editorial opinion page

Fees reports

Two of the student fees task forces delivered reports to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Ken Bader Monday.

The Student Fees Administration Task Force's lengthy report proposes a reorganization of the student fees structure and represents a conscientious effort to fulfill the responsibilities with which the group was charged by Chancellor Zumberge.

The members of all the student fees task forces deserve sincere appreciation from the University community for the time and toil which have gone into the preparation of their reports. And if their work is to be of any consequence, a period for the expression of student reactions to the reports must begin immediately. Careful scrutiny of the task forces' final statements already reveals several unanswered questions.

In its preliminary report, the Facilities and Other Fee Users Task Force makes four recommendations, some of which relate only peripherally to the group's charge. The task force called for the establishment of a student fees advisory board, the planning for a recreational building, improvement of health care and planning for a cultural arts center. Some of the questions raised in the conclusion of the report include the same issues which this group was charged to

investigate. Hopefully, the final draft of the task force's recommendations will deal more significantly with those issues.

Among the documents which the facilities task force lists as resources are progress reports on the work of the Student Fees Administration Task Force and the Student Programming Fees Task Force. Last week Daily Nebraskan reporters were told that the main reason that the task forces did their work in executive session, i.e., in secret, was to enable the groups to avoid being influenced by the work done and direction taken by the other task forces. The exchange of progress reports among the task forces voids that argument.

The Student Fees Administration Task Force, in its final report, recommends the scrapping of the current UNL student fees structure and the establishment of a reorganized system based primarily on the concept of zero-base budget planning administered by a UNL Program and Facilities Allocation Board. Also recommended was that the term "student fees" be changed to UNL Program and Facilities Fees.

A March 1972 Council on Student Life (CSL) study of student fees recommended that tuition payments and activities-services fees be combined and referred to as "tuition" and be expressed as a single amount in University publications—specifically, the Campus Handbook. But the current task force chose not to endorse this recommendation

made by CSL, the body which now deals with several fees-related issues including new requests for student fees support. Every fees-supported activity or organization should be aware that the continuation of this separate status for tuition and student fees perpetuates the possibility of legal challenges to the whole concept of fees collection.

Under the zero-base budget planning proposed by the report, some on-going programs may be in jeopardy of losing their financial backing. According to a literal interpretation of the proposal, every program would be required to be successful within one fiscal year in order to be re-funded.

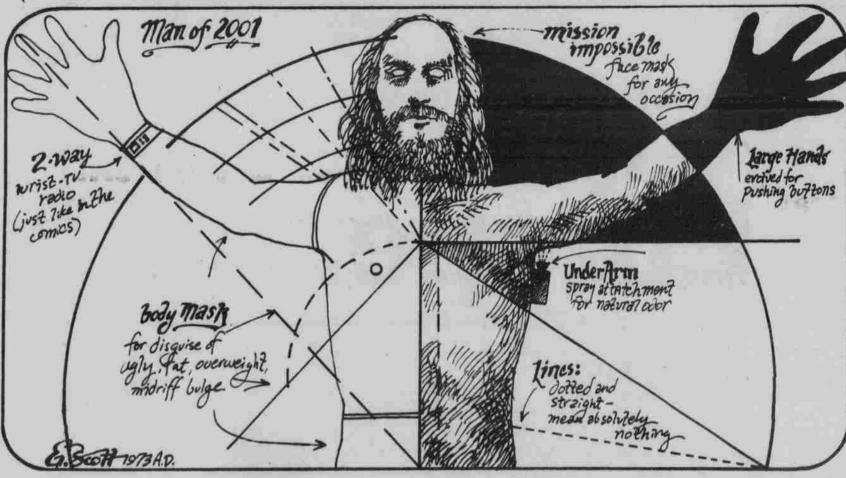
The report calls for student government terms of office and budget allocations to operate on a fiscal rather than an academic year. Such a recommendation appears not to recognize the fact that a majority of students who plan and develop programs are on campus only during the academic year.

These are only a few of the questions raised by this task force report. Perhaps it could be argued that continuous public response and input while the task force was at work would have aided in the preparation of a report in need of fewer clarifications.

Tomorrow and Friday, the Daily Nebraskan will take further editorial looks at the student fees task forces' reports.

