

# Lied Center moved to new block

By Lise Olsen

Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

The Lied Center has a new home, or will once it's built.

The \$20 million performing arts complex will be located on the block bounded by 11th, 12th, Q and R streets, a block west of the original location. The change was made in order to better coordinate the Lied Center with Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Howell Theater and Kimball Recital Hall, according to Kimball Director Ron Bowlin.

However, because the building will be set at a 45 degree angle to R street, the 12th and 13th streets block will also be acquired by UNL for additional landscaping and possibly parking purposes.

Ted and Wally's and the Nebraska Bookstore, as well as the other businesses in the area, will eventually be displaced, said UNL Business Manager Ray Coffey.

Only one property in the area has been purchased so far, State Printing. Seven more have yet to be purchased, although property owners have been notified of UNL's plans to buy them out, Coffey said. Once the property is acquired, all existing buildings will have to be torn down.

The actual design of the Lied Center, which will include a 2,500 seat theatre, is now in a "schematic phase," Bowlin said. A basic floor plan, flow, accesses and ceiling arrangements are being discussed by the architects and university officials. Preliminary exterior designs have also been submitted but none has yet been approved, he said.

The actual plans will be drawn up after the schematic phase is completed — probably in September, Bowlin said.

Planning has been complicated by the nature and size of the building and those that will sur-

round it, he said.

Though plans for a major performing art center have been part of the campus master plan since 1966, the immense price has been a barrier to any construction, Bowlin said. The \$10 million donation by the Lied Foundation leaves only \$3 million to be raised by the University Foundation, he said.

UNL hopes that the remaining \$7 million will be allocated by the state. Coffey said there are indications that Gov. Kerrey supports the project.

Even after financial considerations are taken care of and property is acquired, one more major barrier remains to construction. The Lied Center will remove 200 existing parking places for faculty and UNL workers.

"We have adequate space (for faculty) but it is not as conveniently located," Coffey said. The question of parking facilities for the theater itself — including up to 2,500 patrons in attendance of a show, remains unanswered.

Although the expected com-

pletion date of the center is 1988, the construction will have effects on UNL and the city of Lincoln well before its completion.

"Preliminary thoughts are that 12th street will be closed," Coffey said, "and it is part of the long range plan that R will be closed from 10th to 11th."

Street closing and demolition of existing buildings and businesses will create a mall-like atmosphere and stretch the campus border to Q street.

When the center is completed in 1988, it will provide a mid-size auditorium for major performances that are too big for Kimball, and too non-commercial for Bob Devaney — with better acoustics than the Coliseum (which was once used for mid-sized productions).

The Lied Center will offer concerts, operas, classes, student recitals and Broadway plays. Although it will basically be shared by the theater and music departments, everyone at UNL will be encouraged to use it, Bowlin said.

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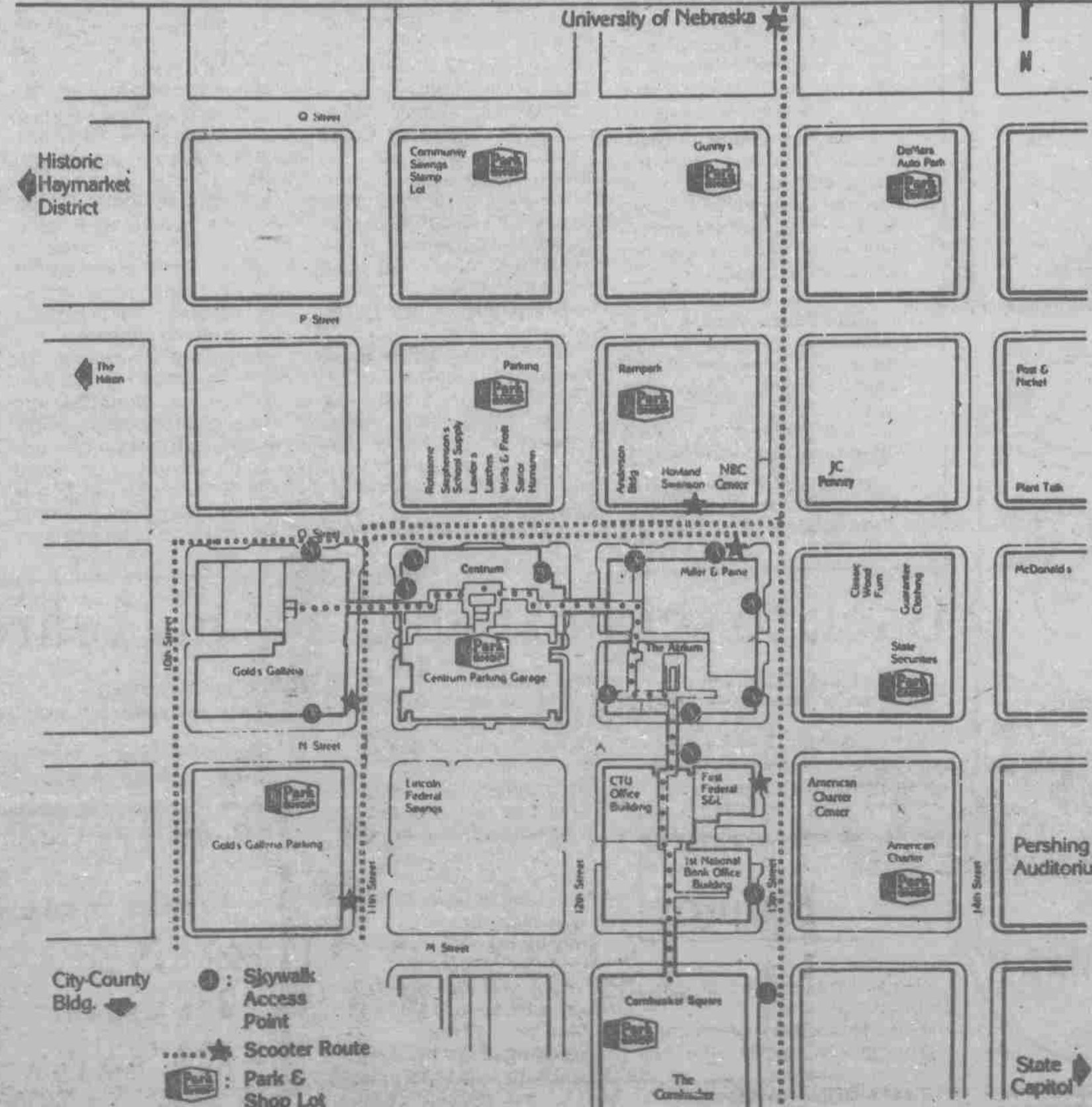


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