

Bookstore managers on profit: t'ain't ours

By Wes Albers

Handfuls of books costing fistfuls of dollars have led many students to believe that someone is making a big profit on textbooks.

Local bookstore managers say, "It's not us."

Most bookstore profits come on miscellaneous items such as cards, candles and sweatshirts rather than books, according to managers of the University, Campus and Nebraska Bookstores.

University Bookstore manager John Stafford said his store would not make any money if it depended on book sales alone.

"When students pay \$50 for books, they think someone is making a big killing," Stafford said. "We're not. The wholesaler is."

Nebraska Bookstore manager John Wehr said miscellaneous items are sold just to keep in business, particularly between semesters when book sales are down.

According to Campus Bookstore manager Stanley Linnertz, book prices are high because of a paper shortage, not arbitrary markups by bookstores.

He said book prices have risen steadily during the years, but "not as much this year as in previous years."

All three bookstore managers said they sell books at the publishers' list prices. The books, however, are bought at the industry discount of 20 per cent, they said. This means that the book a student bought for \$10 costs the bookstores \$8.

Low prices paid by bookstores for used paperbacks reflects the high volume of trade needed to make a profit, Stafford said.

"It takes a pile of paperbacks to create any dollar value," he said. "You have to sell an awful lot of them to make any money."

Paperbacks at all three stores are bought back for 10 to 20 per cent of their original value, the managers said.

Standard textbooks are bought back from students at 50 per cent of the publisher's list price, whether the book is new or used, they reported, and the used books are then resold for 75 per cent of their list value.

Prices paid for used books also depend on whether the books will be used the next semester.

According to Wehr, bookstores often can't pay students the full 50 per cent for their used books because professors have not told the store which books will be used the next semester.

"We're not blaming the professors," he said. "But in many cases the faculty does fail to turn in their order."

Activities endangered by student fees bill

UNL student activities could be placed on the endangered species list if a bill introduced by state Sen. James Dickinson of Halston is passed.

Under LB362, students attending state colleges and students on NU campuses would no longer have to pay an activities fee now included in tuitions.

To a UNL student, this bill would mean he would not have to pay \$51.50 in fees. That amount now helps support such organizations as University Health Center, Nebraska Union, Daily Nebraskan, ASUN and student recreation programs.

Introduced during the 1973 session, LB362 currently is in the education committee. Dickinson Wednesday said he planned to try again to advance it to the floor. During hearings last year, Dickinson said the bill failed to receive the five votes necessary to move it from committee.

Dickinson said he was against mandatory student fees because they are a tax by the University on students.

"The Legislature is the only body that should be able to levy a state tax," he said. "If more money was needed once student fees were eliminated, then the regents should justify it through regular budget channels."

Students are being deceived, he said, because they are not aware of how student fees are spent.

"Students two years ago were paying to support radical speakers such as Jerry Rubin, without their knowledge," Rubin spoke at an ASUN Senate-sponsored conference on justice.

According to projections based on a report by the UNL comptroller, however, eliminating the \$1.2 million now collected from mandatory student fees could be disastrous. The report contained the following conclusions:

- the University Health Center would lose 69 per cent of its operating funds and employes would have to be laid off. Eventually, student health operations would be reduced severely and only minimal services could be provided.

