UNL acquires railroad land for parking lot

By Gene Gentrup
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

A stretch of abandoned railroad on the north side of UNL's City Campus, is being converted into a new parking lot, UNL Business Manager Ray Coffey said Monday.

Coffey said the lot will be between 11th and 17th streets and will provide about 500 parking spaces. He said Chicago and North Western Transporation Co. (C & NW), which abandoned the railroad four years ago, sold the area to UNL for $60,000.

The lot will be covered with gravel and will provide only temporary parking. He said Lincoln City Planners intend to use the lot as a potential right-of-way for a Holdrege Street bypass that would route traffic from Holdrege Street around the outer edge of the campus. The plan is designed to remove some of the traffic from 16th and 17th streets, which cuts through campus.

Coffey said the lot will not be paved because city planners have set the bypass plan as a long-term goal.

"Eventually the city planners want to do it, but they haven't let me know when," Coffey said.

Coffey said the lot should be ready soon, but said he wasn't sure of a definite date.

Coffey said the land was needed to accommodate an increasing number of vehicles on campus. With the railroad land, UNL can use the land on the north side of the right-of-way already owned by the university.

"We've always tried to take advantage of any close-in parking space," Coffey said. "This will relieve all the pressure for parking on the north side of the university."

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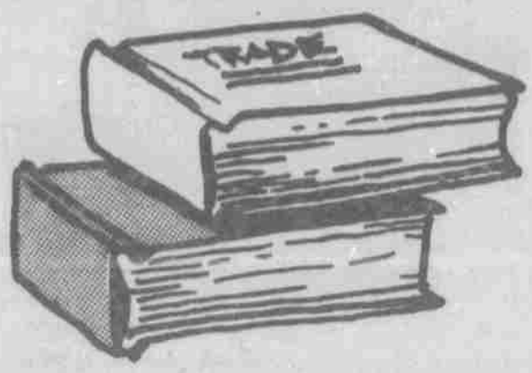

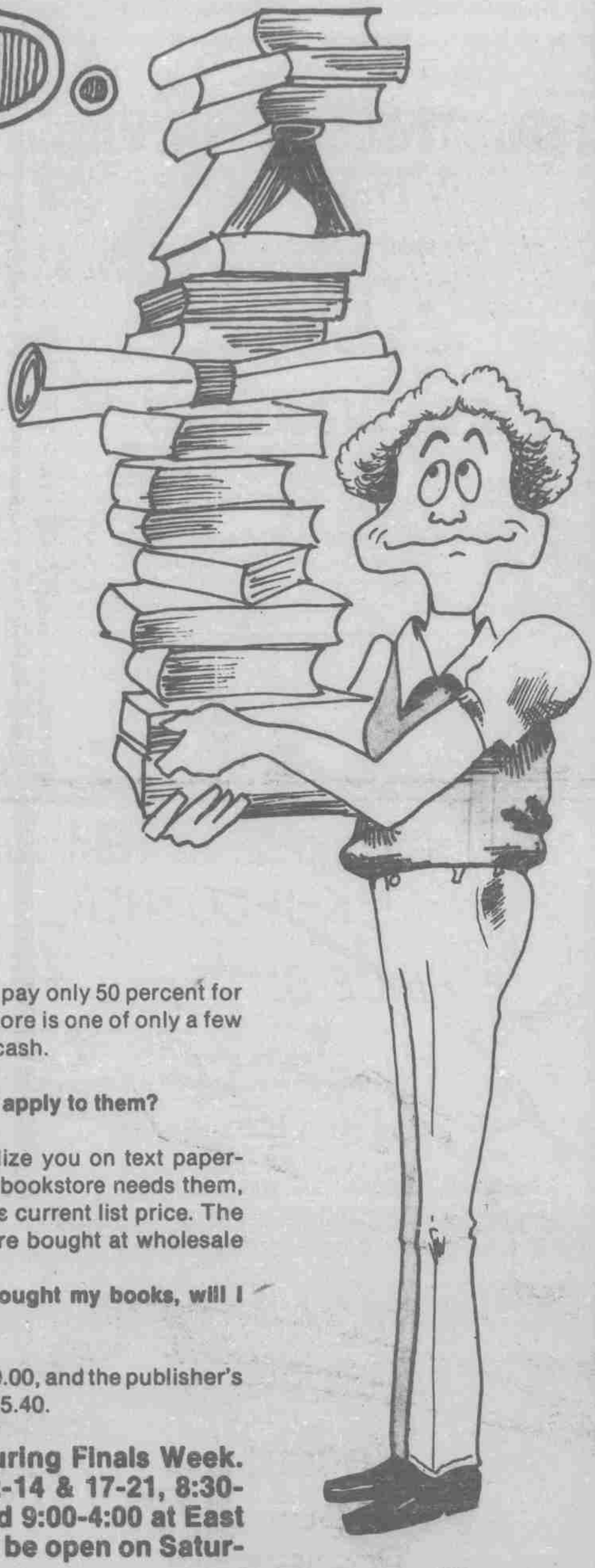

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