

Control of fees is political issue

It's a question of politics.

Should the ASUN Senate take control of student fees allocations or should the Fees Allocation Board continue to dole out the dough?

Those who support ASUN control of student fees argue that only elected representatives should control fees. They say that the fees board cannot be held accountable for its actions because they are appointed, not elected.

Supporters also note that passing fees control to the Senate will increase its power and prestige—give it new meaning when interest in student government seems to be waning.

They claim that the fees board is not representative of students. It includes faculty and staff representatives.

Opponents argue that the senate can be capricious. The board was formed in more radical times of the early '70s when the administration wanted to remove fees control from the sometimes-shocking government.

And only 10 per cent of students even bother to turn out to vote now. Opponents question: how representative is a body elected by so few?

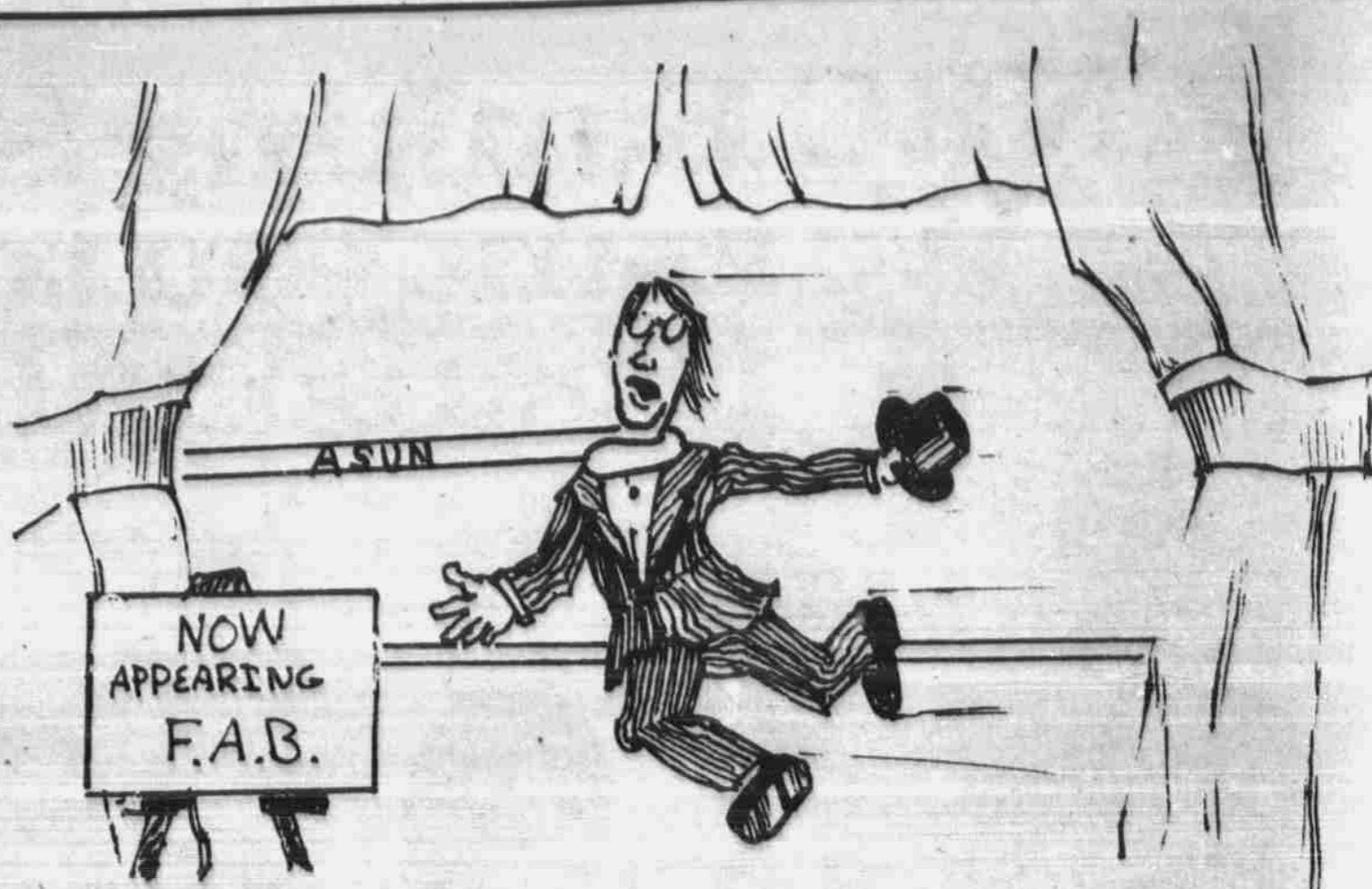
Power plays by well-organized groups worry opponents. Small, organized groups can turn out just enough votes to gain power—and abuse it.

Opponents of ASUN control also point to the independence of the fees board as an advantage—it is not subject to political pressure.

The control argument only slightly deals with quality past allocations. The NU Board of Regents is displeased with past allocations to the Gay Action Group and for child care, among others. But ASUN president Greg Johnson, who supports ASUN fees control, notes that the senate may not make different allocations.

Johnson said he will bring up the question of fees control at tonight's senate meeting.

We agree that fees control is political. Students need to take an interest in where their \$66.50 goes—and determine how it is spent.



letter to the editor

"Suspended in the air, arms and legs folded and your mind in the deep concentration of transcendental meditation (TM)—that's the main practice of TM believers throughout the world."

After reading the above statement in the Aug. 24 issue of the *Daily Nebraskan*, we felt university students deserved a more enlightening picture of TM.

