

Art gallery added to picture at Richards Hall

BY LAUREN ADAMS

Art students will soon be enjoying a new atmosphere in which to realize their creative geniuses.

Richards Hall, which has been under construction since early last year, is scheduled to open in December of this year.

Construction on Richards Hall, the art and art history department building, began in March 1999.

Barry Shull, manager of architecture and engineering services at Facilities Management and Planning, as well as the Richards Hall project construction manager, said that construction started because the facilities had deteriorated.

Shull said the building was built in 1908 and had been a priority on the list of campus construction projects.

Parts of the building were without air conditioning, and classrooms were in need of remodeling.

The renovations include new class-

rooms, new offices, air conditioning and new heat and plumbing.

Shull said the building was "gutted," and with the completion of construction, the building will have an entirely new interior.

The hall was partially occupied as of August, but the renovated hall is expected to be open by December.

The construction has taken one year, but the changes were necessary and will serve as a boost to the art program, Shull said.

"As the second-oldest building on campus, the building was basically really due for an overall renovation," Shull said.

The renovated hall includes an art gallery, which will be run by Joseph Ruffo, chairman of the art and art history department.

Ruffo said the first exhibition is tentatively scheduled for March 2001.

The new gallery will be called the Eisentrager/Howard Gallery and will be on the first floor of the hall.

"This gallery will simply be a replacement for the old one," Ruffo said.

"As the second-oldest building on campus, the building was basically really due for an overall renovation."

Barry Shull
manager, architecture and engineering services at Facilities Management and Planning

Richards Hall art has been displayed in the Nebraska Union Rotunda Gallery.

Karen Wills, supervisor of the Rotunda and the assistant director of Student Involvement, said the gallery is used to display art by faculty, staff or students associated with a university department.

Departments may also bring in traveling shows to be exhibited in the Rotunda.

In contrast, the Eisentrager/Howard Gallery will be used to display only student art.

Study finds disparities in death-penalty cases

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Wide racial and geographic disparities exist in the federal government's requests for death penalties, according to a Justice Department study released Tuesday. The White House called the findings troubling.

The report, requested by Attorney General Janet Reno, was certain to provoke renewed calls from Congress, civil rights and legal groups for a moratorium on federal death sentences.

Reno imposed a new system in 1995 requiring U.S. attorneys to get her approval for all death sentences after a review of each case by a team of senior Justice officials.

Neither she nor the review team members are told the race of defendants but defense attorneys sometimes tell them in the course of arguing against the death penalty.

Reno's goal was to achieve a more uniform system, but the report found the first five years of experience with the system were not uniform.

The numbers did show, however, that Justice Department recommendations for death sentences in federal cases roughly

reflected the racial percentages of the pool of defendants charged with capital crimes.

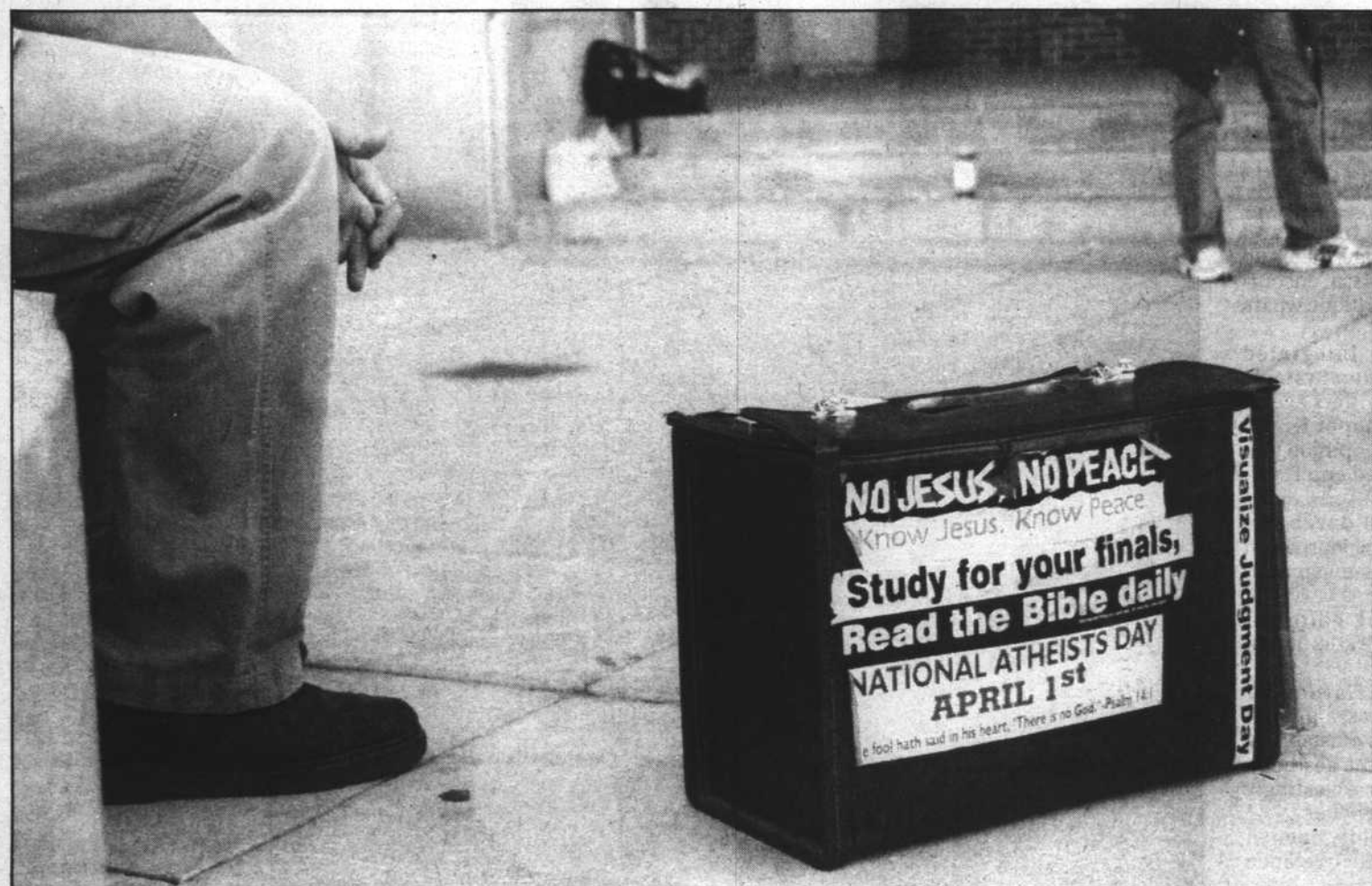
Between 1995 and July of this year, U.S. attorneys forwarded for review the cases of 682 defendants who faced capital charges, of which 20 percent were white and 80 percent were minorities. U.S. attorneys recommended the death penalty be sought for 183 of them, 26 percent of them whites and 74 percent minorities.

