

Tuition troubles

Nebraska University students once again appear to be one of the primary targets of Gov. J. James Exon's annual budgetary attack. If the Legislature accepts Exon's proposed financial plan for the University, students can prepare themselves for another tuition increase.

The NU Board of Regents recommended, and Exon accepted, a revamping of the tuition structure that calls for the removal of the so-called "free zone" under which students currently pay the same price if they register for any number of credit hours between 12 and 16. For a substantial number of students, such a change would result in an increased tuition bill. At the same time, Exon rejected the regents' proposal for a by-the-hour tuition reduction to \$17 for residents and \$46 for non-residents per credit hour. Exon is asking that the figures be \$18 for residents and \$48.25 for non-residents. Under the governor's plan students would effectively be paying two increases over the regents' budget.

It is unfortunate that Exon has chosen this particular time to hold the line against even a minimal tax increase no matter what the cost to various state institutions, including the University. Within the last week and one half, publication of the proposed federal budget revealed that the Nixon Administration plans to reduce aid to schools, including cutbacks in the National Defense Education Act under which students loans have been financed.

Today's college student will have to pay at least twice for Exon's unwillingness to adequately fund the University. First, and most immediate, is the tuition increase. Secondly, when students graduate and become full-fledged taxpayers, sooner or later they will be paying increased taxes so that the state can finance the educational improvements currently being neglected.

Tom Lansworth



Speaking of "Shield Laws" . . .

Beecher defends ASUN from critics' attacks

Bruce Beecher is the president of the Associated Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN).
by Bruce Beecher

For the past year ASUN has come under fire from what I consider to be often uneducated and misinformed sources. It is for this reason that I am writing this article, not to attack those individuals who have been unfair in their opinions of this administration, but hopefully to enlighten them and other students about the activities and accomplishments of the 1972-73 ASUN.

Last March when I ran for office with Sam Brower, Michele Gagne and the 25 members of the Student Cause Party (SC), we promised to work toward the accomplishment of the following platform goals:

- to make ASUN more accessible to students by having the ASUN office moved to the first floor of the Nebraska Union;
- to improve the fiscal accountability of ASUN, "SC will enforce budget appropriations and requests for additional funds will require Senate approval;"
- to start a student cooperative to offer discounts to students;
- to encourage the Housing Office to define rigid criteria for University approved housing and to assist off-campus students by providing legal counseling on lease agreements;
- to work in support of self-determination for all students;
- to dispose of the Education Committee and put all educational reform activities under the direction of the Center for Educational Change (CEC);
- to continue support for the math tutorial program and try to expand this effort to other departments.

For me to say at this time that everything Student Cause pledged to work for has been fully accomplished would not be truthful to students or to myself. Anyone who has accomplished everything he sets out to do should wear a big yellow "S" on his chest. I certainly don't. I would, however, like to account for what has been done on each of those campaign pledges to this date.

Prior to this year, ASUN employed poor bookkeeping techniques and paid little or no attention to their financial status. Because of this, much time was spent at the beginning of our term in intercepting and repairing ASUN's books. An encumbrance system was adopted in order to enable ASUN to maintain accurate financial records. Also a

39-page budget was prepared which employed the concept of program budgeting and was subsequently passed by the ASUN Senate. A resolution was also attached to this budget which bound the executives authorize expenditures only in those areas approved by the Senate. Prior to this, ASUN executives were given significant discretion in spending decisions after the budget was approved. In short, this year's ASUN has been able to improve ASUN's fiscal accountability from one that was denounced by CSL's student fee report as financially unaccountable to a system endorsed by the student affairs staff

Justifiable criticism has been directed at ASUN about the delay in beginning the Associated Student Ko-op. Unforeseen red tape and demands from other projects were responsible for these delays. However, I have often felt that more time has been spent by ASUN critics in emphasizing the delay than has been spent in working for it. Although the Ko-op has been discussed by ASUN members for the last three or four years, no other administration has been able to actually achieve the beginning of a student Ko-op. I find it funny when four years of research proved unsuccessful that four months of delay can be so

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vehemently criticized. I will say that I willingly accepted this criticism in order to assume that the Ko-op was begun properly.

It would be an easy thing for me to claim that the addition of 40 married student housing units was the product of any ASUN efforts. But, in all honesty the University administration deserves all the credit for this modest increase in available housing units.

Although legal counseling has not been accomplished in the University Housing Office, meetings between ASUN representatives have produced model lease agreements and a review of the "University approved" guidelines.

Shortly after the ASUN elections, the guest rights policy was neutralized to the satisfaction of most students. However, this year's administration of ASUN has not let student self-determination die there. Members of ASUN have been working jointly

with the Residence Hall Association in preparing a proposal which would allow the consumption and possession of alcohol in living units. This proposal will soon be presented to the Board of Regents.

The disposition of the Education Committee and the establishment of the Center for Educational Change as the sole educational reform committee in ASUN was accomplished shortly after taking office. Since then CEC has given financial assistance to college advisory boards and is currently finishing a teacher evaluation proposal.

ASUN has continued its support of the math tutorial program. However, efforts to expand this type of program to other departments have been unsuccessful.

In addition to the above projects, I feel that ASUN has been successful in many other areas not mentioned in any campaign material. Last summer, a freshmen record was made available through ASUN to help orient incoming students to the University of Nebraska. Also, a detailed report on student fees with attached recommendations was prepared and submitted to the Board of Regents. Research by ASUN into University library inadequacies has ultimately led to the allocation of money to retain professional consultants to review the library system as to solutions of pressing problems. Through the efforts of the Legislative Liaison Committee, a bill was introduced in the Legislature providing for students to serve upon the Board of Regents. The Legal Rights Committee has prepared a proposal for a student lawyer and is currently exploring possible methods of funding such a position. ASUN's Environmental Task Force has worked to increase students' awareness of environmental problems by sponsoring speakers and conducting recycling drives. Also, ASUN members were helpful in initiating the cultural affairs committee which has been responsible for bringing many fine arts concerts to the UNL campus.

These are just some of the things that have been happening this year in ASUN. I feel that in some areas we have met unqualified success, in other areas failure and in still other areas neither success nor failure. Some criticism of this year's ASUN has been warranted, much criticism, on the other hand, has not.

I sincerely hope that this article will shed light on ASUN's activities and show that ASUN does not have a "do nothing administration."