

FAB fund distribution not arbitrary—Student Court

By Barbara Lutz

The UNL Student Court ruled Tuesday night that the Fees Allocation Board (FAB) members "have not been arbitrary or capricious in their decisions as to the distribution of funds to student organizations."

In a petition filed seven days ago, Lyle George, a sophomore from Dixon, called FAB "capricious and arbitrary" and wanted to cut FAB powers and prevent it from allocating fees to student organizations.

During the court session, George said because FAB members are not elected, they are not directly accountable to their constituency. "I, and any other group of students, have no influence on the fee board," he said.

In addition, George said, students are being taxed without representation. "Many organizations don't have the need (for fees), but desire to get their fair share back," he said.

In a telephone interview following a two-hour deliberation, justice Sue Loseke said FAB has acted within its

administrative power. "Due process has been given to students through hearings and appeals provided for by the board's procedural rules."

A first year law student from Sutton, Loseke said the court decided "The plaintiff's argument, that the students of UNL are being taxed without representation, does have merit; however, the student court has no jurisdiction to act upon this issue."

George told the court his complaint is within the court's jurisdiction because it is designed to protect students, and their rights, which are being violated by FAB, he said.

The court decided "we recommend that ASUN use the power granted to it by the bylaws of the board of Regents of the University of Nebraska . . . to make recommendations to the Board concerning budgeting of all funds collected through fees designated for the use of student organization," Loseke said.

George said he presented a petition to FAB last year with 1500 signatures asking that the UNL Gay Action Group not be funded. The group, which he called a "puppet organization," also receives funds from the Lincoln Gay Action Group and provides services for persons off-campus, he said. George said "he didn't want his fees to fund any group off-campus."

FAB chairwoman Sherry Cole said FAB didn't ignore the 1500 signature petition, and there were "a lot of students not on that petition who came to the open (FAB) meeting in support of the Gay Action Group."

Parking increase 'virtual certainty'

By Maxine Kubicek

Inflationary costs have made a "long overdue" increase in student parking fees a virtual certainty, according to UNL parking coordinator John Duve.

Duve said an increase from the current \$25 to \$45 for a parking permit will be necessary to provide the same level of service and for the parking budget to break even next year.

"We have no more corners to cut except the amount of service we provide," he said. "No matter what the rest ends up being, all 10,000 of our permit-type customers will be upset."

Duve said he is interested in finding out whether parking customers would rather pay the extra cost for parking or put up with reduced service. He listed three basic options available:

- charge the current \$25 rate and cut services and maintenance;

- raise parking fees to about \$45 and offer the present level of service;

- raise the rate to about \$60, which would provide for additional improvements and construction.

Duve said he will make a recommendation of the amount of increase to the chancellor's parking advisory committee. His recommendation will be based on the amount necessary for the parking budget to break even, he said.

The tentative parking budget for next year is \$403,000 and represents a 15 per cent increase over this year's budget of \$350,000, he said. No money is allowed in the budget for construction and Duve said increased cost of materials and labor "has not been addressed for several years."

Decreasing maintenance in an effort to avert the increase would mean less thorough snow removal, postponing repairs of potholes and discontinuing replacement of signs in parking lots, Duve said.

About \$250,000 of the current \$350,000 budget is generated by permit sales, he said, and the remainder comes from meter and violations revenue. Duve said the violations revenue has steadily declined after a sharp increase when the rhino boot program was initiated. He said he expects the decline to intensify in the future.

"Technically, if we had no violations revenue, the price of a parking permit would be \$30 to \$35," he said. "Because we can't count on a fixed amount of violations revenue, we may have to raise the base rate."

Duve said he expects a loss of about 2,000 parking customers if the rate increase is approved. Around 1,500 former parking customers did not buy permits following a rates increase from \$15 to \$25 several years ago, he said.

However, Duve said the increase he projects is based on the current number of parking permits sold. If fewer people buy permits, the rate may go even higher, he said.

Duve said he would like an increase recommendation before the end of the school year so he can get community reaction to the recommendation.

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Photo by Kevin Higley

An ancient barn leans under the weight of years of prairie winds.

