

Union dues

At last night's Council on Student Life (CSL) meeting Mary Cannon, president of the Nebraska Union Board, announced that the proposed 25-cent fee for check cashing in the Union is being reconsidered and that the 25-cent rate may be discarded entirely. The fee was to have taken effect on July 1.

Cannon, along with Union Director Al Bennett, reported to CSL that the data upon which the 25-cent figure was based later was discovered to be partially invalid. Union Board has now decided to conduct a survey of Union facilities and programs usage. The results of that survey will help determine the final decision next week on the nature of the check cashing fee, if any, which should be introduced.

Since the check cashing charge was approved by the Union Board at their March 22 meeting, a number of persons who are regular users of the Union's check service have

voiced opposition to the imposition of any fee, and especially to the seemingly high 25-cent fee.

The implementation of a check cashing fee has become necessary, according to Bennett, because the First National Bank of Lincoln has changed its policy in regard to the Union's cash account with that institution. Up to this time the First National Bank has not charged the Union the normal charge for processing the thousands of checks cashed in the Union each week.

If there was anything that was made perfectly clear by Bennett last night, it was that the Union's operating budget will not increase during the next fiscal year or anytime in the near future. Apparently, there is nothing the Union can do, because of the legal restrictions placed on it as a state institution, to either change the bank's decision or move its account to another bank. So the \$14,500 annual cost incurred by the Union's check cashing service will have to be compensated for either by the charge to the users of the service or by reappropriating

money from another area of the budget. The Union Board correctly has decided that the costs should be absorbed by those who are served. However, the 25-cent rate is unreasonably expensive and should be lowered.

As was pointed out by the Union representatives, if the Union continues check cashing for free, the money to subsidize such a service would likely be taken from the programming budget. That likelihood is unfortunate, but that is the current disposition of the Union Board, so the matter must be considered within that framework. Also likely is the selection of the Talks and Topics appropriation as the most vulnerable item in the Union budget and, therefore, the most probable candidate for a cutback or total elimination. Every effort should be made to prevent a programming cut of this nature.

Obviously, it is possible to suggest cutbacks in the programming budget which would be more justifiable than any slicing of the Talks and Topics appropriation. However, it appears to be the feeling of some members of the Union Board that Talks and Topics does not serve the University community to as high a degree as do programs like the Style Show or the Miss UNL Pageant.

Perhaps the time is past due for the Union Board to redefine the proper role of the Union. Some of the comments made at last night's CSL meeting, if they are representative of the total membership of the Union Board, indicate a somewhat callous attitude toward the needs and desires of the student population served by the Union. In response to questions from CSL members, Cannon said that "by rights, students should be charged for the most highly-used services in the Union." And she added if they don't like the imposition of a check cashing fee, they can just take their business downtown.

Cannon, and the Union Board, should remember that students are automatically charged, through student fees, for the services and programs provided by the Union. Students needs and interests should be the primary consideration prior to any change in Union policy.

Tom Lansworth



Buck Ace in A Beautiful Day for Bombing

Scene: The cockpit of a B-52. At the controls is that square-jawed, bemedalled, veteran bomber pilot, Major Buck Ace. At his side is his co-pilot, young, eager Lt. Edgar Beaver, who is fresh from the States, making his first sortie.

Beaver: Gosh, sir, it's sure a beautiful day for bombing, not a cloud in the sky.

Ace: That's right son. In all my many years of bombing out here I've never seen a better one.

Beaver: And I see we've got every available B-52 up again today. Boy, we're really going to blast holy heck out of those Vietnamese down there.

Ace: That's not Vietnam, Lieutenant. That's Cambodia.

Beaver: Oh, sorry, sir.

Ace: An understandable mistake, son. Frankly, all these Asian countries look alike to me.

Beaver: But I thought we were bombing Vietnam.

Ace: That was last month. I think you'll find, son, that while bombing

Beaver: Yes, sir. But I've been so out of touch lately I didn't even know we were at war with Cambodia.

Ace: We're not son. They're our allies. Most of the time out here, we bomb our allies.

Beaver: Oh, sure, I remember. We're probably doing it to honor our sacred commitment to General... What's his name? Non? Lol? Lol? Non?

Ace: Something like that. But we're not bombing him. His own air force has been taking care of that.

Beaver: I see. We're bombing them to stop them from bombing each other. You know, that doesn't sound right. Wait! It's the Domino Theory. As Cambodia goes, so goes... What goes next, sir?

Ace (shrugging): Wherever we'll be bombing in May.

Beaver (snapping his fingers): Minds and hearts! We're bombing them to win the minds and hearts of people all over the world.

Ace (yawning): Why not?

Beaver: No, wait. I forgot what the President said. The President, who inherited the war in Cambodia from his previous Administration, said we had to keep bombing to protect the lives of our American boys down there.

Ace: Look, Lieutenant, we haven't had any troops in Cambodia in years.

Beaver: No, I mean in Vietnam, sir. The President said the only reason he invaded Cambodia was because the enemy was using it as a staging area to attack our boys in Vietnam. So we're saving American lives.

Ace: Look, Lieutenant, we haven't had any troops in Vietnam in weeks.

Beaver: Oh? Well, anyway, we've

got to keep bombing them to make them release our POWs. We'll never rest until our POWs are home. Right, sir?

Ace: All our POWs are home, Lieutenant.

Beaver: Gosh, I didn't know that.

(frowning) No offense, sir, but couldn't you give me just one good reason why we're bombing Cambodia?

Ace: Sure, Lieutenant. (he presses a button) Because - Bombs away! - it is there.

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NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE FAILURE



arthur hoppe
innocent bystander

Asian countries is fulfilling for the moment, the gratification doesn't last. Bomb one and a month later you'll want to bomb another.