

Master Plan to benefit greeks

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Center.

As a result of that proposal – which has not yet been approved – the university would need to demolish both the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority house and the vacated Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity house.

The Alpha Chi Omega Sorority would then build a new house.

In December, about 70 Alpha Chi Omega Sorority members and supporters attended the NU Board of Regents meeting to express their concerns regarding the plan.

Bensen said discussions are still taking place with members and alumni of both houses.

If an agreement that satisfies both the university and Alpha Chi Omega Sorority is not made before Aug. 1, the sorority house will stay where it is, he said.

"This plan is not set in stone," Benson said. "It can be amended and changed whenever we see it necessary."

Many greek houses are aware of the Master Plan and their options to relocate.

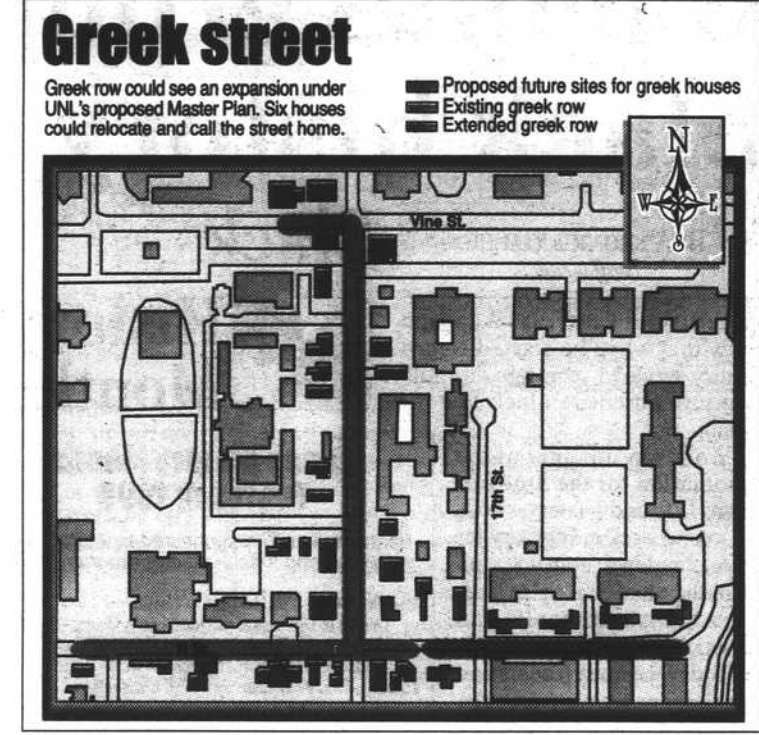
The Antelope Valley Parkway, which is a part of an extensive city project, would isolate Acacia Fraternity from the rest of the campus. "They do have the option to move closer to the campus," Benson said.

Acacia Fraternity President Shane Mares said the fraternity has discussed relocating options with Greek Affairs. "We have looked into relocating," Mares said. "But by no means is it a priority."

Mares said because of the Master Plan's extensive detail and time schedule, Acacia Fraternity would have to consider all of its options before members made a decision.

But one house has already decided to move.

Last year, members of Phi Mu Sorority, which is located behind the Harper-Schramm-Smith Complex, decided they wanted to be a part of



JON FRANK/DN

greek row.

In August, the sorority purchased the vacant Theta Chi Fraternity house on 16th Street.

Sharon Ash, a Phi Mu Sorority alumna, said one of the main reasons the sorority wanted to move was because members wanted to own their own house.

UNL Housing Director Doug Zatechka said the four greek houses located behind the residence hall complex are leased from the university. The lease contracts provide for a multi-year period, with an annual review of costs, he said.

Alpha Delta Pi Sorority ended its lease with the university in December.

Because of dwindling membership, the sorority was forced to relinquish its house, Schwartzkopf said.

Zatechka said it is likely the vacant Alpha Delta Pi Sorority building will be renovated into administration

offices.

Once Phi Mu Sorority completes its move, the old house will probably be turned into a learning community, he said.

Schwartzkopf said Triangle and Chi Phi fraternities, also located near the Harper-Schramm-Smith Complex, have not expressed an interest in relocating.

The future of Chi Phi Fraternity has been brought into question while an investigation is conducted regarding Kara Bliven, a 20-year-old sophomore who fell out of a house window Saturday.

Benson said the results of the Master Plan will benefit the university and the state.

"The Master Plan is a very dynamic campus project," Benson said. "Not only do we want it to be responsive to our academics, we want it to be student life-friendly."

Kerrey hopes bills will gain attention

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bers and animals' destinations to the Department of Agriculture; prevent packers from custom feeding livestock; require country-of-origin labeling for meat products and prohibit price discrimination based on quality.

Kerrey said that legislation on price reporting and labeling stood the best chance of passing at the federal level. Of those two issues, he said, price reporting – a major focus of LB832 – probably would fare best.

Mike Callicrate, a St. Francis, Kan., cattle rancher who is leading a lawsuit against meat packers, agreed that requiring packers to report the prices they pay could help producers.

"If cattle feeders know the market, that will be beneficial," he said. "We simply will be able to make better decisions."

But Don Willoughby, a representative from Dakota City-based IBP – the largest meat packing company in the world, according to his testimony – said producers could tell each other about prices.

