

What's Next For Student Housing?

by Carol Wallace

The College has announced that the new wing of Roadman Hall will be shut down next year because of a general decrease in resident population on the campus and the necessity for financial reductions. The shut-down will affect many students on campus, students in all of the residences who will have to be moved around, as well as residents of the wing being closed.

A student task force is now working to come up with recommendations as to the best use of the remaining space. On the basis of these recommendations, the administration will present a proposal to the Board of Directors at their April meeting. Once the Board has approved a proposal, they

will be able to begin to make housing assignments.

Meetings were held in each of the residence halls after the decision was announced for students to ask questions and express concerns. One of the major questions raised, says Dean of Student Affairs Don Poppen, was the question of equity for students losing their "squatter's rights" in the room selection process. Dean Poppen stated that the student task force is also studying this problem.

Despite numerous complaints and concerns, Dean Poppen says, "In general, the students have been very understanding of this change," and he goes on, "My hope is that the task force will give us some really good ideas."

As to how the decision was made to close this wing

rather than the Complex, which was the other major alternative Dean Poppen says, "First we reviewed the cost savings. Figuring heating costs, personnel costs, etc. the savings would be very similar, within \$2-3000."

They also looked at the "popularity of the Complex this year and how well that co-ed facility has run," says Dr. Poppen. "We have gotten some really positive feedback on that. Students like it, particularly students who have classes at that end of the campus, and there are other students who like to get-away from the middle of the campus. They'd just as soon be down there; they've been down there a lot of years and they like it."

Another major consideration, says the Dean,

was flexibility. "We felt that closing just one wing and leaving all three halls open, we would have more options, that we would give the task force more flexibility."

As for the argument that it would look better for the campus to have just a wing closed rather than a whole building, Dean Poppen says that the issue was discussed, but that it was not a major consideration, since neither is particularly good for the school's image. "A building that kind of sits back in the corner is not maybe going to be as noticeable as one that sits right in the middle. On the other hand, not closing the whole thing doesn't give the impression of a closed building either."

Dean Poppen expresses the hope that it may be necessary in the future to reopen the

wing, and says, "It would be much easier to crank up Roadman in a hurry, since we didn't close the whole thing."

The fact that the day care center is now located in the Complex and that it would have to be moved if the Complex were closed was another consideration.

Dean Poppen did not wish at this point to discuss specific options for the use of housing space, saying, "I in no way want to have an impact on what the task force might come up with. I want that to be their work first."

The task force should complete its recommendations by the end of the month, leaving about a week for the administration to act on them before the April Board meeting.

— M —

Charles City Hall Named To National Register Of Historic Places

Morningside College's original building, Old Main later called the Conservatory of Music, has been named to the National Register of Historic Places.

Officially called "Charles City College Hall," it was constructed in 1890 by John M. Poorbaugh as the first building of the University of the Northwest, the predecessor of Morningside College. It is one of the oldest collegiate buildings in Northwest Iowa still in use for educational purposes.

The hall joins six other Sioux City structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They are the Filloyd Monument, the Castle on the Hill (Central High School), the Pierce Mansion (now the Public Museum), KD Stockyards Station and the Woodbury County Courthouse.

News of the latest registry was received at Morningside by Carol Forbes, data coordinator in the college's grants office, who did much of the work in preparing the application in behalf of Morningside.

The National Register seeks to register properties of historical, architectural and archeological significance through a program of registration, financial aid and incentive, and partial protection from destruction by federally funded projects, Forbes explained. "The program is administered in



Built in 1890, Charles City Hall was the first building of the University of the Northwest, predecessor to Morningside College.

Iowa by the State Division of Historical Preservation. The division's main purpose is to save buildings, structures, sites and objects which effectively illustrate local, state and national history.

The Morningside application first was approved by the State Division of Historical Preservation, and eventually by the historic preservation division of the U. S. Department of the Interior, said Forbes.

The University of the Northwest was founded in 1889 by Sioux City business

leaders who believed it would develop into a large multi-college university, as they expected Sioux City to grow into a major metropolis. However, the financial depression of the early 1890s had an adverse effect on both the university and the city.

Charles City Hall (or Old Main), the first building of the university, housed the classrooms, dormitory, library, dining hall, and physics laboratory — in fact, everything that was the University of the Northwest. By 1894 the building and other

school property went into the sheriff's hands because of debts.

In December of that year, the Northwest Iowa Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church filed articles of incorporation for Morningside College and acquired Old Main and the campus. It was named "Charles City College Hall" when Charles City College merged with Morningside in 1914. However, its popular name for more than half a century was the "Conservatory of Music" because

it housed Morningside's music department from 1900 until 1966.

The hall is constructed of quartzite from the quarries of southern Minnesota, has rounded window arches on the middle floor and an ornamental ridge between the second and third floors. The building originally had a bell tower and dormer windows.

The building was damaged badly by fire in 1914. After the fire the interior was rebuilt and the bell tower and dormer windows were removed because of the danger of their collapse. Various other improvements have been added through the years.

The builder of the hall, Poorbaugh, operated the Jasper (Minn.) Quartzite Quarry and the Red and Gray Granite Quarries.

— M —

Spring Formal

The 1983 Spring Formal, themed "Tropical Nights," is rapidly approaching. The all campus event is scheduled for Friday, April 8, at the Marina Inn.

Social hour goes from 6:30 to 7:30, followed by a grand buffet dinner. After the dinner, a slide presentation of campus events and people will be shown. The dance begins at 9 and ends at 2 a.m. The band is Film at 11.

Ticket prices are \$6 for singles and \$1 for couples.

— M —