

## Cambridge Connection

Sisters Jami and Anna Kubik combined to score 57 points as the Nebraska women's basketball team defeated Missouri 96-91 Tuesday night in Columbia, Mo. **PAGE 9**

## Casualties of war

As the United States' deadline for Iraq nears, Opinion Editor Joshua Gillin wonders if renewed conflict in the Persian Gulf is worth the lives it would cost. **PAGE 4**

February 18, 1998

Who'll Stop The Rain

Chance of rain today, high 35. Cloudy tonight, low 30.

# Daily Nebraskan

VOL. 97

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN SINCE 1901

NO. 105

## Future suites to sour parking

Construction of a new Embassy Suites Hotel will force the closing of a popular UNL parking lot.

BY IENA AUGSTUMS  
Assignment Reporter

Students' vehicles soon will have to make way for the space that will become beds and a bath.

Embassy Suites, a new hotel brand, is to be built on the east side of the campus. The hotel will be built on the east side of the campus. The hotel will be built on the east side of the campus.

Ian McDowell, manager of University Parking and Transit Services, told the UNL Parking Advisory Committee on Tuesday that the city will be closing the city parking lot on Block 35, located between 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, P and Q streets, by the end of the month to accommodate preparations for the building of the Embassy Suites Hotel.

"Many commuter students park in the Block 35 lot," McDowell said. "This will definitely cause a concern for alternative parking."

James S. Smith, PAC president, said the school has a lot of students using the lot. The 200 car stalls are used by about 1,000 students.

PHOTO BY PARKING ON 6

## Figures disputed for Peru State relocation

BY JOY LUDWIG  
Staff Reporter

Administrators at Peru State College face an important question: Renovate or relocate?

That question was argued before the Legislature Tuesday in the form of two different bills: LB1138, which allocates funds for renovation, and LB976, which would require a detailed plan to move Peru State to Nebraska City.

Three busloads and several carloads of people from Auburn, Peru and the surrounding area came with opinions. Supporters and opponents from Nebraska City attended the Appropriations Committee hearing, too.

The controversy involving the future of Peru State erupted in January when the State College Board of Trustees voted 7-0 to move it to Nebraska City.

Since then, 2,500-3,000 petitions opposing that measure have been circulated through the state, mainly in southeast Nebraska. Sen. Floyd Vrtiska of Table Rock and other senators have received numerous letters from citizens, students and alumni in Nebraska and out of state stretching from Oregon to Florida.

The State College Board of Trustees estimate it will take \$13.2 million to do the necessary renovation projects or \$16.5 million to relocate. People in Nebraska City plan to donate another \$8 million.

However, the board's plan does not include money for dormitories, a student center or a field house.

These are things that Carrol Krause, the board's executive secretary, believes can later be funded by revenue bonds. Besides, he said the 700 dorm rooms at the college now have only a 70 percent

occupancy rate.

But Cristy Pickrel, a York architect contracted by PSC Foundation, said she believed the relocation numbers should be much higher based on the square feet of the campus and the cost of moving, which has not yet been accounted for.

The current campus rests on 525,111 square feet, yet the board approved only 371,900 square feet for the Nebraska City campus. Pickrel said at least 467,669 square feet are needed.

After surveying the campus, she said she estimated it would take \$35 million to relocate the college, not including the money needed to move office equipment and to fence up or demolish the current buildings. Another \$25 million would be needed to provide other school programs in Nebraska City.

Pickrel estimated the actual cost to be between \$60 and \$76 million.

Money is not the only concern. Other supporters expressed their emotional ties to the campus and to its community in southeast Nebraska.

Vrtiska, who introduced LB1138, said his daughter graduated from Peru State. He saw how close-knit the campus was when the president's wife visited his daughter in her dorm room after she became concerned because she hadn't attended class.

"There is a closeness among the students that you just don't find everywhere," he said.