"The seller is free to tell anybody the price we paid them for their livestock," he said. Unfortunately, he said, neighbors don't like to tell each other about prices they receive."

Willoughby also criticized LB835, which would prohibit packers from offering better prices for quantity alone. The measure would allow packers to discriminate for quality and acquisition costs. But, Willoughby said, the bill does not provide a way to determine quality.

"Everybody thinks their cattle or their hogs are the same, and that's not the case," he said.

Low prices that pushed thousands of producers out of business

were the result of cycles, he said. When producers received good prices in 1995 and 1996, he said, no one sent IBP any Christmas cards. Several of the more than 140 people who packed the hearing room gasped or muttered at his comments and those of ConAgra's Dick Gady.

Both Willoughby and Gady said livestock farmers' problems have to do with supply and demand.

"There has been no hard evidence that packers are the problem," Gady said.

ConAgra has lost a lot of money on meat the past few months, he said. Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers said ConAgra was not in as much trouble as small farmers.

Several people who testified criticized IPB for making huge profits.

Ewing Sen. Cap Dierks, the committee's chairman, suggested IBP could have shared some of its profits with producers who went out of business.

"It just seems horribly cold to me that that didn't happen," he said.

In other testimony, the Nebraska Pork Producers supported the bills, as did State Agriculture Director Merlyn Carlson.

Keith Olsen, first vice president of Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, said his organization supports the measures. But he encouraged the Legislature to change the bills to resolutions encouraging federal action.

On the federal level, Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel released a statement commending the committee for holding the hearings.

Hagel said he is introducing several bills to help agriculture.

"When our farmers hurt, America hurts – and that is not good for this country," he said.

Mother Nature takes its toll on Lincoln's Capitol

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rapid growth of algae, Rindone said.

Most of the damage to the Capitol's exterior can be attributed to a sandblast cleaning of the building in the early 1970s, Rindone said.

"The sandblasting helped age the building," he said. "Some of the things we are seeing shouldn't be happening for another 60 to 70 years."

"I would hate to see what it would look like in another 45 years."

Because of the rough treatment the building has experienced, Rindone said the current project must be done with great care.

In addition to the exterior work being done on the Capitol, some structural reparation is also taking place.

Limestone walls support most of the Capitol's weight. Consequently, the bottom of the building is showing more wear and tear because it supports more weight, Rindone said.

But, he said, two steel skeletons in the Capitol's structure help it handle that weight.

"We are trying to isolate the weight so it doesn't put so much stress on the bottom (of the building)," Rindone said. "We want to distribute an equal amount of weight to each floor by shifting it from the limestone walls to the steel skeletons."

After an extensive search, the Mark One Waterproofing and Restoration Company of Dalton, Ill., has been selected to do the work on the Capitol.

"We spent eight months trying to select the most qualified contractor in the country," Rindone said.

Rindone said many companies nationwide showed interest, but only two Nebraska firms competed for the job.

Plattsmouth Sen. Roger Wehrbein said the funding for the project will come from general tax funds.

Wehrbein said the renovations of the Capitol are worth the cost.

"It is a historical landmark as far as Nebraska is concerned," Wehrbein said. "We are all very proud of it, and we will do everything we need to do to keep it in good shape."

Bob Ripley, manager of Capitol Restoration, said the Capitol has a special place in architectural history.

"It really broke the mold of 20th-century architecture," Ripley said. "It was the first state capitol to radically depart from the normal design."

Ripley said 37 of the 50 state capitol buildings follow the design of the federal Capitol, but Nebraska's is different.

"It was the first high-rise capitol," he said. "It also emphasizes a vernacular theme that represents Nebraska."

The theme, which is prevalent throughout the building, focuses on the evolution of democracy and the natural and human history of Nebraska, Ripley said.

"The democracy and the Nebraska history combine to make the Capitol one big book of Nebraska," he said.

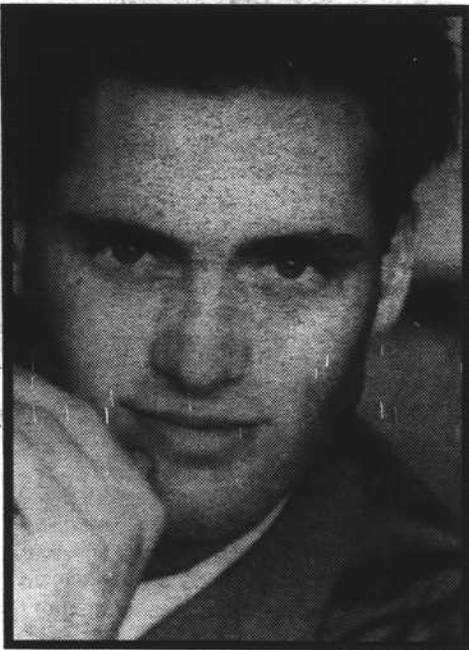
Ripley praised the building's durability and craftsmanship, but he stressed the need to keep up with necessary maintenance.

"It will last for centuries if we give it good care," he said. "We're doing a first-rate job now, so we won't have to do it again."

Ripley said the money will be well spent.

"There are many great things done in history, and this building is one of them," he said. "It is a great building for anywhere in the U.S. The fact it is in Nebraska is something special."

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