

Pace problems

Students who strongly supported the Program for Active Commitment to Education (PACE) got a surprise when they opened their tuition statements this weekend. Many students were surprised to note that the form of the PACE section of the statements had changed.

Last year, the student who wished to donate his \$3.50 for the program had only to pay the amount shown on the computer total. Those who did not wish to donate could subtract \$3.50 from that total.

This year, however, students noted that in place of the old system was one which clearly disfavors PACE. Instead of reflecting the cost of tuition, fees and PACE, the computer total included only donation and fees. Thus, if a student wishes to donate his \$3.50 to PACE, he must add on the charge himself.

Because of this, it can be expected that a much larger segment of students will neglect

PACE in this, its critical second year. Unthinkingly, thousands of students will pay the printed-out computer total, never realizing that they are neglecting a vital, student-initiated project.

Under the old system, students were forced to at least consider donating to PACE and make a conscious effort to remove their support from the program, if that was their choice.

This year, multitudes will mistakenly discard the PACE program as though it were another piece of junk mail. And that could be disastrous.

If the PACE program is to die from student neglect this year, it would simply prove a theory set forward by large numbers of administrators, legislators and outstate citizens—that students are incapable of initiating mature, public-oriented programs and carrying them through to success.

If PACE is discarded because of monetary problems, the first such program will become a laughing stock—and so will the students' rights cause.

Without a hitch

Advice to would-be hitchhikers: don't. At least not for the time being.

As some have found rather painfully, Lincoln police have begun a zealous crackdown on hitchhiking, a major student transportation form. What this means is that any person police see hitching will, under a Lincoln city ordinance, be ticketed for first offense hitching.

Previously, first-time offenders were issued warnings while hardened hitchers were issued violation slips.

In reaction to the arrests, a group of students has proposed an ordinance to the Lincoln City Council, which would alter the current, rather arbitrary law.

Under the new plan, definite restrictions would be placed on hitching. It would disallow hitchhiking in certain heavily-trafficked business districts, require hitchhikers to wear light clothing at night, require hitchhikers to get in the car on the curb side of the street and not permit standing within the traffic portion of the roadway.

Ordinance guidelines for drivers would permit stopping for hitchhikers only if it is safe to do so, prohibit rapid lane changes to pick up riders and instruct hitchers to fasten safety belts.

The main objection made by anti-hitching forces—that hitchhiking causes extreme traffic problems—seems to have been more than adequately taken care of by the new plan.

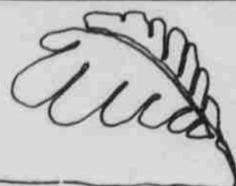
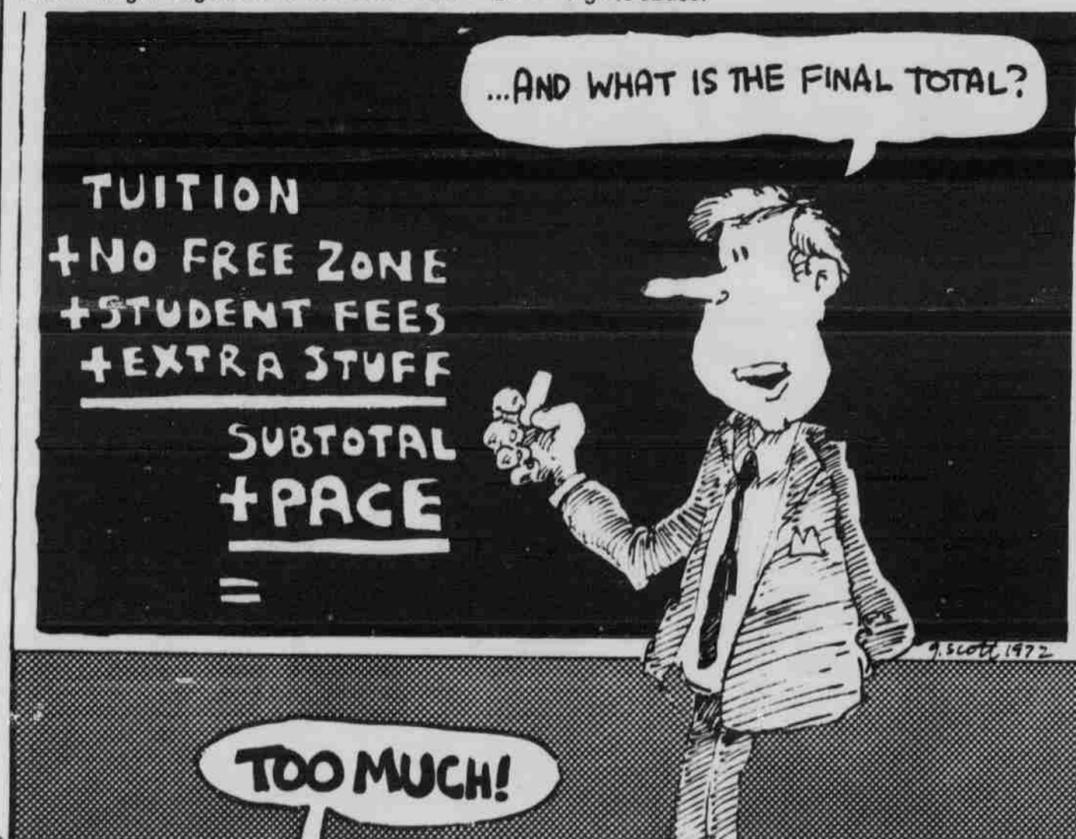
Another anti-hitching charge is that giving rides to strangers can lead to an increase in crimes against drivers. The hitchers themselves, hitch-haters claim, are in extreme danger from those who pick them up.

This, however, is mere speculation. In a city the size of Lincoln, it is doubtful that anything as minor as hitchhiking could cause a major crime wave.

If those who give and accept rides are so depraved when hitching is allowed, it is difficult to imagine why they become innocent lambs when students hoof it.

Hitchhikers can only hope that the city council will give a thumbs-up to the new ordinance and clear away the current obstacle to one of the most popular modes of student transportation.

Jim Gray



to the editor

Dear editor,

I had free food (not out of machines), free live tunes with dinner, free films and free bowling at the Union last Monday night. All it took was a nice shirt and a little cheek. Got to see Bob Devaney, too. What I didn't see were other students and regents not up for re-election.

Who paid for this 1000-meal extravaganza? If it was "Regents Reception" why don't the regents foot the bill? Or why didn't they come, for that matter? Or if the whole thing was as dumb as it looked, why wasn't everybody invited? Or why didn't they invite themselves?

John A. Hansen, Jr.

Dear editor,

In the Sept. 11 issue, I read an interesting letter by C.M. Max Dalrymple. I only want to comment on the part of his letter concerning the Angela Davis-Alexander Solzhenitsyn cartoon.

I believe Dalrymple missed the cartoon's point. The point, as it appears to me, is, why is Angela Davis a heroine in socialist countries for her views when these same countries imprison their own intellectuals for trying to express their views?

What we need is a campaign to free these intellectuals. The reason for this is that they have no recourse in their legal system whereas Angela Davis did.

I believe the cartoon's artist wanted us to have compassion for those like Solzhenitsyn and Pasternak, because they're the real victims of the war for basic human liberties and rights.

Barry Deal