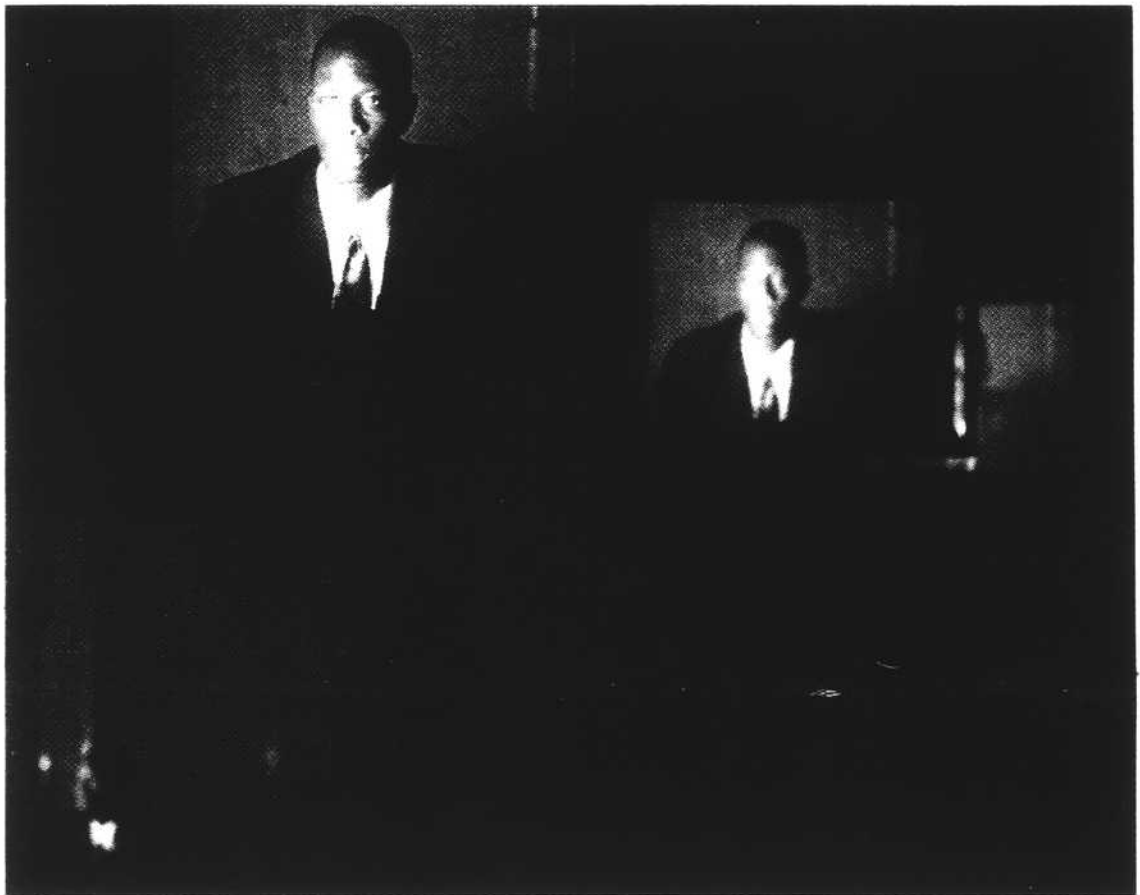
Vrtiska said he believed the campus still could provide a promising future to students if the Legislature stepped in.

"I hope I never see the sacrifice of students for the success of business," he

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## Working For Unity

The Black Leaders of UNL and Lincoln



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

**THE MANY FACES** of Jerry Shoecraft, pictured in the new city council chambers, have made him one of Lincoln's black leaders. He is the only black city councilman, an independent businessman and a former NU basketball player.

## Doubters spur Shoecraft

*Editor's note: In honor of Black History Month the Daily Nebraskan is printing profiles of prominent black leaders in Lincoln and at UNL. Today is the third in a five-part series.*

BY BRAD DAVIS  
Senior Reporter

Jerry Shoecraft says nothing will ever knock him down.

Though he grew up poor in Muncie, Ind., Shoecraft said he overcame the obstacles thrown his way to become a popular basketball player, independent businessman and city councilman.

Shoecraft, a five-year member of the Lincoln City Council, said he overcame skepticism and racism by winning the citywide election in 1993, and again in 1997.

"They said this town would never elect a black man to the city council ... and I said, 'Watch.'"

"That just fired me up," he said.

Henry T. Buchanan, a State Farm Insurance accountant in Lincoln, grew up about a block away from Shoecraft in Muncie.

Buchanan said Shoecraft is an example for other minorities.

"He's one of the few minorities that's stepped up to the plate," Buchanan said. "He's a role model for

minorities. He exemplifies a person that is very supportive of everyone's welfare."

### Somebody like the rest of us

Shoecraft, who also owns the recently closed Shoe's Bar and Grill, has lived in the capital city since he came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on a basketball scholarship in 1979.

Although Shoecraft is probably more well-known for his work on the city council, in the early '80s, he was the most popular player on the Bob Devaney Sports Center basketball court.

NU basketball fans called him "Shoe," and threw shoes on the court when he came out on the floor.

He wasn't the most talented player in his four-year basketball career, but Shoecraft said he made a name for himself through hard work and discipline.

"They took to me because I worked hard," he said. "I would dive on the floor to get the loose rebound, and I would set the pick."

Shoecraft began his after-college career as a temporary employee at the Nebraska Department of Revenue, then was a clerk and finally a tax-law speaker for the department.

Speaking to different businesses

about tax-law incentives gave Shoecraft a "flavor" for the business community, he said.

After his eight-year stint at the NDR, Shoecraft was a business manager for Lincoln's Gallup Organization until 1993, when he borrowed money to buy a Haymarket bar.

"I had good name recognition and I had honesty and integrity — even though my credit profile wasn't so great," Shoecraft said.

Three years of running a bar took a toll on his time and pocketbook.

"Every dime you have you've got to put into the business to make it work," he said. "You may risk your car, your house and your livelihood to make it work."

There were hard times financially during his three years running the bar — and the press, he said, rarely failed to publish details of his difficulties.

But after a man approached him in a hardware store a few years ago, Shoecraft felt better about the negative headlines.

"He said, 'I want to tell you it's good to see somebody who's just like the rest of us, who has problems just like the rest of us.'"

"And odd as that may sound, it made me feel good," Shoecraft said. "It made me feel like I wasn't born

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