

# Fee necessity is hearing consensus

By Mary Jo Pitzl

Although interests and proposals varied, the students, faculty and staff speaking at the UNL student fees hearing Wednesday agreed on one thing—UNL must keep assessing student fees.

Speakers representing student organizations and campus services addressed a three-member panel studying NU student fees. The panel is part of a 10-member task force appointed by the NU Board of Regents to examine the student fees structure and to present proposals to the board. Hearings also were held at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Tuesday and at UNO Monday.

Fifteen persons attended and spoke at the afternoon session. All testified that mandatory student fees are necessary, but only proposed alternatives to the current fees allocation system.

ASUN second vice president Ken Christoffersen said that ASUN, not the Fees Allocation Board should allocate student fees to student organizations. ASUN has greater accountability and responsibility, he said.

He said ASUN is "definitely opposed" to fee alternatives such as: eliminating student fees, making the cost of student fees part of tuition or limiting funding to major student services.

The budget and fees committee is considering the possibility of an optional user fee for student organizations catering to specific interests.

Larry Doerr, a member of the campus ministry staff of the United Ministries in Higher Education (UMHE), presented a two-page fees allocation recommendation to the panel. Doerr's proposal would divide student fee money into two categories. A student-controlled board would be responsible for allocating the major portion of fees.

Several speakers voiced disapproval of the current fees allocation system. They suggested that the faculty and staff pay a user fee for campus services funded by student

fees. They also suggested that the possibility of making student organizations financially independent from any fees assistance be examined.

Mary Jo Ryan, University Child Care Center director, said forcing student organizations to support themselves would cut back on the amount of work an organization could produce.

"There is a limit to what students can do to support the things they believe in," Ryan said.

Michael Wilson, who identified himself as a student with no ties to any student organizations, asked the panel to keep the student budgets in mind when revamping the fees structure.

"It's all economics," he said, pointing out that many students are trying to get through school as quickly and inexpensively as possible.

The task force will consider recommendations and ideas presented at the hearings in formulating student fees proposals to the regents in December.

A copy of the Wednesday hearing will be on file at the office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Panel members included Richard Flynn, director of the UNO Health, Physical Education and Recreation Dept.; Sybil Sedivy, UNMC student affairs advisor for the College of Nursing, and Dennis Martin, UNL student.