TM does not involve concentration, mind control, self-hypnosis or even a belief in the technique itself. One doesn't have to eat berries and nuts, wear orange robes or be Big Mac abstainers to meditate. We've been meditating, on the average, for three years and the only benefit we've got from crossing our legs is hearing our knees crack.

Practicing the TM technique involves spending 20 minutes morning and evening *sitting comfortably* with eyes closed. A specific vehicle called a mantra (a selected sound with no meaning) allows the mind and body to effortlessly achieve a state of deep rest while the mind remains awake. Hence, the description "restful alertness."

Over 300 published studies, including work done by Harvard, Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have validated the effectiveness of TM.

Some of the measurable results have been better grades, increased attention span, faster reaction time, improved recall, greater tolerance and richer interpersonal relationships. Subjectively, meditators experience greater alertness, clearer thinking and a growing sense of happiness.

Over one and a half million people, representing as many lifestyles, have expressed their enjoyment of this simple technique to their friends who, more often than not, would also start TM (which is, incidentally, how we got started).

Levitation is an attainable experience by interested meditators, but it is neither required nor necessary.

Perhaps those interested in understanding the program more fully could take 40 minutes to attend a free introductory lecture. It may be a pleasant surprise.

Dave Dinsmore
Diane Carroll

Panama treaty presentation bungled by Carter

The Panama Canal Treaty agreement, as being presented to the American people, is a riddle. That, and not the treaty, is why 78 per cent of the American people surveyed are against it and why Congress may not pass it.

I can recall no sensitive foreign policy issue so bungled in presentation and so mired in hypocrisy and deceit as

tors constantly have refused publicly even to consider this key question.

Yet the fact remains that Torrijos is at best eccentric and at worst unbalanced (I have seen him when he was out of control of his senses). He has run Panama into bankruptcy, and his family is deep in the Latin heroin trade. There is no process for succession and he has anti-American leftists in high positions around him.

Guardia Nacional

Is the Guardia Nacional, that surly little army that keeps him in power, symbolic when it continues, even at this highly sensitive time, to harass and even rough up Americans, not to speak of what it does to Panamanians?

The administration simply could not care less what happens to the Zonjans in this regard. One of the top people in the negotiations recently told me cheerfully, when asked about Guardia attacks on Americans, "Oh, these things happen even here in Washington."

Even the otherwise fine assistant secretary for Latin America, Terence Todman, told me when we discussed human rights, "Of course, we're not going to challenge human rights in Panama because we want the treaty."

—Is there any consistency in the moralistic harpings of the top negotiators over giving up the canal in a "new era?" Ambassador Sol Linowitz appears consistent in his beliefs, but what about Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker?

Communist inspired

This is the man, arrogantly sure of the opposite now, who said in 1964 that the riots in Panama then were only communist-inspired and not representative. I watched him work assiduously for a year in the Dominican Republic in 1965 to put down a democratic revolt in favor of the brutal old Trujilloites. I watched him abjectly support the inane and oppressive Nguyen Van Thieu in Vietnam until the very end—all in the name of anti-communism.

Today, he will not even consider the idea of a Cuban threat.

—Yet, is there really no Cuban threat in Panama today? There is no proof of Cuban military advisers, but there is an extraordinarily large Cuban embassy in Panama, and there are Cuban advisers everywhere.

Only recently, the Panamanian Foreign Minister went to abnormal lengths to praise Cuban Premier Fidel Castro to the super-sensitive visiting congressional subcommittee dealing with the canal.

Soviet mission

In addition, a Soviet commercial mission recently visited Panama for the first time and got permission to set up shop in the Colonial Free Zone (rumors of talk of a Soviet base were never confirmed).

Torrijos' recent dealings with Libya's mercurial dictator Muammar Khaddafi, who supports the worst of the world's terrorists, have been equally odd, and followed by ugly, government-inspired anti-Semitism in Panama.

—But, of the mysteries, perhaps the greatest is the consummately odd resuscitation of the idea of building another, sea-level canal.

Under heavy questioning by stunned congressmen, Ambassador Linowitz finally said, "Under the new treaty, the Panamanians will want to deal with us."

For it

Having said all of this, I want to add only one more thing: I am for a canal treaty.

It is a new era and, were our position being presented from our very real position of strength, with a tough sense of reality about what and whom we are dealing with, without this cringing and without this hypocritical and manipulative stance toward the intelligence of the American people, probably the nation would buy it, too.

If they do not, it will be nobody's fault but the administration's, which is beginning to deserve every new foreign policy defeat it gets.

Copyright 1977, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

george anne geyer the geyer file



this. This becomes even more repellent coming from an administration of such lofty pretensions.

Consider the real questions:

—Are we actually "gaining" security by giving up the canal, as the administration insists? Of course we aren't. Earlier, the line was that the canal was not important. Today virtually all the congressional testimony maximizes the canal's political and military importance.

There is also a real question as to whether a fear-ridden abstraction, such as self-destructing "colonialism" under duress, gives an impression of strength... or of weakness.

'Indefensible'

—Was it a right tactic to stress continually the primary idea that the canal is "indefensible" and that guerrillas could easily attack it as the major reasons for clearing out?

It was the worst possible tactic, from anybody's psychological primer. This would look craven to a Jivaro in the Ecuadorean jungles—it rightly looks craven to fair minded, nonjingoistic Americans, not to speak of the rest of the world.

—Is the government of strongman Omar Torrijos responsible enough to turn over the canal to? The negotia-