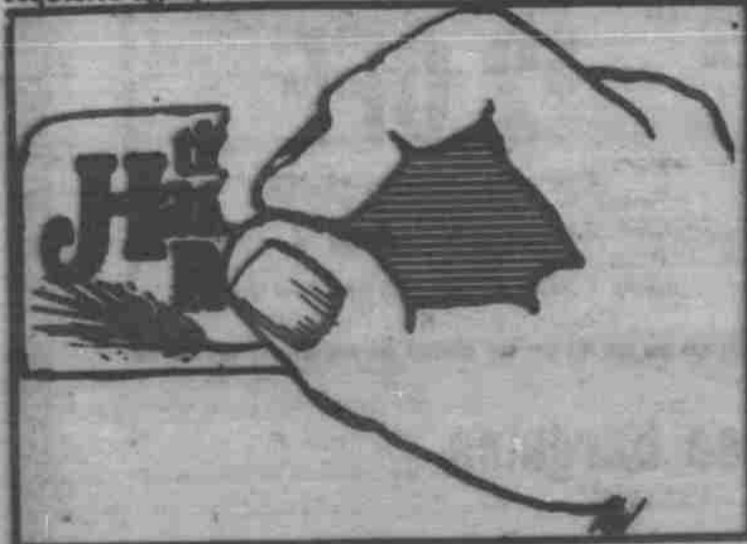
Sign project is 'go'—in reduced form

By Janet Fix

The Nebraska Union Sign project has been approved, but the original \$35,000 requested by Union director Al Bennett has been reduced to about \$10,500, according to the Union Advisory Board acting president.

Dave Roehr said the Union Board approved a portion of Bennett's original plan but a large number of signs were cut.

"The board could not justify the need for many of the requested signs," Roehr said.



The approved project will place large kiosks in each of the main entrances, Roehr said. An additional kiosk would be placed on second floor in front of the Centennial room.

The kiosks, two of which are free-standing and three-dimensional, will include floor plans and identifications of rooms and services in the Union.

Other signs would be placed above the entrances to the Harvest Room, Bakery, Crib, Colonial room, Pewter room, Shingle barber shop and Rec Room.

The proposed signs which were rejected by the board will be submitted to a study committee to decide if they

are needed, he said. The future of the remaining signs requested by Bennett will be determined before July 1, Roehr said.

Roehr said some of the signs probably would be approved but some definitely are not needed. The decision on the signs must be made before the 1977-78 Union Budget is approved on July 1 so funds can be allocated for further signs, he said.

The board advises Bennett but the final decision is left to him, Roehr said. Bennett usually considers recommendations made by the board, he added.

The total budget approved for the signs, designed by Greathouse-Flanders Associates, is \$7,920, he said. Installation of the signs probably will be done by the University Physical Plant employees for about \$2,000 to \$2,500 and the total project will cost not more than \$10,500, he said.

Funds for the project come from the Nebraska Union Bond Reserve Surplus Fund. This fund comprises the surplus from the bond replacement fund and is subsidized by student fees.

"The project will not raise student fees," Roehr said. "Each semester students pay \$14.50 in student fees toward a bond retirement fund, this is a fixed amount required in the original bond issue."

Roehr said that because of increasing enrollment, the original \$14.50 is much higher than is required for the debt retirement. But this amount cannot be reduced until the bond is dissolved in about the year 2000, he said.

The surplus from this account is held in a separate fund that can be used for only capital improvements in the Union, the residence halls and the University Health Center.

The entire cost of the Nebraska East Union, \$4.3 million, was funded from this reserve fund, he said.

Roehr said the board approved the signs because there is a need for directional signs in the Union. "We gave people adequate time to raise objections to the project and we received no input into our decision."

ASUN Election 77

Polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the rescheduled ASUN elections today. Students may vote in Nebraska Hall, the Nebraska Union, and the Nebraska East Union.

The elections originally were scheduled for March 16 but were postponed pending a Student Court decision on the legality of ASUN.

Three students still are candidates for student president/student regent. First and second vice president, senators and advisory board members will be elected and constitutional amendments voted on in today's election.

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