

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Regents play cloak and dagger

Two gay couples are scheduled to speak on campus at next week's ASUN Time-Out Conference, which will focus on human sexuality. However, there is speculation that the Board of Regents might prevent the appearance of these speakers or move them off-campus.

This speculation was reinforced last night as the board held an emergency closed meeting at the Kellogg Center. Members of the Board refused to comment to a group of about 20 students on what was being discussed. However, *The Daily Nebraskan* learned that the Regents did discuss the Time-Out Conference, which is being sponsored by student fees.

Closed meetings of this type violate the spirit of the Nebraska law calling for public meetings of governing boards. It also contradicts the campaign promises of newly elected Regents.

Any action by the Board to alter the conference would be tampering with constitutional rights of freedom of speech and assembly as well the principle of academic freedom. Such an action could also serve as a rallying point for radical student action.

The fact that at least some of the Regents have expressed displeasure with the conference probably indicates that either they are prejudiced against the gay life style or that their actions are politically motivated. Evidence of prejudice or self-serving political motivation within the Board is most undesirable.

The Regents owe the University community an answer to why they are questioning the Time-Out Conference. Before the Regents take action they should consult ASUN leaders.

Regents' objections to the conference again demonstrate a lack of confidence in the maturity and direction of University students.

Even if the Regents decide they can take no action against the Time-Out Conference, they may consider action against the use of student fees to fund similar conferences in the future. While there may be a need to study the use of student fees, abolishing student fees to sponsor speakers would not be in the best educational interests of students since it would limit the number of campus speakers.

It would be a tragedy with many repercussions if the Regents take action against the Time-Out Conference or student initiated and funded projects in the future.

Gary Seacrest
Barry Pilger
Bill Smitherman

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Editor: Gary Seacrest, Managing Editor: Laura Willers, News Editor: Steve Strasser, Advertising Manager: Barry Pilger, Publications Committee Chairman: James Horner.

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Address: The *Daily Nebraskan*, 34 Nebraska Union, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.



doug voegler

Showdown at Big Red Corral

"This ticket is subject to confiscation by the University of Nebraska Athletic Department if used by any other person than the original purchaser." In past years this notice was hardly worth reading. Lately things have been different.

Last month the Board of Regents ordered a clamp-down on "black market" ticket sales. Once, anyone with an ID and ticket could gain admittance. Now IDs must match tickets, the holder must be of the same gender as the name on the ticket, and within a reasonable age limit for a "student."

After only three games, several hundred tickets have already been confiscated.

The Athletic Department's arguments for its ticket policy are as follows: first, that it is a privilege for students to attend games, not a right. The Athletic Department which extends the privilege has the right to set the terms by which a student may purchase a ticket and has done so.

Tickets are provided for the student's personal use, not for him to sell and make a profit

on. Students get their tickets at a two-thirds discount compared to prices the public pays. When a person uses an ID that is not his, he is falsifying his identification.

Selling student tickets has been a popular hobby ever since Bob Devaney molded Big Red into one of the nation's football powerhouses. It is well known that 80,000 seats could easily be filled for every home game. Every week, students are besieged with calls from friends and relatives for tickets. Signs advertising tickets go up everywhere.

On the average, student tickets are sold for between \$10 and \$15 a game. Regular public tickets sell for \$6 a game.

In terms of the supply and the demand, the scalper's price is not unusually high. The people who buy tickets from students can easily afford it and certainly get their money's worth. There are no other tickets for them elsewhere and they consider themselves fortunate to get a student ticket.

Illegal student ticket sales

do not undercut the Athletic Department or the University in any way. If anything, by bringing people into the stadium who are generally more affluent than students and therefore are more willing to buy more beverages, food, programs, seat rentals, etc., the illegal sales actually bring the Athletic Department more revenue than normally would be the case.

It is hard to see why the Regents, in their plush press box seats, or anyone else would begrudge the student for trying to pick up a little extra cash on the weekend to help ease his tight budget which is strained by a tuition increase.

A loyal Nebraska fan who buys a ticket (that he couldn't get any other way) from a student should not be faced with the threat of having it confiscated at the gate. Everyone would be happy, students and fans, if the enforcement of the "confiscation clause" is once more relegated to the position of "benign neglect."

By the way, does anyone want to sell two tickets for the Kansas game?