Tom Lansworth

Plastic proves popular in 2001



Such prodigies of journalism as the Sunday supplements of the Lincoln and Omaha papers and the Ladies' Home Journal quite regularly print features about "Life in the Next Century" or "Will Sex Be the Same in 2525?" Following these examples, it is fitting for the Daily Nebraskan to publish such an article.

I would like to examine life in 2001 by comparing the cosmetics and clothing of men today with what these things will be like in the future. Of course, I must mention the great intellectual debt I owe to the German sociologist I. Cant and his noted work, Beitraege zu den allgemeinen Charakteristiken des menschlichen Kulturs um Jahre 1973 im Gegensatz zu Affen und anderen Wesen mit gesunden Tierenverstand. However, before I do this, background on the social origins of cosmetics and clothing is necessary.

horse sense

When God created the earth, he also created man (for what reason, be it temporary insanity or an engineering error, we'll never know). Unfortunately for God, the first man he created, Adam, was dumb. Adam didn't know what to do with himself. Therefore, God took one of Adam's ribs and created Eve with this rib. Now Eve, being the smarter of the two, took a bite of the apple from the Tree of Knowledge and thereby figured out what they should

do with themselves.

Adam was overjoyed with this new knowledge, but found he could not restrain himself at all times in the presence of Eve. He soon began grabbing whatever shrubbery happened to be near him and covered himself with it, so as to conceal his lack of restraint from Eve.

Although Eve found Adam's new behavior a bit weird, she could sympathize with Adam's problems. She realized that, with his inherent and God-given dumbness, he would think of some stupid stunt like clothing. She also sympathized with Adam's more practical problem of the spines and prickles in most available shrubbery, because these artifacts of nature stuck Adam in sensitive areas. Adam was inspired to use animal skins as clothing.

It wasn't long before Eve succumbed to the notion of covering herself. Soon both Adam and Eve refined their dress. Adam used mastadon grease in his hair, whereas Eve, having a finer sense of things, used flowers to conceal her natural odors.

Although it is no mere hop, skip and jump to 1973, we can see that our modern cosmetics and clothing are direct descendants of Adam's animal skins and grease, and Eve's scents. I will mention a few cosmetic and clothing items of today and will predict what form they will take in 2001.

First, the naked human body and its pungencies. Men of 1973 use spray deodorants to stifle odors that arise within or around their armpits. However, this practice has obvious drawbacks. These deodorants and their magic ingredients tend to fail at crucial moments. A person also becomes a walking advertisement for whatever deodorant one is wearing.

In 2001, men will have tiny spray devices installed underneath their arms. Whenever one of those moments arises, all one needs to do is lightly raise one's arms for these devices to stamp out those horrendous smells.

Nowadays, if one has the face of a Quasimodo, all one can do is have a face lift, or at worst, wear a paper bag over one's head in public. In 2001, this will be unnecessary, as the "Mission Impossible" plastic mask technique will allow anyone to have a mask to fit over an unsightly face. No one need ever see the "real" you. In 2001, a person will own a wide variety of these plastic masks, suitable for all occasions.

Of course, only a slight stretch of the imagination will lead you to the conclusion that if plastic masks are possible, why not plastic body masks? Although certain technological difficulties are evident, the progress of modern science should enable anybody to fit into these plastic body masks, no matter how dumpy or misshapen the body may be.

In clothing, the trends for the future are not quite so apparent. However, one can be sure that the men of 2001 will not be wearing cast-offs from the armed forces because there will be no military. It is not possible to forecast whose cast-offs they will wear.

Not all men of today wear cast offs. We find some men wearing unwieldly and hazardous pants known as "baggies" and equally hazardous high-heedled, two-toned shoes. (One notices increased traffic deaths because of young men tripping over their pants in the middle of busy streets.) In the future, men will not wear such silly clothes.

The year 2001 looks bright indeed. Besides being able to replace our physical qualities, technology will progress in other areas. We will no longer have to put up with such inconveniences as plants (we will have plastic plants that never die and don't need watered) or dogs (mechanical devices that don't defecate will replace dogs, although defecation may be retained as an optional feature on these devices). Although I don't like to make hasty predictions, I would say that humans will be retained on earth for some time to come, even with their obvious malfunctions and inefficiencies. We've come a long way since Adam.