

# Arts & Entertainment

## Thriving businesses in peril

*Arturo's, Dirt Cheap, Pickles could all be parking places*

Analysis by Kevin Cowan  
Staff Reporter

**Editor's note: The following article contains opinions of the author.**

The wrecking ball waits in the wings — patiently. The big lead sphere has its sights set directly on Block 35. A few months ago this was not the case. Block 35 was snugly included among the other areas in the Downtown Redevelopment Project. That was in April. Four months later, for reasons unclear, the city changed its mind and condemned the block.

Block 35 used to be better known as the block where Dirt Cheap, Pickles, Arturo's, Skylight Bistro, Anthony Blue's, Bill's Saloon, and Trade-a-Tape reside and do business.

The goal of the Downtown Redevelopment Project, as stated in the City Council minutes (in April), is to rally "the loss of retail sales in the downtown area and the City's attempt to recapture the loss of sales in the downtown area."

There is only one empty parking garage on Block 35. The rest of the

buildings on that block contain thriving, long-established retail stores and restaurants.

The onslaught of this unnecessary condemnation has brought about "The Committee to Save Block 35."

John McCallum, manager of Dirt Cheap Records, said the committee's goal is to "get the block reincorporated into the downtown area."

McCallum said that in the late summer of 1986, the city approached the businesses on Block 35 with a proposal to use the block as a parking area once the city had signed contracts with at least two anchor stores (large retail stores). Since then the city, without obtaining the anchor stores, removed the block from the project and designated it a parking lot for the construction vehicles of the Lied Center.

McCallum feels the mayor has stepped outside the realms of eminent domain: "He can't just take a block of thriving businesses and give it away to someone for parking."

Dirt Cheap has been flourishing on Block 35 for 15 years.

Among the other older businesses on Block 35 is Arturo's, managed by

Rene Longoria. Arturo's has been on Block 35 for 20 years. Longoria is among the business owners who do not want to move.

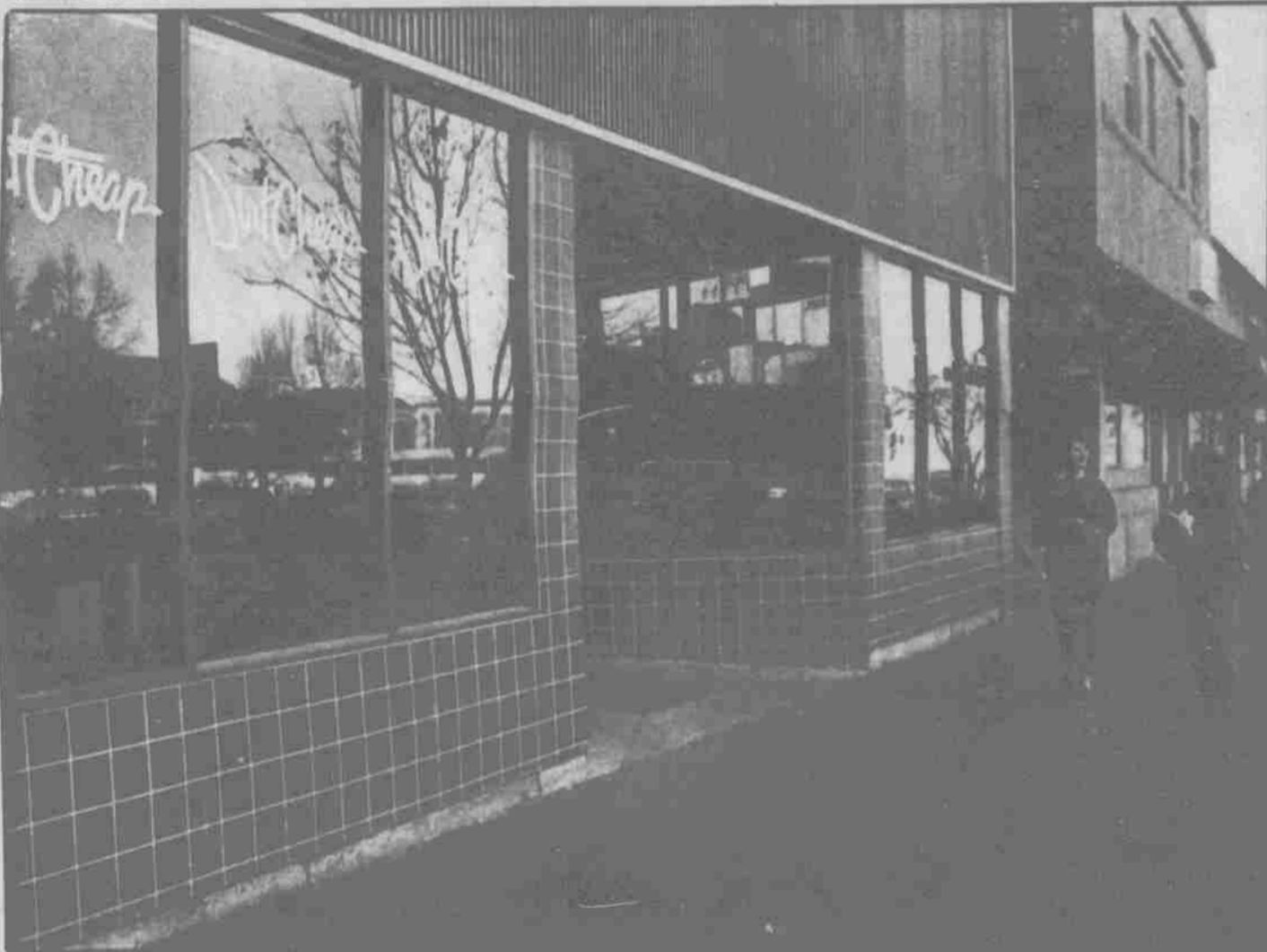
"We'll miss the university clientele," Longoria said. With an ironic glint in his eye he added, "Most of the people who are involved with the condemnation of this block come here for lunch."

