$15 Million Needed for Gardner Hall Face Lift

SPENCER YOUNG
Chronicle Staff Writer

Gardner Hall is a terrible place for University of Utah music majors to practice and perform, according to Darin Therit, a music education student.

"The acoustics are terrible," said Therit, a junior. "It's like playing in a bathroom. The music will sound a certain way if you stood in one place and completely different in another."

Therit said it's about time U. students had an adequate facility to play in. The U. requested about $15 million from the Utah Legislature to renovate Gardner Hall.

The General Government and Capital Facilities Subcommittee in the Utah Legislature approved the U.'s renovation proposal Friday. The subcommittee is asking for about $122 million for all construction and renovation projects in Utah.

The proposal moves on to the Executive Appropriations Committee, where approval is less likely. In January, the EAC set aside only $60 million for state renovations - well short of the $132 million request.

Rep. Marvin Stephens (R-Farr West), who chairs the EAC, said raising another $62 million for all the renovations is impossible.

"There's no way we can fund all the projects," Stephens said. "It's still too early to make any decisions, but I doubt you will see us spending much more than $50 million."

Stephens did not know which projects will have priority when the EAC votes Thursday. Other projects the EAC will have to decide on include the renovation of the Nestor Building at Snow College and the building of new process facilities.

Putting off the Gardner Hall renovation would be a mistake, according to Tim Nyiman, the U.'s vice president for administrative services. postponing the project for a year will cost it in cost $3 million more because of inflation and the additional costs to replace, Nyiman said.

"We will lobby every legislature in the Senate and House," to try and get support for the project, Nyiman said.

Gardner Hall was the U.'s student union building before the Ray Olpin Union was built. The U.'s music department has used Gardner Hall.

Campus lands and orchestras have concerts and rehearsals in what use to be a cafeteria, said Anthony Morgan, the U.'s vice president for budget and planning.

The U. already has $6 million in donations to help finance the renovation.

If the Legislature approves the Gardner project, the renovations will give the music department a better concert hall and replace the terrible acoustics in the building, Morgan said.

No Agreement Between Pres. Smith, Ute Leaders

EMILY HARWOOD
Chronicle Staff Writer

With threats of a potential lawsuit lingering, University of Utah officials are taking strides to increase cooperation between themselves and the Ute Indian Tribe.

On Jan. 23, President Arthur Smith and other U. administrators met with members of the Ute Tribal Business Council to discuss possible legal action by the tribe concerning the use of the nickname "Utes" for the university's athletic teams, said Ray Harward, assistant dean of student affairs.

Tribal members were willing to discuss continuing a legal battle against the use of the Ute name on condition that the administration would give more consideration to the Ute Indian community and its students, Harward said.

Smith acknowledged the importance of increasing assistance and support to Ute Indian students. He said the mascot issue and the scholarship issue should be separated, said Ted Capener, vice president for university relations.

Capener added that if tribe members consider the use of the Ute name offensive, no amount of scholarships or student assistance can change that.

"We try to do some sort of celebrations before Lent begins every year," says Father Casimir Lewinski. Some years they have held a dance or a game night. And this year, they sometimes do, they hold a Mardi Gras, see "Mardi Gras" on page 4.

"We are desirous in assisting the Ute tribe in every way we can in helping with the education of their people."

--Ted Capener

Mardi Party: So it's not quite New Orleans, but Father Michael Fonse and friends celebrate Mardi Gras Utah style at Monday night's celebration. The holiday is a day of fasting before Lent.

Feast Before Fast: Fat Tuesday Celebrates Lent

BIANCA COWAN
Chronicle Staff Writer

Most people don't think of Tuesday as a major party day. But once a year, Tuesday is the biggest party day in Louisiana. It's Mardi Gras, the French term for Fat Tuesday, and it's the single day of fasting before the Lenten season of fasting begins.

For Utahans, Mardi Gras is a tradition far removed from their own lives. But some Utah residents try to keep the Mardi Gras tradition alive and well, if not on a miniscule scale.

Mardi Gras was probably original related to the tribal rituals of fertility that welcomed in spring. The pagans who celebrated it converted to Christianity but didn't abandon their clowns-like rituals. The early church leaders channelled the celebrations into a prelude to the penitential season of Lent, called Carnival.

Mardi Gras can occur on any Tuesday from Feb. 3 to March 9. This indefinit date was designed by the Roman Catholic Church, which set a fixed date only for Christmas but movable dates for all other holidays.

Mardi Gras is always 46 days before Easter, which falls on the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the spring Equinox.

While the St. Catherine of Siena Newman Center, the University of Utah Catholic parish, takes the Lenten season very seriously, it also loves to commemorate Mardi Gras.

"We try to do some sort of celebration before Lent begins every year," says Father Casimir Lewinski. Some years they have held a dance or a game night. And this year, they sometimes do, they hold a Mardi Gras on page 4.