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intentionally because everyone realizes what a difficult problem it is, but it really is a difficult problem in Omaha. It's getting worse and worse. And the arts, I think, are, at least in my opinion and in the opinion of many, is the one medium that can cross cultural boundaries. There was also related to me there is a program that...could I have a gavel, please.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.)

SENATOR ASHFORD: There is a program at...there are several programs at the UN-O Fine Arts that are operated in conjunction with the UN-O Fine Arts Center that are laudable. One of the programs that I was most interested in was a program that involved teaching music to innercity youth and one of the interesting stories that was related to me was the fact that, because of the lack of reading skills of many of these innercity youths in our community, that really the best or most effective way to communicate with these students was in the area of music and in that art medium. And the tremendous advancement that some of these children had made through this program apparently is absolutely outstanding. In fact, tonight at seven o'clock at the UN-O Fine Arts Department there is going to be a concert given by some of these children who have become part of the Fine Arts Department's program in the innercity. My point in relating these two stories is that the Fine Arts Education Department at UN-O is a living department. It is a department that outreaches in our community in a way that is extremely positive. Obviously, I support the Fine Arts Building and the UN-O Campus is located in the 6th Legislative District and, yes, it's my piece of the pie if that's what...how a cynic would maybe look at this whole process. But I believe strongly in...

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...this program. And I can talk again if some others don't about the project itself. But I will just conclude by saying that the Fine Arts Department has wanted a facility for 20 years. It's been on the drawing board for that many years. It's going to be a classroom facility primarily with a small theater and is not going to be another major theater for Omaha arts...for Omaha arts groups. It's going to be a teaching facility and it's going to enhance the outreach programs which have really been outstanding for a school that has had such an