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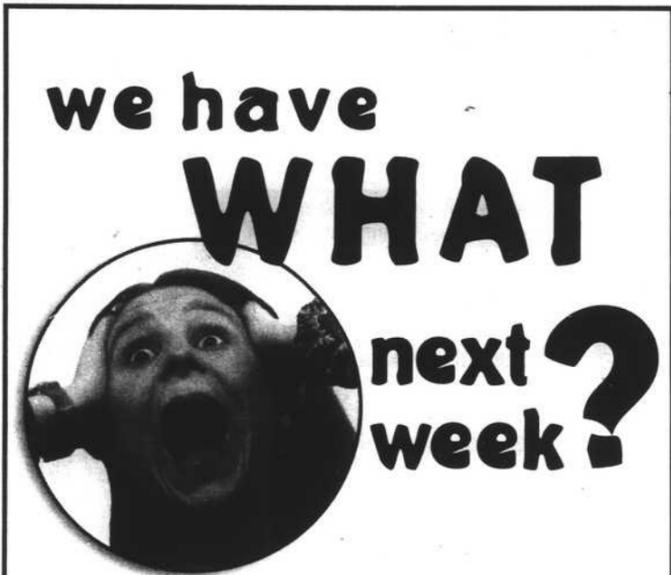
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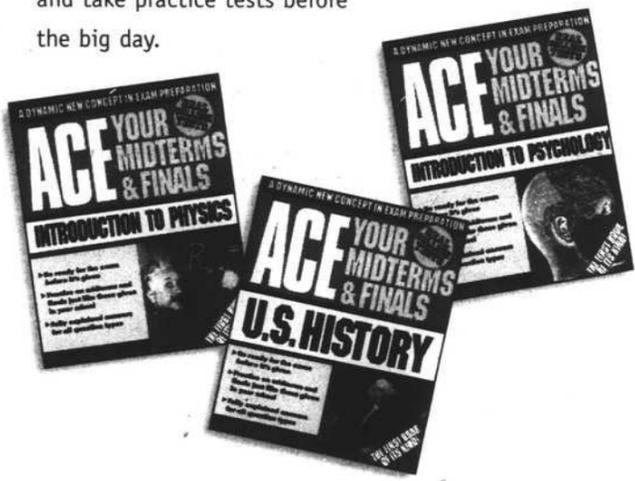
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Council on deck for vote

BASEBALL from page 1

the new complex. They make up a small number of donors who want their gifts to go specifically to athletics.

"Donated money is always highly designated," Smith said.

"There are a mixture of people who have donated solely to athletics and a large number who give only to academics."

Wilson also expressed concern about the use and advertisement of alcohol and tobacco at the stadium.

Bill Byrne, NU athletic director, said alcohol would be prohibited at the complex during university events.

When the Northern League professional team occupies the stadium during the summer, there would be no prohibition, Byrne said.

The installation of Tri-Vision screens would allow advertisements for alcohol and tobacco to be hidden during university events, Byrne said.

If approved by the Lincoln City Council, construction of the complex would begin next spring or summer.

It will take a year to complete the project, said Scott Lewis, associate vice chancellor for business and finance.

"We anticipate the first pitch to take place on March 1, 2001," Lewis said.

Both the baseball and softball teams are scheduled to have double-headers that day.

The City Council is set to vote on the project today.

The Railroad Transportation Safety District must also approve a pedestrian connector to the Haymarket and the acquisition of a railroad right-of-way.

It is set to vote Tuesday.

Regent Don Blank from McCook said he is excited about the project. "I know we have to work out the

details, but it appears we are on the track of building a very good complex."

Board endorses education initiative

PLAN from page 1

teacher training a top priority and increase teacher evaluations by peers.

The State Board of Education hopes to get a clearer idea of what students need to be prepared for post-secondary education.

By increasing communication between the college and university boards and the State Board of Education, teachers could get a better idea of what classes are missing that would make students more prepared, said Bev Peterson, president of the State Board of Education.

"It would help us understand better when you say your requirements are four years of English," Peterson said. "What do you want in those English classes?"

The initiative also will allow the governing boards to collect and share data about a wide range of issues affecting education.

Finding out why prospective teachers drop out of teaching programs in college or why young teachers leave the occupation after just a couple of years, is information the two boards could seek out and share with each other, Smith said.

"There is a database nationally that we have access to that gives us figures on why students stay in the program or why they drop out," Smith said. "One advantage of this partnership is that we can get access to this data."

Regent Chuck Hassebrook of Walthill said he supports the communication and cooperation the initiative provides.

"I think there is a lot you can do with more information," Hassebrook said. "If something's not working we can go back and look at how we can fix it."

The next step in the process is to get agreement from the State Board of Education and then form a steering committee with representation from a variety of groups, Peterson said.

The steering committee will then determine what actions need to be taken to realize the initiative's goals.

Smith said he was optimistic about the initiative and the problems it will solve.

"This develops a plan of a working relationship we've never had," Smith said. "Until now we've been in a reactive mode. We need to get in a cooperating mode."

New schools get support

SCHOOLS from page 1

Some opponents of the bond say it will raise property taxes, and the schools could be built for less. Others are not comfortable with the proposed school designs.

McRoy praised the students for "showing the community how serious you are."

"You can't get anywhere sitting at home bitching," McRoy said. "You've got to get up and do something. And you are."

Ted Larson, a Lincoln Southeast High teacher, said student support showed the bond was important.

"Most adults think they know what happens in high schools after watching the movie 'The Breakfast Club,'" he said.

Larson told a story about why he felt the school bond should pass.

Larson said his wife, who teaches at a Lincoln alternative high school for students who do not do well in

mainstream schools, recently had a student transfer to her class from another Lincoln high school.

"He said he loved the atmosphere of high school. He loved the clubs, the extracurricular activities," Larson said. "But in the classroom, he felt invisible."

Larson said the new schools would provide smaller classrooms and enable teachers to give students more individual attention.

Ed Zimmer, Lincoln school board president, said the students were the best symbol of why new schools were needed.

"We don't build buildings for the sake of piling up materials," he said. "We build buildings for students."

Zimmer said he appreciated the students' support even though they would not reap the benefits of the new schools, which will be completed in 2003 if the bond passes.

"My 10-year-old will thank you," he said.

Student dragged in rail accident

TRAIN from page 1

Although he was apparently unconscious during the accident, Jurgens woke when medical personnel arrived, Beggs said.

Beggs said officers on the scene reported Jurgens was "extremely intoxicated" at the time of the accident.

Laura Fuchf said she heard a metallic sound coming from the train tracks near her home at 1311 N. 14th St. Fuchf, a secondary education major, said police cars remained at the scene of the accident until about 3 a.m.

Beggs said he did not know where Jurgens was going or coming from or why he stopped and sat down on the railroad tracks.

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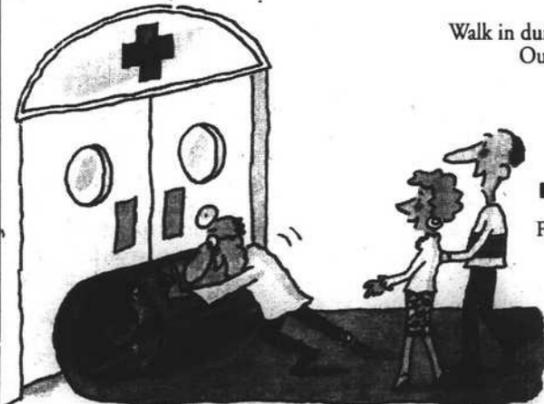
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