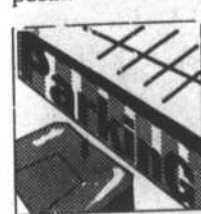


Garage proposal discussed

By Brian Sharp
Staff Reporter

It's been much quieter on the parking battlefield since the sector parking plan was scratched, officials said.

At a public forum Wednesday to discuss the modified proposal, Kim Todd, campus landscape architect, was asked if UNL had accepted the proposal.



"We're still alive," she said.

The new proposal modifies the current system and recommends adding a parking garage, paving parking lots and improving campus bus service.

Walker Parking Consultants of Minneapolis has been the only group to examine the garage possibility, Paul Carlson, associate vice chancellor for business and finance, said.

A consultant from the firm was in Lincoln Wednesday, he said. A proposal of what could be built and cost estimates are expected in a few weeks.

Carlson said the university expected to issue revenue bonds to raise nearly \$8 million, half of which would go toward the garage. The remaining money would go for paving and improving the lighting of campus parking lots.

If built, the entrance to the 400- to 500-stall garage would be off R Street, between the Nebraska Union and the State Historical Society, he said. Patrons would then exit onto S Street.

Nebraska is one of the last Big Eight schools to add a parking garage, Carlson said. Only Kansas State University has yet to build one. The University of Missouri-Columbia has five.

But it isn't as simple as just building a garage.

Carlson said considerations for loading docks and traffic in the lot made construction "a lot more difficult than just going out in the prairie and building a parking garage."

The proposal calls for a four-story garage, and there has been some discussion of putting one level underground.

But Todd said safety considerations were a major factor if that were to happen. The perception of danger in such an enclosed area may cause many not to park there, she said. And less parking means less money.

"There's no sense in building one (a garage) if half of the campus population won't use it," she said.

The garage would be self-supporting, officials said, with parking service funds used to guarantee the bonds. If everything goes as planned, officials said they hoped to have the garage built by late 1995 or early 1996.

The task force also announced that, starting Monday, a new remote shuttle would be added, bringing the total to four buses. The shuttle will run between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to handle the increasing number of patrons.

Curtis

Continued from Page 1

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, as head administrator.

The college will remain on a separate budget, allowing it to report directly to the Legislature.

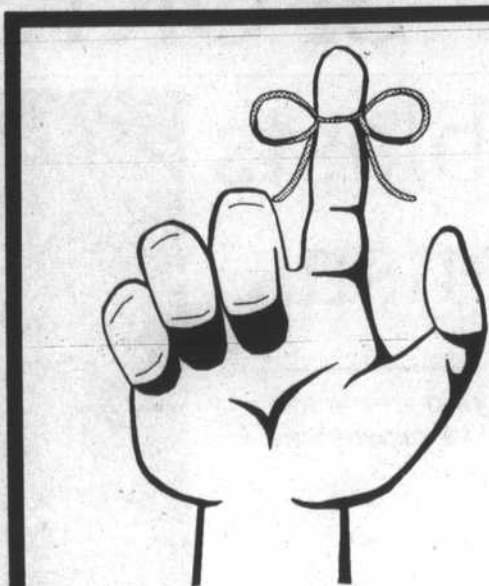
"It (the vote) is kind of a formal acceptance," Siminoe said. "That's really the biggest thing we gained."

Siminoe said the college had grown to 195 students and 18 faculty. Enrollment at NCTA is expected to increase to 225 this fall, he said. Ninety-five percent of the students are from Nebraska.

NCTA operates on a budget of \$1.9 million. Of that, \$1.5 million comes from the Legislature, he said.

With the college being part of the university, Siminoe said, its faculty would have a better chance to interact with other professors and share ideas.

"I think it extends the capabilities of the university," he said. "We're more of an integral part of higher education in Nebraska."



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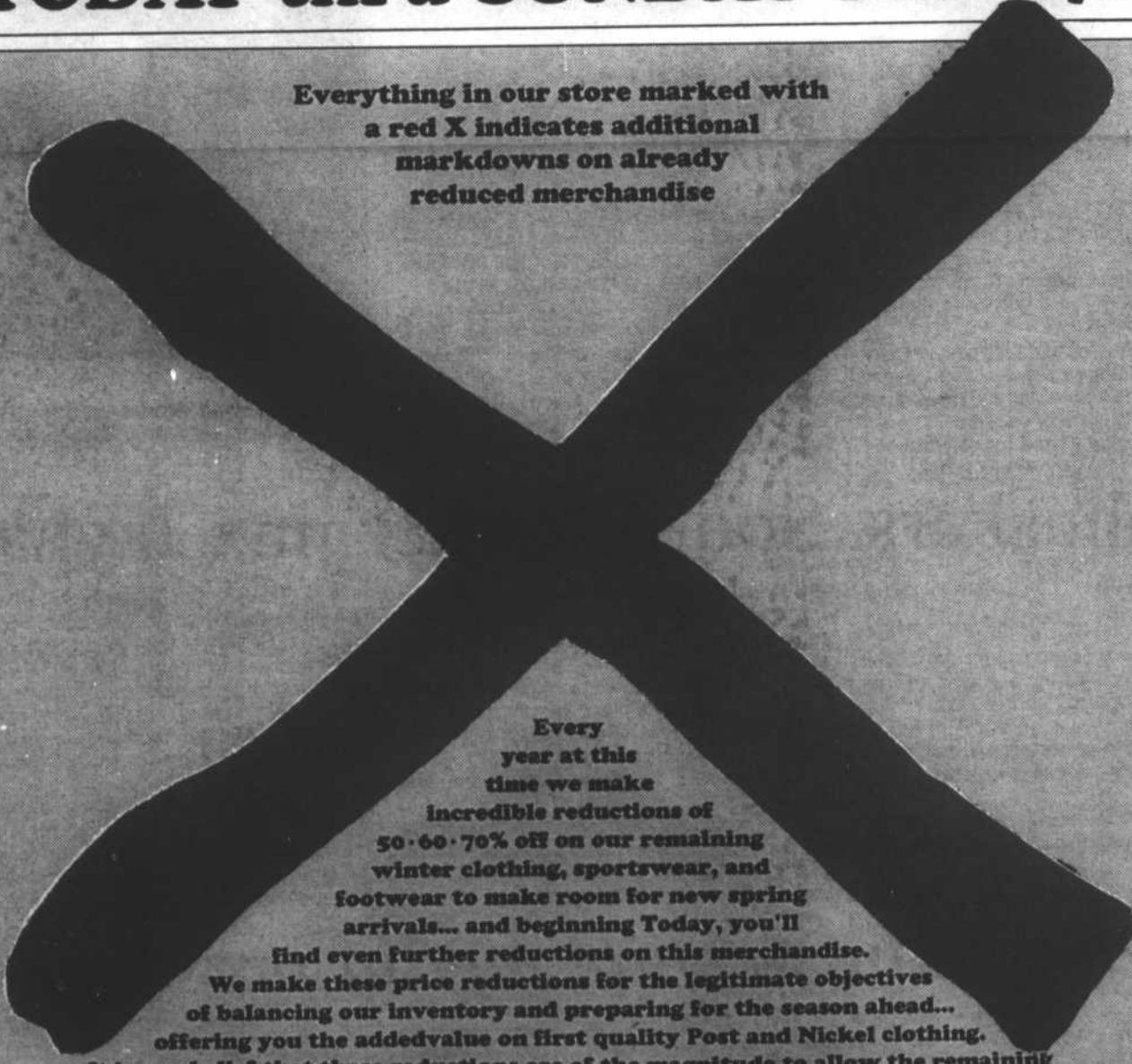


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