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Regents' fees decisions not really all that drastic

Considering the decisions made at the latest Board of Regents meeting, it's no small wonder that they decided to hold it out in Scottsbluff, over 400 miles away from Lincoln.

At that meeting, some action was taken on a subject that is near the heart and pocketbook of every NU student—student fees.

UNL administrators who attended the meeting have said that there was a great deal of confusion surrounding the discussion during the meeting. The results seem to confirm that: no one really knows for certain just what it was that the Board decided.

But whether the study requested by the regents will aim to eliminate student fees, or just reduce them, perhaps those involved in the study should review the overall fees situation, while they're at it.

It all comes down to a question of who holds

the pocketbook.

Right now the Fees Allocation Board is a collection of appointed representatives that are expected to deal equitably with all of the fund requests made by different campus and student groups.

Last year requests were made by almost 60 of these organizations, ranging from the student government itself, ASUN, to the UNL Judo Club. The latter was apportioned \$100 this year by the FAB.

In addition to the student activities funds, designated Fund A, there is the immovable bulk of Fund B, which accounts for debt services, staff salaries and maintenance of facilities like the two student unions and the Student Health Center.

Fund B accounts for \$62.14 of the \$66.50 that students will be paying next fall. So after all of the heavy discussion involving "reduction" of

student fees this weekend, if all it amounts to is cutting fees support for student organizations, there won't be much of an improvement.

And raising tuition to replace student fees, as Regent Moylan suggests, will only transfer the problem to another bill, with the added disadvantage of having out-of-state students paying three times as much as residents for the use of the same facilities.

Putting the FAB under a student-elected government, like ASUN, might be an effective way of making student groups find other sources of funds. It would add a firm base of legitimacy for ASUN, which it is sorely lacking now. Who knows? When their bucks are on the line, students might even vote in student elections.

Women's convention provides entertainment, warfare

by Mark Young

"Is this any way for ladies to act?" Martha (all names are fictitious to protect the innocent) a delegate to the International Women's Year convention asked rhetorically.

She and her friends from Alliance, Fairbury and Gordon had trekked to Lincoln three days ago. Armed with coffee and valium they battled the forces of abortion and equal rights.

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Now, at 2:00 o'clock on a Monday morning, Martha and her husband kept vigil over the ballots. The John Birch-Pro-Life-Anita Bryant coalition apparently had won the election. But, Martha said, "Those lesbians want to come up here and get the ballots."

Self-righteous jowls jiggling in dismay, Martha, John and Flo talked of what they had witnessed.

"I saw 40 to 50 women without bras and I saw at least two without anything on under their clothes at all."

"If my daughter acted like that she'd be across my knee in a minute."

"...and those lesbians," Flo shuddered as she took a drag off her Virginia Slims. "They are marching in the lobby. It was a regular love-in. I don't care what they say, the only way to love is with a man."

In the lobby of Nebraska's Sodom and Gomorrah on Holdrege street reminders of Flo's opponents remained. A tattered poster urged "Support your lesbian candidates. We oppose racism, sexism, classism and ageism". Handouts from Common Cause and the AFL-CIO littered the basement floor.

All in all, the money we spent on this convention (The International Women's Year conventions received, nationally \$5 million from the Feds) was well used. University Police made eight trips in two days to quell disturbances there. Martha's friend Flo called Charlie Thone at two in the morning complaining about her precious ballots. Now *that's* entertainment.

Apart from entertainment, the trench warfare at the conference highlighted the troubles awaiting the women's movement. Constant media exposure and

initial success have aroused opposition—very determined opposition. The women who swarmed into town protesting abortion and all the other issues are the vanguards of this backlash.

It's a classical political syndrome. Two bands of zealots fanatically opposed collide and eventually destroy each other. Throughout our history political movements which have refused to compromise, and move around their opponents, have withered and died. How can the feminist movement avoid this fate? Simple—dump the Equal Rights Amendment.

The ERA began life as a rallying point. It was a totem around which the emerging feminist movement could gather. Pushing the ERA bandwagon through Congress and the state legislatures allowed women to flex their newly found political muscle.

Today the bandwagon has ground to a halt. Faced with opposition to the ERA, the women's movement must make a choice. Is this amendment important enough to spend time and money on

while other more substantive issues are left to wither?

In *Paranoia in American Politics*, Richard Hoffstader describes the self-destructive tendencies hidden in many movements. The populists became fixated on free silver. When the economy began to revive they clung to their banner and went down in defeat. Barry Goldwater in 1964 felt it to be his duty to warn the American people. Shooting from the hip he destroyed the Republican right and his own dreams.

These groups failed because they could not adapt to the political climate. Conspiracy lurked behind moderation in their minds. Compromise was impossible with the "enemies of truth."

The women's movement must come to grips with this lust for suicide. They may choose a glorious martyrdom. Or, the feminists may drop the ERA in favor of real issues, like abortion.

Whatever they choose I just hope they have another convention. I think I'm in love with Flo.

Guest opinions welcome

The *Summer Nebraskan* welcomes the submission of guest opinions by readers for publication.

The subjects of guest opinions are entirely up to the writer. However, decisions regarding publication will take into account clearness of writing, relevance of material, and length. The *Summer Nebraskan* reserves the right to

edit submissions but will retain the important parts.

All opinions must be signed. No pen names will be printed.

Deadline for all guest opinions will be 9 a.m. Tuesday morning the week of publication. Copy must be typed and doubled spaced. Please try to limit opinions to three or four typed pages.

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