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# Downtown shopping area involves student architects

By Laure Perlinger

The possibility of a new shopping area in Lincoln near Ninth and P streets has increased because of some planning and designing by about 25 UNL architecture students.

"Throughout the years community projects have allowed us to give students learning experience, while also providing a service to Lincoln," Professor Jim Griffin of the College of Architecture said.

Griffin stressed that the strategy, as provided by UNL architecture students, serves only as a guideline, and is merely a suggestion brought forth to help initiate action for a new shopping area.

"It is not a design so much as it is a strategy," he said. "It started out as a workshop. We had designed a tour to give the students an awareness of the area," he said, referring to the area from seventh to ninth streets, between O and R streets.

Griffin said the students discussed what physical parts should be developed, and what changes would make it a viable area. He said they talked about the possibility of

pedestrian orientation by using alleys. They also discussed the re-use of buildings, and what services and shops they might provide.

"Then last January we started the design studio. We developed a strategy of what to develop and when, and what activities to promote and when."

Griffin said they created a design based on the strategy to test the economic feasibility of the strategy and then to offer recommendations on follow-up procedures.

"We also formed a task force of interested businessmen and people from downtown to act as a client group and give direction," he said.

This was a fairly large, complex project because it couldn't be completed in one semester," he said. "It was relatively complex in terms of having to carry it over."

Various class members participated in the Haymarket project, including work study students and graduate assistants. Students involved in a design methodology mini-course also participated, as did members of the graduate design studio.

Griffin said that local organizations must now take over and either develop or modify the plans. Older buildings might need code revisions, and the economic feasibility of renovating a building must be decided, he said, noting that health and safety standards cannot be neglected.

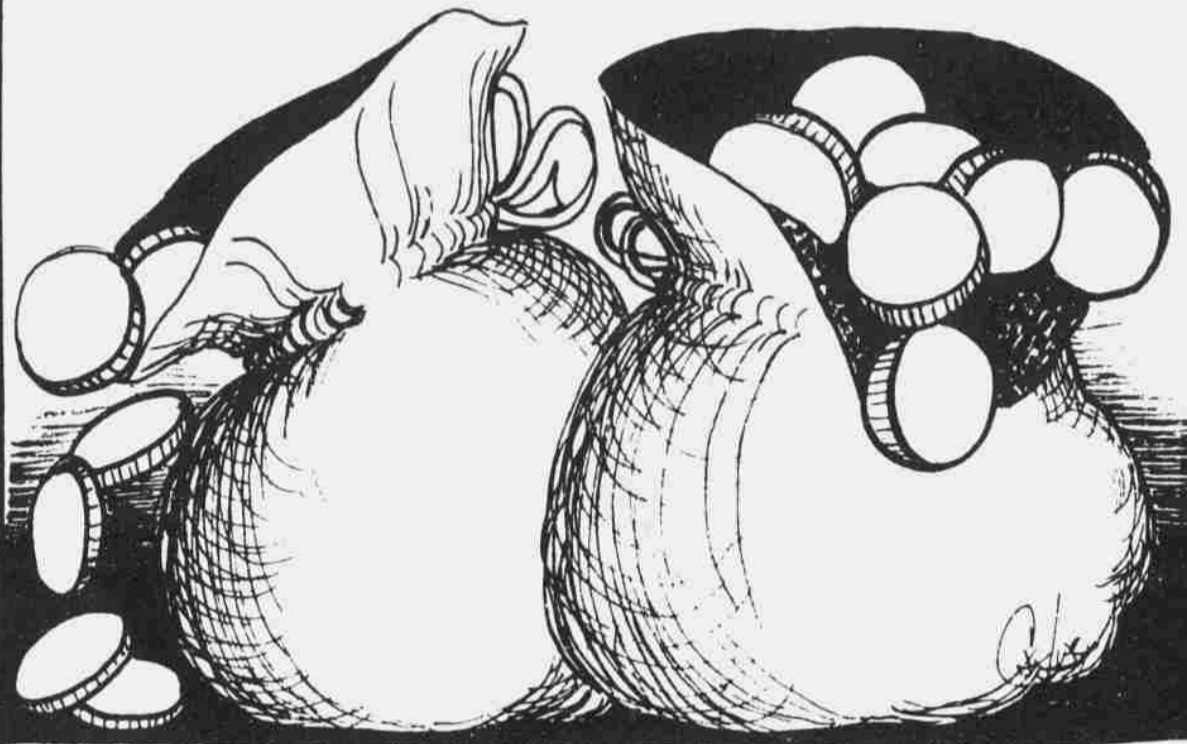
The cohesiveness of this area will depend on not only the design standards, but also on the responsiveness of the community to provide parking, street beautification, safety standards and an advisory board to give direction, he said, adding that citizen interest will also be a big factor.

"We're always looking for opportunities to do things," he said. "UNL has a public service commitment to the community."

Griffin said that UNL architecture students have been involved in a number of community projects in the past. The 1974 Capitol Environs study has won national awards, he said.

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