Reno approved seeking death penalties for 159 of them, of which 28 percent were for whites and 72 percent for minorities. Ultimately during this period, 20 defendants have been sentenced to death, of which 20 percent were white and 80 percent minorities.

Many cases are resolved during this process before trial or sentencing by guilty pleas, altered charges and other outside events. Other cases are pending.

"We've seen the numbers," White House deputy press secretary Jake Siewert said.

"At first glance, those numbers are troubling. We need to know more about exactly what's behind the numbers." Siewert declined to discuss a possible death penalty moratorium.



Nate Wagner/DN

SPEAKING OUT: Students listen as traveling Pastor Jim Wiebhus shares a message of Christianity. The briefcase, emblazoned with stickers and bumper stickers, belongs to Wiebhus and Tom Short.

University Bookstore Sidewalk Sale

Enjoy the last days of summer while browsing our giant book sale. We've made a special purchase from the University of Nebraska Press, publishers of Bison Books, and are offering irresistible bargains.

Thursday & Friday
September 14 & 15 from 9AM-5PM

- 1 book \$3
- 3 books \$8
- 5 books \$12
- 10 books \$20

All of this takes place on the 14th Street mall, of the Nebraska Union



DON'T MISS!

Thursday, September 14, at 12 o'clock

University of Nebraska Press author William S. E. Coleman will read from and sign his new book, *Voices of Wounded Knee*.

This book not included in the sale.

GOP denies calling Gore crew 'RATS'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A GOP commercial that subtly flashes the word "RATS" across the screen is coming off the air amid allegations the Republicans were trying to send a subliminal message about Al Gore.

George W. Bush called the notion "bizarre and weird," and his campaign made light of it all. The GOP ad-maker said he was just trying to make the spot visually interesting.

But Gore's campaign and experts in political advertising said the word choice — as an announcer was denouncing Gore's Medicare plan — could hardly have been an accident.

"I've never seen anything like it," the vice president said Tuesday in Middletown, Ohio. Running mate Joseph Lieberman called the ad "very disappointing and strange."

"I'm sure the public will be puzzled by it as we are and want an explanation," Lieberman said.

Bush noted that the word appears only fleetingly — for a tiny fraction of a second. Played at full speed, it's barely noticeable, par-

ticularly if the viewer isn't looking for the word.

"One frame out of 900 hardly in my judgment makes a conspiracy," Bush said Tuesday in Orlando, Fla. "I am convinced this is not intentional. You don't need to play, you know, cute politics."

Gore aides reveled in the story, which they leaked to the press after being alerted by a careful viewer in Seattle.

"Ad graphics don't pop up out of thin air. Someone sits down at a computer and creates them," said Gore spokesman Doug Hattaway.

The ad, which has been running in several states for more than two weeks, touts Bush's plan for adding prescription drugs to Medicare, arguing that senior citizens will have more control over their health care under Bush's proposal. Gore's plan, the ad says, will be run by bureaucrats.

Words flash on the screen to echo the announcer's message: "The Gore prescription plan: Bureaucrats decide."

But just as the announcer says "bureaucrats decide," the word "RATS," in large, white capi-

tal letters, fills the black screen.

Alex Castellanos, who made the ad for the Republican National Committee, said he flashed the letters — the tail end of "bureaucrats" — so the ad would look more visually interesting and it was just a coincidence it came out "rats."

"It's a visual drumbeat," he said. "People get bored watching TV. You're trying to get them interested and involved."

White House spokesman Jake Siewert said President Clinton had not seen the ad but was looking forward to it. "I'll leave it to you to judge whether that is an accident or a dirty trick," he said.

Outside analysts said they found it hard to believe the word was not deliberately placed.

"The word 'rats' is so carefully superimposed. It's not like it just randomly appears on the screen," said Darrell West, an expert on political advertising at Brown University in Providence, R.I.

"It's cheap and manipulative. It certainly takes the level of political discourse down several notches," said Loyal Rue, who studies political deception at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

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Careers Highlighted: Commodity Trading, Elevator Management, and Production Engineering

Majors Welcome: Agricultural Economics/Business, Mechanized Systems Management and Chemical and Agricultural Engineering

Valentino's Pizza will be served - Door prizes will be given

Dress: Casual

Wednesday, September 13, 2000 at 6:00 PM

Valentino's Italian Restaurant on the corner of 35th & Holdredge