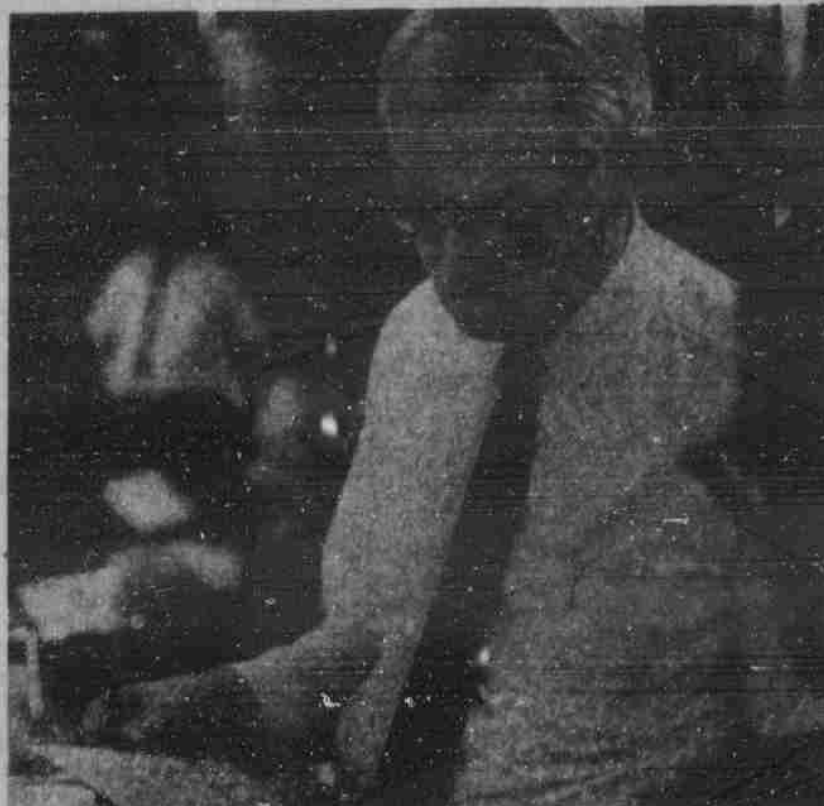
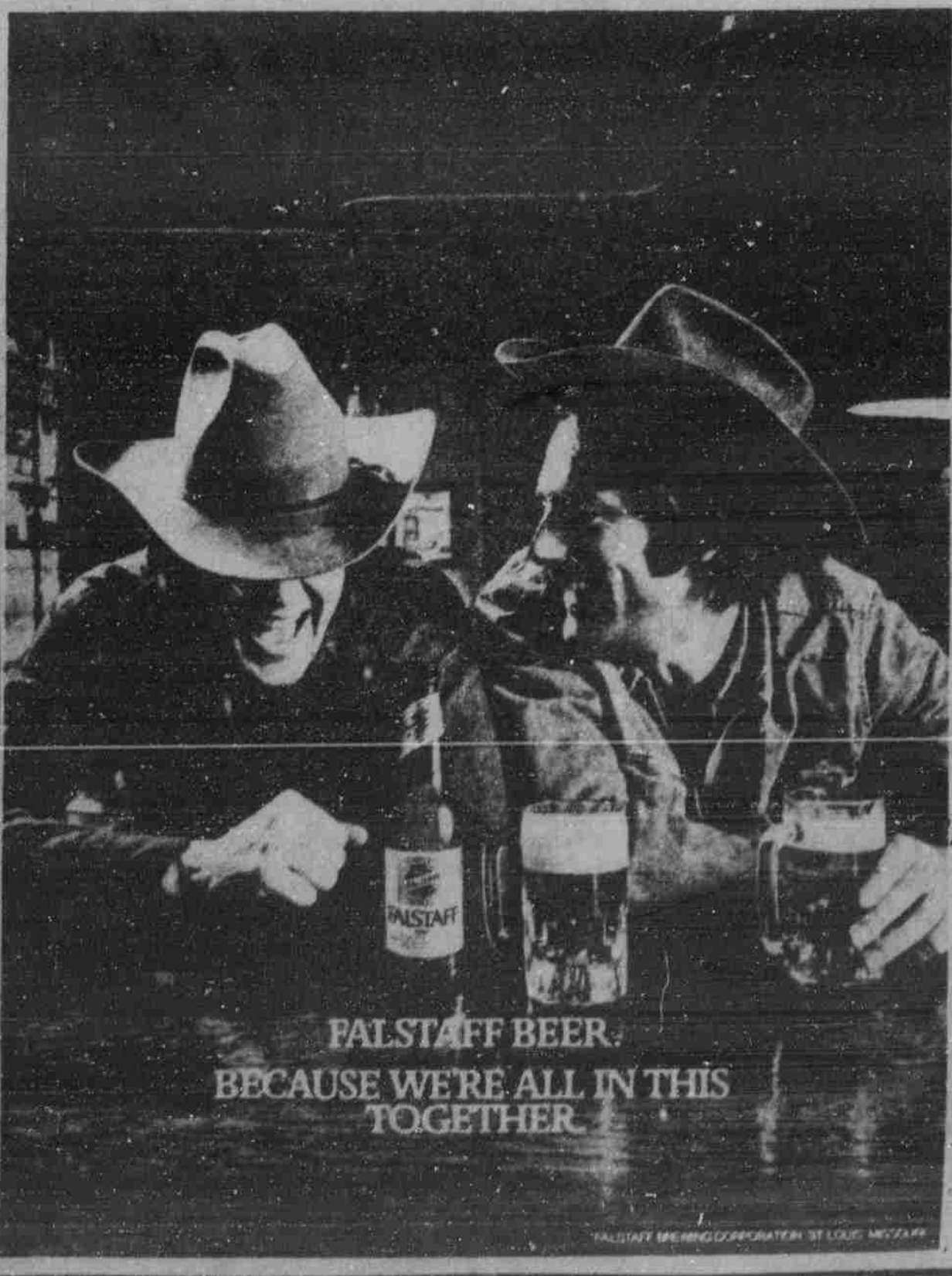
- Bob Lovitt, UNL financial coordinator, said the center could be reduced to a "Band-Aid and aspirin dispensing station."

- ASUN would not receive guaranteed operating funds if student fee payment was voluntary.

- Expenditures for UNL's Recreation Dept. would be reduced by 66 per cent. There would be no funds to offset deterioration of athletic equipment.

- Funds used to support Nebraska Union operations would decline by 25 per cent.

"Gabe, one more beer & we have to go fix fence." "Let's do it tomorrow Walker." "Ok."



State Sen. Richard Marvel

Alcohol, regent bills 'still have a chance'

Although they refuse to endorse bills that would allow selling and drinking alcohol on campus and create three nonvoting student regents, the Board of Regents hasn't tossed up a barricade that could hinder the bills' passage.

In fact, according to Con Zutavern, ASUN Legislative Liaison Committee chairman, the board's action won't even present a hurdle.

"We already have a mandate" on the student regent bill, he said. "We don't think the regents' action is going to affect the senators' decisions." The mandate, he said, was given when the bill won first round legislative approval on a 34-0 vote.

But Zutavern said it might be a different story with the alcohol bill. He said he believed the board's actions improve the chance of amending the bill to allow liquor consumption, but not sale, on the campus.

The regents voted unanimously Saturday to oppose the student regents, the Board of Regents hasn't tossed up a barricade endorse the alcohol on campus bill, LB783.

State Sen. Steve Fowler of Lincoln, a supporter of the student regent bill and 1971-72 ASUN president, agreed with Zutavern. He said he doubted that legislators' stands on the student regent bill will be altered by the regents' action.

State Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings, sponsor of LB323, could not be reached for comment.

According to Anne Campbell, NU director of public affairs and a University lobbyist, NU "is planning to let the senators know how the regents feel" on the two bills. She refused to say if "letting the senators know" would mean the release of a statement or more active lobbying.