

Pragmatic politics

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The questions surrounding the mandatory nature of student fees have been potentially nailed down by two state senators in the Nebraska Unicameral. LB 1271 has been introduced by Senators Stromer and Craft with the intention of stopping the collection of "any form of mandatory student activities fees or charges."

A legislative bill affecting student fees is nothing new. Terry Carpenter's LB 70 was brought to the floor of the Unicameral over interim break as a holdover bill from last year's session. It would have discontinued student fee support for the Daily Nebraskan and the UNO student newspaper, *The Gateway*.

After substantially negative debate was countered by the ASUN legislative liaison committee, Carpenter's bill was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 24-21, with four senators not voting.

The very close final vote on LB 70 indicates the caution students must assume when dealing with the student fees issue. The World in Revolution Conference on Justice in America is funded by student fee monies. Just as the Time-Out Conference on Human Sexuality last October ignited controversy throughout the state, the Justice in America Conference has similar incendiary potential.

Controversial topics certainly deserve discussion anywhere, especially in the academic community. But at a time when the University of Nebraska is under fire by members of the State Legislature, the desirability of the proposed conference is questionable.

The Union Program Council and the Nebraska Union Board have both offered their endorsement of the scheduled conference. The final fate of the conference now lies in the hands of the Interim Program Arbitration Board, a group created by the Board of Regents in January to consider the appropriateness of programs to the University community.

It was hoped that the World in Revolution Conference would be re-scheduled by the Union Program Council or the Nebraska Union Board to a later, more politically favorable date. But now this

action can only be taken by the Interim Program Arbitration Board.

If the Arbitration Board chooses to permit the conference to proceed as scheduled, serious harm to the University may result at the hands of the Nebraska Legislature in the form of budgetary setbacks and the passage of LB 1271.

Greatest show on earth

Every semester the new Daily Nebraskan staff makes changes in the paper that, at least, makes it better in their eyes, and, hopefully, in the eyes of the paper's readership.

A new graphic format has necessitated a change in writing style for staff reporters. This semester, stories will tend to be of greater length and more detail, while short feature material and organizational notices will be contained in special sections, Short Stuff, and Up & Coming.

The editorial page will feature local columnists John Vihstadt and Janet White, UNL students. Nationally, the return of Arthur Hoppe will be noticed by all of his regular readers. Political columns by Kevin P. Phillips and John P. Roche will also appear weekly.

Paul Conrad political cartoons will run from time to time. His political wit is published regularly from coast to coast. Local cartooning on the editorial page will be undertaken by a free lance staff headed by talented veteran Greg Scott, a UNL junior majoring in art.

This semester, a daily panel cartoon feature known as FRED will also find its place in the Nebraskan. His antics will be seen in every issue on page two.

Advertising revenue last semester reached an all time high. The outlook for this semester is equally encouraging. Display and classified ads in the Daily Nebraskan are still the best medium available to reach the University audience.

The staff is planning an open house in the office, 34 Nebraska Union in the near future. If you have news, need a want ad, or just want to find out what the UNL newspaper is all about, come see us.

J. Conrad

editorial

Arthur Hoppe is a social and political satirist from San Francisco. He graduated from Harvard with honors, and since has climbed up the journalistic ladder at the San Francisco Chronicle from copy boy to reporter to columnist. Hoppe's column, "The Innocent Bystander" will appear regularly in the Daily Nebraskan.

The Surgeon General's report that cigarette smokers are not only killing themselves but may well be killing non-smokers in their immediate vicinity was bound to have a drastic effect on the lives of America's 44 million nicotine addicts.

Take any typical smoker. Take Worthington Thripp Jr.

Twenty years ago in the halcyon days when smoking was the rage of the Smart Set, Thripp cut a dashing figure with his ivory holder, his monogrammed lighter and his gold cigarette case. Men admired him, women adored him, and colleagues predicted a brilliant future for him in great American dipper industry—for he was obviously (1) sophisticated, (2) brainy, (3) aristocratic and (4) his father owned The Thripp Dipper Works.

Then came the Surgeon General's 1964 report on the hazards of cigarette smoking. Slowly, a subtle change came over Thripp's life.

First his wife quit. Then his secretary quit. Then his father quit. One by one, Thripp's friends and

colleagues underwent the agonies of withdrawal. And when they had at last kicked the habit they looked on Thripp in an entirely new light.

No longer did they admire or adore him. Now when he lit a cigarette, his wife expressed a loving, if nagging, concern; his secretary flashed a secret little supercilious smile; his friends, at best, showed bemused contempt; and his father said, "Some day, Worthington, this big dipper business will be all yours—if you show a little will power."

So his marriage, his social life, his career all suffered. But for the past seven years Thripp hung gamely in there, burning up two packs a day. And always, if an argument over his smoking arose, he had the final word:

"If I want to kill myself," he'd say with an attempt at a devil-may-care shrug, "that's my business." And everyone grudgingly had to agree to that.

Then came last week's new report from the Surgeon General. Again Thripp's life changed. But this time...

"Who's the other woman?" angrily demanded Mrs. Thripp, looking up from her newspaper at the breakfast table and fanning away Thripp's cigarette smoke.

"What other woman?" cried Thripp in genuine innocence.

"Then why are you deliberately trying to kill me?" said Mrs. Thripp and she packed up and went home to

her non-smoking mother.

At the office, Thripp's secretary frowned instead of smiled when he lit up. And by mid-morning she applied for a transfer back to the secretarial pool at half the pay.

When Thripp accidentally blew smoke in his father's face that afternoon, the latter flew into a rage. "Can't you wait for me to die, you ingrate!" he shouted and both fired and disinherited him on the spot.

So shaken was Thripp that in the crowded elevator on the way out, he absentmindedly began to light up. An elderly lady promptly pummeled him with her umbrella, a businessman smacked him with a briefcase and the others all piled on.

When he crawled out bowed and bloody to report the attack to the policeman in the lobby, the officer shrugged: "You're fair game. Anybody who kills you can plead self defense."

Since then, Thripp's been on the lam. The only traces of him have been a message lipsticked on a mirror: "STOP ME BEFORE I SMOKE AGAIN!" and a more rational letter to a newspaper: "There's 44 million of us killers loose. You can't catch us all!"

But he underestimates the vengefulness in the hearts of those of us who've undergone the agony of quitting. It isn't his killing us we mind so much; it's the pleasure we know he's getting in doing so.

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hoppe
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