

Loss of speaker fees may only be first step

Doug Voegler is a senior majoring in political science.

by Doug Voegler

Rumor is that the University is willing to drop its support of mandatory student fees for campus speakers. Apparently the University feels that if it cuts out speakers, which have raised the most controversy of all the fees-supported programs, things will quiet down and UNL will be allowed to continue fee support for other programs. This is a mistake.

The opposition to student fees apparently has decided on the strategy that if they can get rid of fee support for speakers, then by nature something would replace the speakers as the most controversial use of fees. That something might be the *Daily Nebraskan*. Efforts can then be concentrated on this item and fees would then be eliminated just for this item.

Then another, say ASUN, follows, and so forth until all student fees are eliminated. If student fee support is cut for speakers now, with University

suggestion box

approval, than all fees could be eliminated within a few years. It is hard to accept the idea that the University believes that, by sacrificing speakers, it can save the other programs.

If student fees are wrong, then they are wrong regardless of what use they are put to—speakers,

ASUN, health center, newspaper. What is wrong with student fees, what is objectionable is their mandatory, conscriptatory nature.

The arguments beyond this point, how they are allocated, are superfluous to the real issue. An opponent of student fees must oppose all student fees if he is morally honest. He can not single out one aspect of their use.

The Federal District Court and the Nebraska Supreme Court (neither known for their liberalism) believe that student fees are constitutional. In light of this, efforts to cut out fee support just for speakers must be viewed with apprehension.

It is argued that disinterested students are forced to pay for speakers. Is the speakers program any worse than any other aspect of student fees? How many participate in ASUN or use the health center?

How much more can the students be interested in speakers? Certainly every once in a while attendance for a speaker is low. But this is no new phenomenon to the University; 2,300 heard Jack Anderson, 1,800 heard Margaret Mead; 1,000 heard Betty Friedan. When William Kunstler came, a symposium was held with the Law College at Sheldon—450 students and professors packed the auditorium.

Are they measuring disinterest by attendance? What speaker in this nation or the world would draw more than a few thousand for an appearance. President Nixon drew only about 8,000 for his campus appearance.

As a past chairman of the Union Talks and Topics Committee, I, perhaps more than anyone else, have

been able to experience campus speakers. The idea behind speakers is to allow students an opportunity to interact with people who are knowledgeable in a specific area or on a timely topic of interest or who have gained national recognition and prominence.

When or where else will the student have a chance to ask Margaret Mead or Justice Tom Clark a question, talk science-fiction with Arthur Clarke, literature with Joseph Heller or politics with Sen. Robert Taft or Birch Bayh?

All speakers are covered by the newspapers and occasionally by television and radio. What the people read and hear in the media is just as important as hearing the speaker in person. Campus speakers have served a valuable function for the University. A few have stirred controversy. We live in controversial times.

As long as we are stuck with student fees, it is wise to use a part of them for a speakers series. The continual visiting of the University by nationally prominent people is a vital and important part of the University.

As well as giving students a chance to hear, see and speak to these people, it draws people from the surrounding community to the University. It upgrades the prestige of the University. It publicizes Nebraska to prominent and well known people (most come to Nebraska only for paid speaking appearances).

Saving the majority of student fees at the expense of student fees for speakers is doing the University no service.

G.O.Y.A.—superior experience, ability

Editor's note: The different drummer column is solely an expression of John Vihstadt's opinion. The endorsements included below should not be interpreted as those of the Daily Nebraskan editorial staff.

With student government elections next Wednesday, March 14, endorsement time is once again upon me. Students are fortunate in having one party—Get Off Your Apathy (G.O.Y.A.)—that is clearly superior to the rest.

For president of ASUN, Ann Henry merits selection. Currently speaker pro tempore of the ASUN senate, she has provided dynamic leadership in such areas as library and alcohol reform. Henry is qualified by both ability and experience to succeed Bruce Beecher.

Mark Hoeger is probably the strongest person running for anything this year, and I would not be surprised if he is the top all-around vote-getter next Tuesday. Co-chairperson of the Legislative Liaison Committee along with Henry, he is ASUN's registered student lobbyist at the Legislature.

It is particularly important that student government has in a position of high responsibility an informed and articulate speaker for student concerns and Hoeger fits the bill. The candidate for 1st Vice President also serves on the Union Board and the Associated Student Ko-op Board.

For 2nd Vice President I urge the selection of Todd McDaniel, an appointed senator and, like Hoeger, a member of the Ko-op Board.

The platform of the Get Off Your Apathy Party may best be described as a coherent blueprint for workable change. It calls for ASUN funding of a lawyer to act both as a free legal adviser to students and as a legal expert for ASUN itself.

A student regent is supported, and it should be remembered that Henry and Hoeger, along with the Legislative Liaison Committee, introduced into the Legislation (with help from State Sen. Richard Marvel), a bill providing a constitutional amendment to be put before the people in 1974 calling for such a student representative.

In the area of educational reform, G.O.Y.A. proposes a reform whereby "D" and "F" grades may be completely dropped from one's record (with no credit) should the student so desire.

john vihstadt different drummer

The party recognizes the harmful nature of State Sen. Dickinson's LB362, which would destroy valuable University programs of intellectual and cultural enrichment due to lack of student fees funding.

Issues as diverse as housing, parking, visitation and minority student funding are addressed in a sympathetic, forthright manner.

Because the top three executives will need cooperation in implementing their platform and carrying out needed reforms, I call for the election of the entire G.O.Y.A. slate for senate and advisory board positions.

The Republican Party in Nebraska is usually a very predictable entity and the current race to see who succeeds Milan D. Bish of Grand Island as State Chairperson is no exception. Unless all evidence is inaccurate, insurance executive William Barret of Lexington will be elected by the 105-member Republican State Central Committee this Saturday to the Party's top position.

The 43 year-old Dawson County resident's main task will be to pave the way for a GOP return to the statehouse, a job for which Barret is well-suited.



"Of course they put the austerity burden on us—we got the most experience with it!"

ASUN CANDIDATES DEBATE

Discussion among A.S.U.N.
executive candidates

March 8, Thursday, 3:30,
Nebr. Union, Main Lounge

Sponsored By:
Union Talks & Topics &
Daily Nebraskan