing American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier from prison.

About 75 people gathered to hear from local AIM leaders who challenged the group to come together on Peltier's behalf and begin the fight at home for his release from prison in Leavenworth, Kan.

Peltier has been in prison for 22 years. He was arrested on charges of murdering two FBI agents and another AIM leader in 1975 at Pine Ridge, S.D., said Andrew Ascherl, a member of Food Not Bombs.

Since the 1975 incident, evidence of coerced testimony and fabricated evidence has been brought forward in thousands of pages of

"We are prisoners in our own land, and we are fighting back."

LINDA ANFUSO
American Indian Movement member

documents from the investigation, proving Peltier's innocence, Ascherl said.

Frank Lamere, a member of the Nebraska Inter-Tribal Development Corporation, has urged protesters to come together and use all the means necessary to have Peltier released.

"Indeed, the case of Leonard Peltier is unfinished business, not only for Nebraska, but for the whole world," Lamere said.

Please see PELTIER on 2

Republicans meet public

Candidates explain why they should receive votes

BY TODD ANDERSON
Assignment Reporter

Republican candidates emphasized their commitment to lowering taxes and shrinking government as they met the public in downtown Lincoln Friday night.

So common were those and other conservative themes at the Republican party's "Meet the Candidates" night that candidates distinguished themselves by highlighting their qualifications.

"No other (gubernatorial) candidate has the experience I do as a leader, mayor and chief executive officer," Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns said.

State auditor John Breslow said his experience as a businessman distinguished him from other candidates.

"I have signed the front of a paycheck, and they've only signed the

back," he said.

Former Tecumseh Mayor Lavern Bartels said he decided to run because he was frustrated with the inactivity of state government.

Taking a break from his own campaign party, Rep. Jon Christensen of Omaha also made a stop in the Haymarket Candy Factory for the reception.

In addition, candidates for lieutenant governor, state auditor and Omaha's 2nd Congressional District were among the minglers who presented their campaign objectives.

Sen. Dave Maurstad of Beatrice said experience counts in choosing a candidate for lieutenant governor.

"(I) can strengthen the ticket with my small business background and experience as state senator," he said.

Elliott Rustad, a Lincoln dermatologist, said his statewide business experience would help him to represent the entire state.

"I don't have regional bias," Rustad said. "I won't represent just one district or community."

Ewing businessman Kevin Fry and Omaha businessman Matt Butler also were answering questions.

Fry said he would bring broad appeal to the lieutenant governor ticket.

"I want people to see my candidacy as one that can really fill the conservatism that Nebraskans identify with," he said.

Also present were Rep. Doug Bereuter and Omaha Mayor Hal Daub.

Bereuter, who has announced plans to seek his 11th term as Nebraska's 1st District Congressman, said this year's Republican lineup features a lot of strong candidates.

"None of these people are doing this casually," he said. "This is going to be the most actively contested race in my memory."