Attendance causes conference changes

by Adella Wacker

Although this year's Nebraska Union conference will not explore the World in Revolution, "something will exist," according to Assistant Union Program Director Art Thompson.

The Union Program Council decided last spring after the Martch 6-13 World in Revolution Conference on Justice in America that the week-long format would be dropped.

Funding for the conference has been cut by more than half. Thompson stressed that the decision to change the title and cut funds "was not a direct reflection on that conference last year."

At the same time, Thompson said he felt that "no one's ever said it," but the conference outcome reinforced feelings that the World in Revolution format was not the most workable.

"It's hard to sustain interest for a week," he said.

That decision was based somewhat upon the number of students who listened to last year's keynote speakers, he said, adding that some sessions drew only about 50 persons.

Jerry Rubin, co-founder of the Youth International Party (Yippie), probably drew the largest crowd and that was not phenomenal, he said.

Speakers who might have drawn crowds, didn't show, Thompson said, referring to attorney William Kunstler.

Some felt the amount of money spent on the conference wasn't justified by the attendence, he said.

On the other hand, some of the participants felt that the week was idealogically and philosophically successful, he added.

The fact is, Thompson said, that the conference has used the same format the past four years and attendance has continually dropped. Last year's conference coagulated feelings that a change to not-so-definitive a title was needed, he reported.

Ideally, he said, World in Revolution should be able to include anything from sports to breadmaking. But to some, he said, it's an inflammatory title which generates scenes of violence and protest.

"We didn't see any reason to battle over titles," he said. Thompson stressed that the conference was not "buried

alive" and that no outside pressure affected the council's However, he did reflect that the year might have been

different if it had not followed the controversial ASUN Time Out conference in October

That conference, which explored human sexuality, included two homosexual couples and stirred reactions against it from some University Regents and students. Injunctions were sought to stop the conference.

Preliminary reports on the yet unreleased ASUN budget indicate no funds will be included for a Time Out conference this year. eache

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litorium. Ti UNL Ph.Ds do well in job market

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