

University dedicates union, fountain

■ UNL officials celebrate the completion of the union's new addition after four years of work.

By VERONICA DAEHN
Staff writer

A building wrapped in tradition was reborn Thursday morning as university officials dedicated the new addition to the Nebraska Union and rededicated the Broyhill Fountain.

Chancellor James Moeser officially dedicated the new addition and the new fountain in front of an audience that filled the northwest union lounge.

"We're making a day in our history," Moeser said.

Plans for construction of a new addition began four years ago when students approved a \$20-per-semester increase in tuition and fees to help fund the improvements.

The \$13.5 million project increased usable space in the union by 25 percent and added a computer room, expanded lounges, new meeting rooms, an art gallery and a state-of-the-art auditorium.

Moeser said the original idea for a union came from University of Nebraska-Lincoln students more than 60 years ago.

The same things that they wanted to be a part of the union are still valued by students today, he said.

"How interesting it is that the union has evolved, yet remains so close to that original idea."

The first Broyhill Fountain, built in memory

of Lynn Diann Broyhill, was a campus landmark, but had to be torn down to accommodate the expansion.

The fountain was the most recognized spot on campus, Moeser said. Nobody would have been pleased without a new one to take its place.

"It's as inviting as the old fountain," he said. "Students have already started to flock to it."

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said it is important for students to learn outside of the classroom, and the union helps them to do that.

"We pride ourselves on having an environment that gives students the opportunity to become leaders," he said.

Griesen said the union is the "hub" of activity for student organizations.

It is home to 25 of UNL's largest organizations, including the Daily Nebraskan, the

University Program Council and the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

"We're excited about the quality of the space, the beauty of the design and the functionality of it," Griesen said.

ASUN President Andy Schuerman officially accepted the dedication on behalf of university students.

Schuerman said that in addition to housing student organizations, the true greatness of the union lies in the diversity found therein.

"The union provides opportunities for all students to congregate in one place," he said.

Broadcasting instructor Rick Alloway presided over the ceremony.

He said the union is an important campus structure that should not be taken for granted.

"It's more than bricks and mortar and glass," he said. "It's a nice place to be. It's an attitude."

UNL students help family build house

By TED MCCASLIN
Staff writer

A new white house with green trim now stands because of the collective efforts of the UNL and Lincoln-Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity chapters.

The house, located at the corner of 29th and Potter streets, is the 35th house built under the supervision of Lincoln-Lancaster Habitat for Humanity.

Thursday, Paul and Tammy Royce, and their four children - Paul, 7; Amber, 5; Heather, 3; and Allena, 1, - moved into the house they helped build.

It is the first house built primarily through the efforts of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln branch of the international organization Habitat for Humanity.

Jason Dubs, president of UNL Habitat for Humanity, said the building and funding of the project was "kind of a campus effort."

Ten student organizations donated \$500 to \$1000 each for the project, which supplied some of the money needed up-front for building, Dubs said.

"One of the misconceptions people have about HFH is that the people will be buying the house," Dubs said.

The Royces will pay for the house through a no-interest mortgage held by Habitat for Humanity. Money paid to this mortgage by the Royce family goes directly into Habitat for Humanity's general account to fund other projects.

"It's nice to finally get into a house we own," Paul Royce said.

Royce has helped with five or six other homes in the Lincoln-Lancaster Habitat for Humanity program, in addition to doing a lot of work on his own, since becoming involved with the organization in February 1998.

The Royce family was part of the project from the beginning.

"We picked a plan that we thought would fit our lifestyles," Paul Royce said.

"It's nice to finally get into a house we own"

PAUL ROYCE
Lincoln resident

The home has four bedrooms, an open living area, a full kitchen and other amenities, Dubs said.

Junior environmental studies and soil science major Brian Dietz spent an afternoon painting the basement of the new home in February.

"It's a good opportunity to see good intentions translated into action," he said.

Dietz worked with Paul Royce that afternoon and said he was surprised later when he found out that the Royces would soon be the owners of the house.

"I was amazed at how fast the work got done," he said.

James Andrews, junior mechanical engineering major, also helped out.

"It was interesting to do something new and see everyone new doing it well," he said.

Andrews also was surprised to find that he'd been working with the future owners of the house.

"I didn't even know it was Paul and Tammy's house," he said.

More than 100 UNL students helped with the construction. About 15 of these students were from the core group of UNL Habitat for Humanity, Dubs said.

Construction began last October. In the past, UNL Habitat helped with Lincoln-Lancaster Habitat projects doing renovations and tutoring children who have lived in Habitat homes.

Paul Royce said his family is excited about the move. They moved from a duplex near the Lincoln Air Park to the new home Thursday.

