

# New fountain operational

■ It will be opened once the union's Memorial Plaza is completed.

BY JESSICA FARGEN  
Staff writer

The construction site surrounding Nebraska Union's Memorial Plaza got a splash of life this week. Frothy water shot out of a fountain in front of the union for the first time in two years.

But the new Broyhill Fountain will not open until April 1999. Its opening is contingent on completion of the plaza, who will open in mid-November, said Nebraska Unions Director Daryl Swanson.

The fountain was scheduled to open Nov. 1, but representatives from the Georgia Fountain Co., which designed the fountain, recommended it be left off because construction dirt may clog it, said Mike Leupold, assistant director for operations for the Nebraska Unions.

Leupold said the testing went smoothly, and the fountain is operational. Besides testing, Georgia Fountain Co. also trained union staff members to operate and test the fountain, Leupold said.

By Thanksgiving break, the \$950,000 renovations to Memorial

Plaza should be completed. The plaza and north entrance should be open, Swanson said.

When that time comes, students walking through the new plaza may not even recognize it.

The new fountain, which resembles a wading pool, is about 18 inches deep in the center and has several steps leading into it. People will be able to sit around the fountain or on the boulders in it and dangle their feet in the water.

About six huge boulders sit in the center of the fountain, surrounded by small water spouts and a main spout that will shoot water 12 feet high and 4 feet wide.

Swanson said people complained that the exposed plumbing in the old fountain was dangerous and unattractive. The new fountain will be safer, because the plumbing and utilities are beneath the bottom.

Leupold said the fountain will release hot water through misters, which will turn it into fog after hitting the cold air. It may not be working this winter.

"I think (the fountain) is going to be better, but that remains to be seen," Swanson said. "It's in the eye of the beholder."

The fountain will remain the central feature of Memorial Plaza, which also will have a new look with its built-in performance stage.

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DARYL SWANSON  
Nebraska Unions director

The plaza also will have twice as many seats where students can study, people-watch or sunbathe. Those seats will include the low concrete wall stretching between the plaza and greenspace. Benches will be built into 20 planters with trees and landscaping.

Swanson said most of the inside of the union will be completed before Thanksgiving break, but the basement recreation room, television lounge and the upstairs meeting rooms probably won't be completed until next semester.

The union, which was originally scheduled for completion in August this year, will be dedicated in February, with construction completely finished by spring break.



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