

Field house: Pandora's box

The UNL Athletic Department got what it wanted Monday—an Appropriations Committee recommendation that state tax money be used to help with operating expenses for the new field house.

But Hastings Sen. Richard Marvel, the lone dissenter in an 8-1 vote to appropriate the \$200,000, indicated that the state money may bring with it something not so welcome—state scrutiny of the fiscal operations of the Athletic Department.

After the vote, Marvel appointed Lincoln Sen. Harold Simpson and Sidney Sen. Robert Clark to a subcommittee to find out how the \$200,000 is going to be used and what the Athletic Department intends to do about raising money to lighten the load on the taxpayer.

He also said the Legislature will want to "scrutinize in great detail all the expenditures...including who gets tickets and trips to the bowl games, the whole gamut."

"The whole gamut" promises to make interesting reading. By pressing for the money, the Athletic Department may have unwittingly

opened its own Pandora's Box of fiscal horrors. Explaining to a team of nosy senators why some people get free tickets to home football games while others don't may prove more distasteful than footing the operating bill alone.

An investigation into Athletic Department fiscal matters by the Legislature may reveal one thing in time for the \$200,000 appropriation to be killed on the floor—if it is willing to scrimp, save, snip a program here and there, and boost ticket prices a little, the Athletic Department can operate the field house on its own as it was intended to do.

There are other university programs that \$200,000 could be better spent on.

Things looked a little brighter Monday for one of those deserving programs—the SUN program.

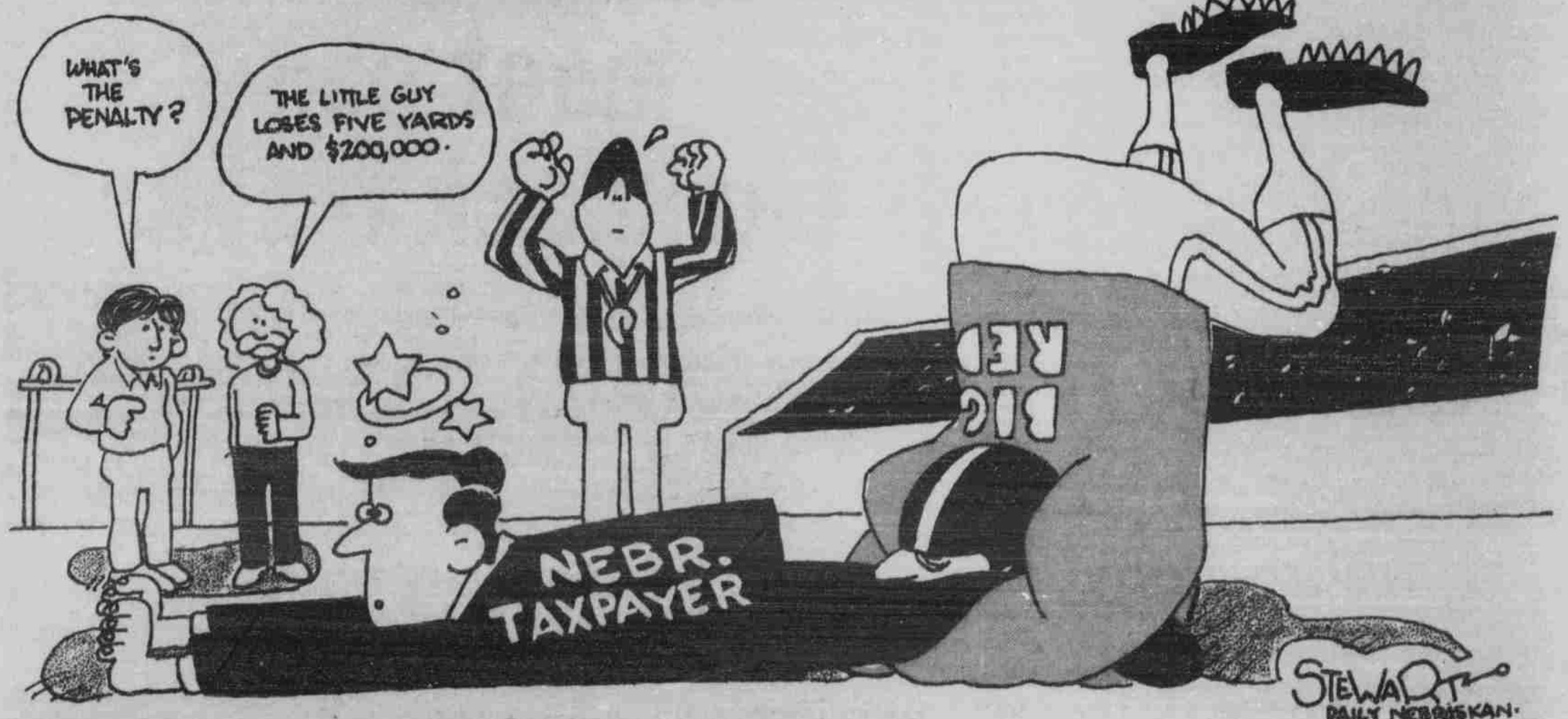
The Appropriations Committee approved 5-2 a recommendation that SUN get \$125,000 from the tax-supported general fund. The committee should be congratulated for reversing its earlier decision to deny all of the \$157,000 requested by the university.