"I've enjoyed working with Habitat. It's a good hands-on program; it's good experience."

I-house aims to join cultures

■ Student organizations pool efforts to celebrate campus diversity.

By KIM SWEET
Staff writer

After Kerk Fong Kee attended LeaderShape Nebraska last year, he came home with a vision of putting on an event to bridge the cultural barriers he saw on UNL's campus.

A year later, that vision is going to be a reality as the International House, located in Cather Residence Hall, puts on an evening devoted to "Bridging Differences" on Sunday.

International House consists of floors in Cather Hall where international students and American students live side by side.

The event, which began as Kee's small vision, is the product of more than a year of brainstorming and working by all the members of I-house, Kee said.

"It started with me at LeaderShape, but soon everyone embraced it," Kee said. "Now it is the vision of I-house, and not my vision anymore."

The purpose of the event is to celebrate the way different organizations on campus are promoting cultural diversity.

The organization sent invitations to 30 groups on campus to be part of the evening's events, which include booths and a performance.

More than 13 groups and individuals have responded so far, said Yow Lian Tay, program director of the event.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. with groups presenting booths including the student government International Student Subcommittee, International Affairs and Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

The booths will give students an opportunity to see what kind of activities each group offers and how they contribute to a culturally diverse campus, Kee said.

After the booth presentations, each group will put on a performance such as a skit, Tay said.

With a variety of groups such as Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and I-house performing skits, attendees will get to see how a wide variety of groups promote cultural diversity, said Ritesh Thapa, treasurer of I-house.

"I'm excited about the skit Fiji is performing," Thapa said. "One of the

things we are trying to do is break down the stereotypes of the greek system."

After 10 weeks of planning and organizing by all the members of I-house, Kee said they hoped to have broad participation by the whole campus in the event.

Broad participation would help the group achieve its mission statement, which is to break down the cultural barriers and promote more positive interactions between American students and foreign students, Kee said.

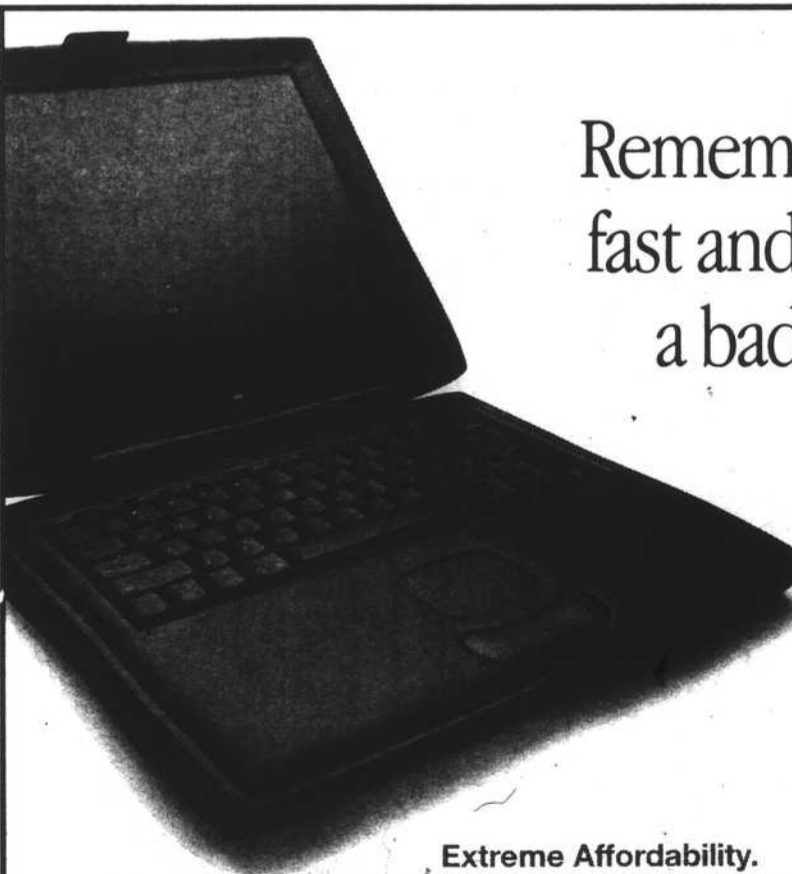
Originally focusing only on implementing this mission in Cather Hall, Kee said, the event would help spread the mission beyond the International House to the whole campus.

Invitations to participate were sent out to four target areas: residence halls, greek houses, academic departments and athletic departments.

Tay said he encouraged all students to attend because of the uniqueness of the event.

"This is the first event campuswide dealing with this issue," Tay said. "It hasn't been held before on this large of a scale."

The event will be held Sunday in the Centennial Ballroom of the Nebraska Union and admission is free.



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