

# NU wants computer funds

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nance. The proposal to the regents states "significant re-engineering of university administrative and business processes will occur" while implementing the new administrative computing system.

The university will assign 20 employees to work full time on the project and allow them to decide on business system improvements and management changes at NU. Other employees will be involved with the process part time to help test the system and train other employees to use it.

The proposal notes the new computing systems replace old systems critical for the university to function daily, and extreme care must be taken to continue the security and accuracy of the data during the system transfer. The current system contains sev-

eral key problems that require the switch.

First, the system is difficult to use and a computer expert must extract and compile information for reports.

Second, the three systems are not integrated, which inhibits the flow of information between them.

Next, the system is not year-2000 compliant, meaning it couldn't operate using dates in the next century without expensive system changes costing up to \$1 million.

Finally, the system cannot track university purchasing documents or other complex processes, which requires the university to keep cumbersome paper copies of transactions.

The SAB software contract was chosen from seven offers, including three finalists who visited Nebraska and presented their proposals last spring. SAB was unanimously recommended as the best supplier of new administrative systems software.

Other users of SAB's administrative software include the Microsoft Corp., the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Duke University in Durham, N.C., and the University of Toronto.

In addition to the new administrative system proposal, the regents also will be asked to approve \$11.5 million to complete a building project underway for the Lied Transplant Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The additional funds will pay Penn-Co Construction, Inc. to complete five additional floors plus another 3800 square feet of space in the building. Penn-Co's original \$49.8 million contract with the university did not include finishing the space, which totals about 83,000 square feet.

Penn-Co expects to complete work under its original contract by May.

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## Sales of Husker wear slow

KIMBERLY SWARTZ  
Staff Reporter

After the Nebraska football team failed to bring home a national title last season, Husker merchandise sales have slightly decreased, some store managers said.

Yet Ken Johnson, general manager at the Nebraska Bookstore, keeps his spirits high.

"Our sales were the strongest during '95 and '96. Fans were buying everything they could get their hands on," he said. "But sales will go up again once people start going for the championship," Johnson said.

None of the stores had the exact amounts of decline available.

Sales have already begun to increase earlier than Johnson first expected. More than 5,000 customers shopped at the Nebraska Bookstore

before the football game Saturday, he said.

"It was great to see the fans back again," he said. "Sales and the traffic were almost as heavy as when we played Colorado."

Loraine Livingston, manager at the Big Red Shop agrees that sales will increase with time.

"Fans always pick up once the weather gets cooler. People come back for new hats and sweatshirts," Livingston said.

Gary Fouraker, associate athletic director for business affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said that he has seen a decline in sales, but expects them to remain "fairly static" for the rest of the year.

"The championship years were a very unique situation," he said. "There is a natural decline in sales from last year, but it was something we expected."

Gwen Plummer, assistant manager at the University Bookstore, has experienced a small decrease in Husker merchandise sales. But she said sales are similar to "regular" years in the past.

She is also confident that the store will have a good year in sales, but says that it's too early to tell.

"Students are more interested in buying their supplies and books first," Plummer said. "But soon they will come back for their Big Red merchandise."

Johnson said that sales will continue to increase because many Nebraska fans are faithful, he said.

"It just took time for people to forget about our loss, but they'll keep coming back," Johnson said. "We have a great team and great fans and have a really good shot at No. 1."

## Ticket packages on sale

BY ADAM KLINKER  
Staff Reporter

Because of a lack of winter break games, NU men's basketball ticket sales for the 1997-98 season will be divided into two ticket packages rather than four, as was the case last year.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln ticket manager John Anderson said that because the Huskers don't play any home games over the break, there was no need to offer a third or fourth

block.

"I think we have a pretty good mix of games in the two packages, and we really hope we can sell them out," Anderson said.

Package one, which includes such games as University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Iowa State and Missouri, sells for \$28 to students and \$56 for a student and spouse. There are eight games in the first package.

Package two, including games in the Ameritas Classic and against Kansas and Texas Tech, costs \$31.50

for a student and \$63 for a student and spouse. Both packages together cost \$59.50 for a student, and \$119 for a student and spouse. There are nine games in the second package.

Tickets went on sale Aug. 25 at the main ticket office and at the South Stadium ticket office. They may be bought until Oct. 27. Applications are first come, first serve.

Single game student tickets cost \$3.50. All student tickets give the holder access to the floor bleacher seating, based on the holder's arrival time at the game.

## Museum trustees trim budget

HASTINGS (AP) — Hurt by low attendance and saddled with debt, the Hastings Museum has lost money the last two years and is scaling back its budget.

The proposed 1997-98 city budget gives the Museum Fund \$1.36 million to spend. That is down 22 percent from the \$1.76 million approved for spending in fiscal year 1996-1997.

Museum trustees have already approved a budget document which calls for no major increase in property tax support and no transfers from the general revenue fund or from keno proceeds.

The new budget trims spending to offset a large reduction in the estimated revenue from museum and Lied IMAX Theatre admissions.

City Council members will conduct a public hearing Monday, then consider approving the museum spending plan along with the rest of the proposed 1997-98 city budget.

"We were looking toward getting as lean as we possibly could."

JERRY DIERFELDT  
museum director

Since 1996 the museum's board and management have been trying to cut back by reducing staff and money for advertising.

"We were looking toward getting as lean as we possibly could," Museum Director Jerry Dierfeldt said.

He said the most severe measures already have been taken and the museum will simply stay the course under its new budget.

"We keep adjusting all year long, whether it's budgeted for or not," Dierfeldt said.

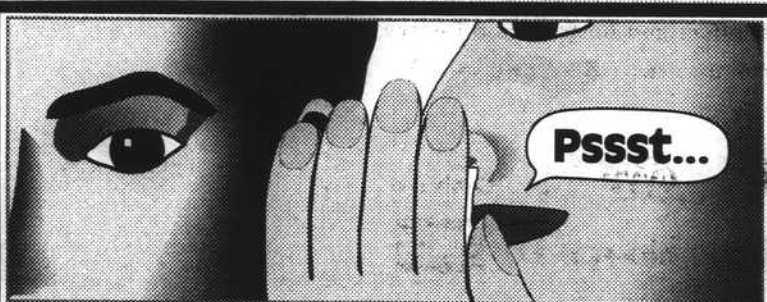
The budget anticipates admissions will fall from the \$1.24 million

in 1996-97 to an estimated \$854,000 during the current fiscal year.

Efforts are still being made to hone the marketing budget for the museum and theater, Dierfeldt said. New plans are being made for soliciting contributions.

Museum officials were encouraged by heavy visitor traffic over the summer, thanks to a display of animated dinosaurs that drew more than 30,000 paying customers.

Dierfeldt said such exhibits will be an important part of the museum's future. Officials may be able to find another suitable attraction for a summer engagement in 1998, he said.



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