Wes Albers



More American arms.

THE LEGISLATURE AGREES TO FOOT THE BILL FOR OPERATING THE NEW FIELDHOUSE.



UNL footnote: knowledge taught, wisdom not

Footnotes:

—Regardless of the conservative and unimaginative approach to education at UNL, much teaching is high quality and students do learn from the experience. Sadly, few students gain something that is even more important: wisdom.

—No wonder basketball takes a back seat to football at UNL when almost the last brick is laid in the new field house before anyone thinks of operating expenses.

—It is no wonder that university professors are underpaid and students undereducated when the governor, legislature and NU administrators do such shoddy planning.

—Students should not ignore the departure of Duane Acker and Melvin George, two administrator-educators who have given much to the students and the state.

Stand-offish

—On the other hand, Chancellor James Zumberge should not ignore the students. Realizing the chancellor's job is difficult, it must be said that his often stand-offish manner and low visibility sometimes leave UNL students feeling forsaken.

—The "Areas of Excellence" program and the SUN program are fine tributes to imaginative educational leadership of NU administrators, but more dedicated leadership and resolve needs to be shown with faculty salaries. Increased faculty salaries have not been a concerted effort by NU administrators in the Legislature, and NU is definitely suffering for this lax leadership.

—The NU Board of Regents for the most part sincerely have the best interests of the university at

heart. They have, however, approached students as being wayward and sometimes stubborn jackasses who need a few carrots for enticement and much prodding with a stick. There has been far too much prodding and too few carrots to facilitate good student-regent relationships.

—Come to think of it though, that may be a good image for many students, since they care about what is happening around them about as much as any jackass I ever knew.

rick johnson

rhymes and reasons

—Although I have been a long-time user of the Undergraduate Library, the consolidation plans are a step toward a more efficient, hassle-free library system. It will be interesting to see if the increase in efficiency will save enough money to purchase enough light-bulbs to keep the Love Library stack well lit.

—One wonders what those demanding an end to most student fees will do when they must pay federal, state and local taxes to finance programs they don't approve of.

—Regardless of the present "financial difficulties" of the Athletic Department, it is doubtful that there will be any real problem finding money to turn out

future Sugar Bowl and NIT entries. The average student, however, must be content with third-rate indoor recreation facilities. Where the University of Colorado and Creighton University have gone, NU fears to tread.

—ASUN deserves a round of applause for a fine job of providing student services such as Book Exchange, legal adviser, etc. Bravo!

—The average student looks to ASUN to be a pressure group and student advocate. But since there are rarely issues that require pressure on the regents or administration, ASUN appears inactive and ineffectual. Regardless of how unfair this label may be, it somehow sticks.

—The potential that the student regent has for developing a closer understanding between students and regents is tremendous. It should also strengthen the student leadership role. Here's hope that Jim Say is equal to the task.

—A firm pat on the back is due Dr. Richard Armstrong and most of his staff. In the four years I have spent in UNL residence halls, the improvements in living comfort and facilities have been tremendous. Whatever its drawbacks, residence hall living offers much.

—Ron Bolin and the Cultural Affairs Committee deserve a standing ovation for the great variety and high quality of cultural programs they continually give Lincoln, Cultural wasteland? Bah!

—Finally, a general thank-you to all who helped make my UNL stay enlightening and enjoyable—hopefully you know by now who you are. And a general "NYAAAAAAA" to those who....