Longoria, like McCallum, feels the situation is not hopeless. "We've got lawyers and we're going to fight it... we're not going anywhere until they have the anchor stores signed."

When "condemnation" is used in conjunction with commercial space, it calls to mind a block of burned out buildings with ramshackle businesses living on a shoestring... or less. With that in mind, it is interesting to note that Bob Hrupek, co-owner of Anthony Blue's, bought the building six months ago and has plans to redevelop it entirely.

The Committee to Save Block 35 has made known to the City plans for a redevelopment of the entire side of the block that faces 11th Street.

See **DOWNTOWN** on 13



Dirt Cheap (above) is one of the local businesses slated for demolition.

Dave Bentz/Daily Nebraskan



Courtesy of Lorimar Pictures

Jeff Bridges and Jane Fonda in "The Morning After."

## Don't waste your night on 'The Morning After'

By Rachel Pred  
Staff Reviewer

### "The Morning After" (Lorimar)

If you have a burning desire to see aerobic fitness queen Jane Fonda smoking cigarettes, getting drunk and sleeping around, see "The Morning After." You don't fit into that category? Save your money.

### Movie Review

"The Morning After" centers on Vivica, played by Jane Fonda. Vivica is a drinking, has-been movie actress (blonde hair and dark roots even). Vivica wakes up "the morning after" a night in the bars with the man she went home with. Here's the catch: He's dead. From here the suspense is uncovering whether she blacked out and tried to sharpen a knife in his chest or whether she is being framed.

Jeff Bridges plays the ex-cop, Turner, who helps her out. She meets him while trying to skip town. The third side to


this seamy triangle is Raul Julia as Jackie, the slick, social-climbing owner of a women's hair salon. He is also Vivica's estranged husband and friend.

Jane Fonda's portrayal of Vivica is uneven. Vivica's desperation and bitterness about her lot in life come through. What also comes through are Fonda's caustic roles in the past. Some of her lines, (like "Who are you, the social anthropologist for the Klan?") don't fit in with her character. Bridges is believable as Turner, a slow, honest, improbable hero-type. Raul Julia is the best. His smooth-talking, slippery character is the most fun to watch of the three. That's not saying much, but we don't get to see enough of him.

The actors did what they could with a b 1 script. There was a suspenseful moment in the beginning and a climax at the end. The middle merely mixes the characters around to line them up for the finish. The characters and relationships are not developed enough to support the ending. The last scene is corny, even though we get a close-up of Jane Fonda, tears welling up in her blue eyes. Sorry, it doesn't wash. The conclusion seems slapped together with elements that don't add up to the climax. The suspense isn't sustained throughout the film. I was glad to see the credits roll.

If you're a die-hard Fonda fan, go see it at a twilight show; otherwise don't bother. This may be good news to some, bad to others, but not once during this film does Jane Fonda wear a leotard.

"The Morning After is rated R and is showing at the Plaza 3.

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