Student fees bill sent to floor

By Greg Wees

A new face on a bill that could eliminate mandatory payment of some student fees at state colleges and universities emerged last week from the Legislature's Education Committee.

In a self-proclaimed compromise, LB362's sponsor, State Sen. James Dickinson, struck all original sections of the bill and substituted amendments in their place. The revisions were necessary, Dickinson said, to remove the bill from committee where a 4-4 deadlock vote during the 1973 session prevented further action by legislators.

Another Unicameral development was State Sen. Richard Proud's successful motion Monday to allow each of the 49 senators to select one of their bills for consideration before the session's end.

There are only 16 working days left in this year's session, and more than 300 bills remain to be considered.

Dickinson said Monday he probably would salect his student fees bill for first round consideration under Proud's proposal. Thus the issue might be resolved before the Legislature adjourns, he said.

Under the amended bill, student fees would be collected only to finance the University Health Center, to pay the interest on outstanding revenue bonds for construction and to pay for "direct and primary educational purposes" as determined by the school. Dickinson noted.

Another feature of the revised measure gradually would reduce mandatory student fees collection each year. In fiscal 1974-75, students will still pay 70% of those current fees that

17. The birds

seaport

18. Italian

20. Strip

ACROSS

1. Spots on

cards

5. Chess

would be eliminated. This would be reduced to 40% in 1976-77, and by 1977 all such fees would be eliminated, leaving only the fees for purposes designated by the bill.

A UNL student under this plan would pay \$36 in student fees each semester after 1977.

He now pays \$51.50.

According to a UNL comptroller's report, ASUN would no longer receive guaranteed operating funds if student fees payment was voluntary, expenditures for UNL's Recreation Dept. would be reduced 66%, and funds used to support Nebraska Union operations would decline 25%.

State Sen. George Syas changed his vote from no to yes at Thursday's hearing, giving the measure the necessary five votes to pass out of committee. However, Syas, added that his change does not necessarily mean he supports the bill.

"We have to get this (student fees) issue onto the floor for debate," he said. "This has got to be cleared up once and for all."

Syas said he previously opposed the bill because capital fund construction debts could not be paid under the original measure.

At UNL each student now contributes \$14.50 to repay interest on capital construction bonds, according to a UNL comptroller's breakdown of student fees. The University Health Center receives \$21 a semester from each student.

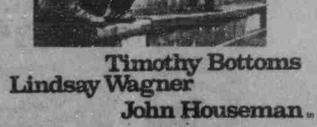
Syas also changed his vote, he said, because most of the 200 University of Nebraska at Omaha students who contacted him supported

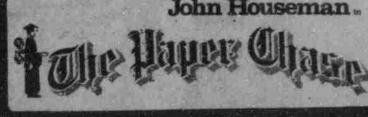
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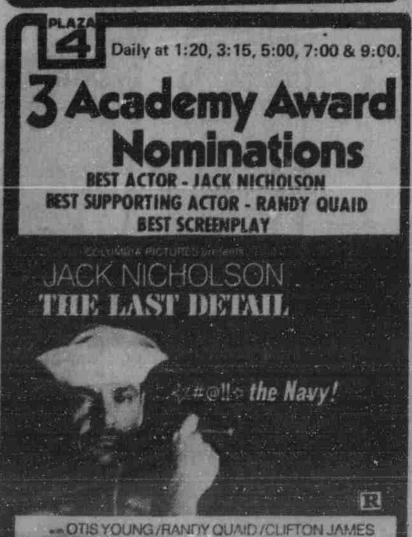




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CAROL KANE / SOME ROBERT TOWNE

Crossword Puzzle

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36. Furnishes

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29. Perfumes

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OPEN MANUFOLD
NILLE ALSATIAN NEARSLIT

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Answer to last puzzle

Sheldon Art Gallery

12th & R Sts. FILM-MAKER'S SHOWCASE

To tell the truth as you see it, incidentally, is not necessarily the truth. To tell the truth as someone else sees it is, to me, much more important and enlightening. Some documentaries are fantastic. Like Lionel Rogosin's pictures, for instance, like "On the Bowery." This is a guy who's probably the greatest documentary filmmaker of all time, in my opinion. He doesn't care about what anyone thinks, the Cahiers du Cinema crowd, the underground, or anyone else

> March 13th & 14th 3, 7 & 9 P.M. Admission \$1.25

Films: COMEBACK, AFRICA; GOOD TIMES, WONDERFUL TIMES; and ON THE BOWERY.

Mr. Rogosin will be present at all showings for discussion.

