

# RHA wants improved relations

■ The association will try to work together inside and out this year.

BY JESSICA FARGEN  
Staff writer

Some members of the Residence Hall Association will be attending more meetings this year than just their regular Sunday night get-together.

RHA President Ben Wallace said his organization will regularly send representatives to observe meetings of the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

"It is important we have the lines of communication open," Wallace said. "It is important as leaders of campus that we work together as much as possible."

Wallace pointed out that student government sends its second vice president to sit in on RHA meetings.

Laura Sullivan, senator from Neihardt Residence Center, said the relationship between the two groups

RHA

sometimes can be strained.

"Everyone knows we need to work on relations between Greeks and residence halls," Sullivan said. "I think everyone would like to see the communication improve and work together more."

"It's pointless for us not to work together."

Wallace also hopes RHA members will be working closer together this year through a mentoring program.

The 2-year-old program is being given a new focus to help new senators feel more comfortable in hall government.

Wallace, who is a junior French major, said rookie senators last year were automatically paired up with an executive board member, regardless of that board member's RHA experience.

This year Wallace and Sullivan, the mentoring program coordinator, will choose the mentors based on RHA experience. Sullivan said men-

tors will be chosen this week. The program did not have a coordinator last year.

"Basically it is to give the new senators a resource base so they can talk to people who have more experience with RHA, get a feel for what's going on," Sullivan said.

"So you don't go half the year and not know anyone."

The mentoring will consist mostly of social activities such as going out for ice cream or bowling, she said.

Sullivan said the effectiveness last year was average. Sullivan had a mentor last year, but did nothing with that person. She said she would like to be a mentor this year.

"We want to make it a strong, effective program instead of just an average one," Sullivan said.

Other RHA news:

■ Applications will be available Friday for the fall RHA retreat. The retreat is open to residence hall students.

■ Residence Hall Week is Sept. 16-23.

■ The first RHA meeting is Sunday at 6:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

# Children's museum plays with new locale

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new home for the first time when it moves to the new building, said Lindy Bull, director of operations for the museum.

The permanent home for the museum will include a modern look and new exhibits. While many of the old exhibits will be used in the renovated museum, new ones designed by a firm specializing in the development of hands-on exhibits for children also will fill the museum.

The designer, Amy Leidtke, will work with community members and organizations on the exhibits that occupy the new space, Bull said.

Leidtke and the board have come up with preliminary plans for many exhibits.

One of them, which has the working name of Museumville, will represent a Midwestern city and countryside. This exhibit will look most familiar to patrons who often visit the museum, as it will incorporate old favorites like the bank, the grocery store and the replica of NU's Memorial Stadium.

Other planned exhibits include a tree that will stretch up through the three floors of the museum, containing climbing and learning activities.

A water exhibit is planned for the basement, where the boat housed in the old museum will be used. A water wall that visitors can walk over will be part of the Big Splash exhibit.

Prairie Dog Hill will allow children to crawl through numerous tunnels and experience the life of a prairie dog, an important part of western Nebraska's ecological system, Bull said.

There will be 36,000 square feet in the new building for these exhibits. Currently, the museum operates with 13,000 square feet.

The remaining space of the 72,000-square-foot building will be leased to other tenants.

The renovation of the building along with the new exhibits will bring a hefty price tag. While the bond issue paid for the building, another \$2.67 million needs to be raised through private donations to fund the renovation and construction of the exhibits, White said.

As the museum begins a broad media campaign this fall to get the money from the public, it also will go to numerous corporations and foundations to get the needed dollars.

Fund-raisers plan to incorporate the children they are trying to help as well. Through a children's campaign, they want to get youth contributions for the project.

While White hopes the children will feel they are a part of making the new museum a reality, he also wants them to learn a little about what a fund-raising campaign is all about.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will join the numerous entities involved in the campaign. Many of the ads for the media campaign have been created by students in marketing and advertising classes, White said.

As the fund-raising campaign continues, the construction will begin. White said that work on the building will begin either this fall or winter and will be completed by sometime in 2000.

The construction of the building, as well as the operation of it when it is completed, will draw from organizations across the community.

The building itself will be run by a private-public partnership, since the city owns the building, and the Children's Museum, a private nonprofit organization, will run it, White said.

But the downtown location also will give nearby organizations, such as the university, a chance to be a part of the museum and benefit from it.

As it is now, the university already plays a role in the museum. The agricultural department brought in the tractor that sits in the museum. Some of the museum's costumes were made by students in a textiles class.

White thinks such exchanges benefit both the museum and the university, and hopes they continue.

"They got a great project, we got great costumes," he said. With many people and groups involved in the museum, White hopes that throughout the building and operation of the new museum, one goal will remain paramount for everyone: providing a place in the world where children feel comfortable.

"Those opportunities are diminishing," White said. "There are so many museums around that don't allow children to touch."

"This is a place where their interests can be highlighted."

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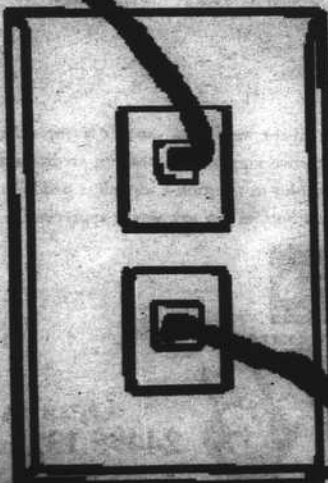


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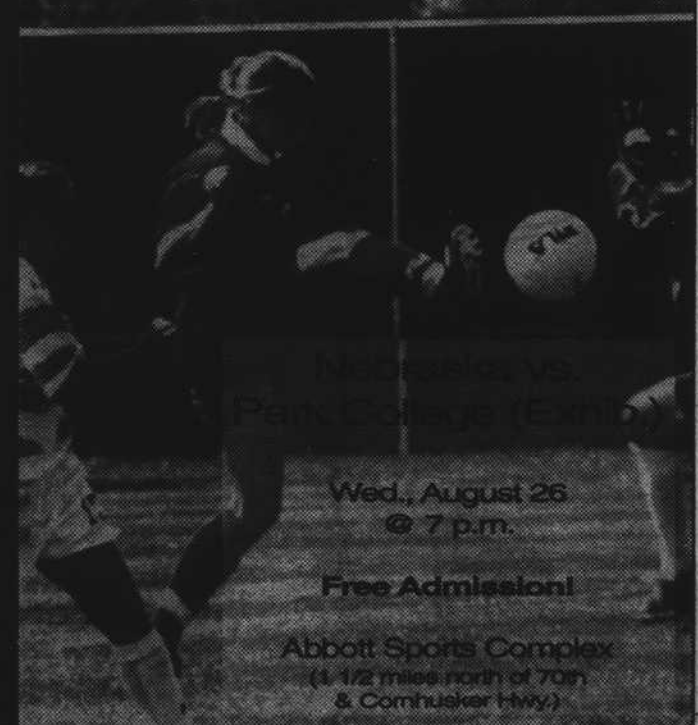
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