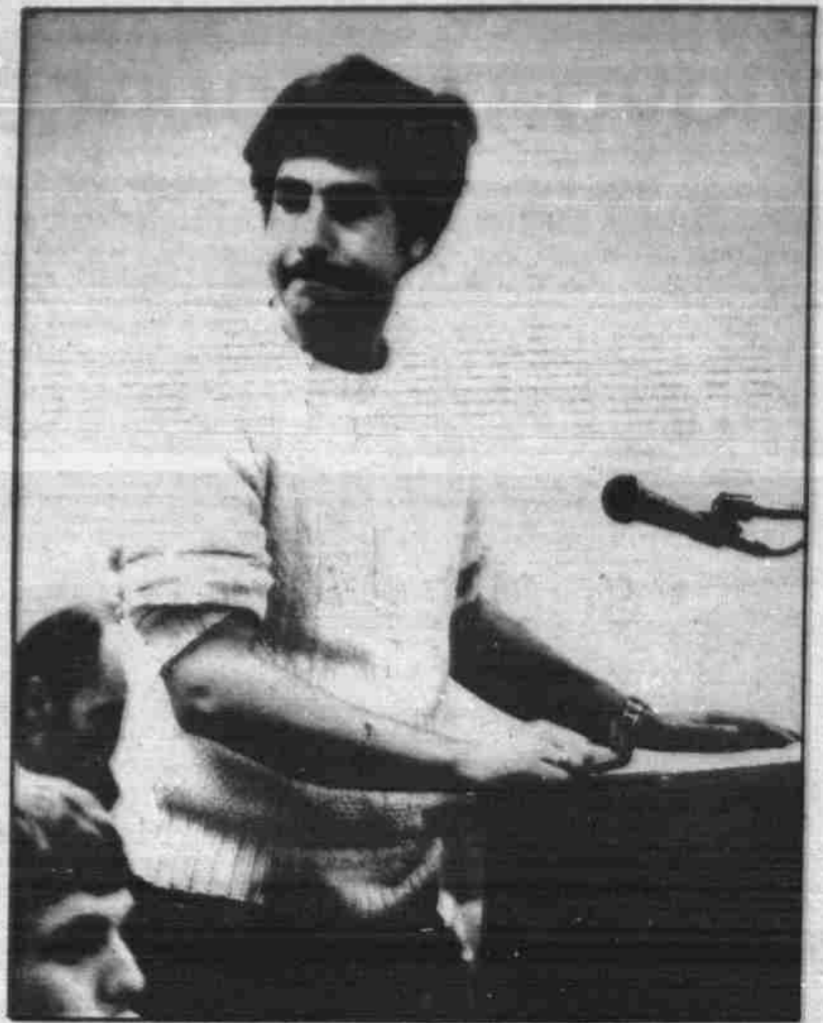


Photo by Bob Pearson

Richard Drucker testified Wednesday in defense of decisions made by the Fees Allocation Board.

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# Civil Liberties Union examines concert procedures

By Brenda Moskovits

A warning to Crosby, Stills and Nash concert fans not to bring parcels into the Sports Complex during the upcoming concert is being examined for possible rights violations.

The procedure to be used at the Oct. 28 concert will be the same as at the September 15 Fleetwood Mac concert, according to Robert Edmunds, University Police captain. It also is being scrutinized by the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union (CLU) as a violation of constitutional

rights, according to Barbara Gaither, CLU executive director.

According to Edmunds, Fleetwood Mac fans "were forewarned through the media not to bring parcels into the building," and signs to that effect were posted outside the building.

"If they had something (a package) that looked maybe like a six-pack of beer, they were told they would have to return it to their vehicle." Concert-goers also were asked

to open their purses and pockets to check for cans and bottles, he said.

No arrests were made at the concert for illegal possession of controlled substances but marijuana, alcohol and questionable items were confiscated from people entering, he said.

One woman was arrested by university police officers for public intoxication and was later taken to a hospital, he said.

### Violation of right

Gaither said "the situation described to me is a violation of people's rights. We can't bring action unless someone who is affected contacts us."

One individual contacted her office and was advised to find others with similar sentiments and call, but no one has done so.

"If it's a search and seizure procedure... it is illegal," she said. Advance media warning is "more evidence that they were doing an indiscriminate type of searching," she said.

Edmunds said, however, "it's against the state law to consume alcohol on state property. The law is the consumption and not the possession."

It isn't even logical to permit someone into a place like that (with alcohol) and assume they're not going to drink it."

### Frisbee confiscated

Fleetwood Mac "requested that nothing but cameras and binoculars be permitted in the vicinity. The majority of concerts don't want these things, so we try and comply. If it's their wish, it's also our wish," he said. A frisbee was among the items confiscated at the concert.

Efforts to keep alcohol out of the sports complex were not altogether effective, Edmunds said. Empty bottles and cans were found in the building after the concert.

Consideration also is being given to printing on future tickets that parcels will not be allowed in the building, he said.

Gaither said a situation similar to this happened four or five years ago with Pershing Auditorium. The CLU distributed pamphlets at the auditorium door, informing concert-goers of their rights.

"People didn't know what they could object to. We might do that (here) rather than take legal action," she said.

Observers from the Civil Liberties Union may be at the Crosby, Stills and Nash concert, to evaluate the situation, she said.



# Downtown banks dump free checking

By Tam Lee

Students will have no nearby bank to switch to when three downtown Lincoln banks discontinue free checking in November.

First National Lincoln, National Bank of Commerce and Citibank are starting service charges on checking accounts with low balances because they cost the bank too much to maintain the account, according to bank officials.

The closest bank to UNL offering free checking will be West Gate Bank, 1204 West O St.

The other banks in town with free checking are Union Bank 3643 S. 48th St. and Cornhusker Bank at 14th and Cornhusker Highway.

Cornhusker will decide whether to continue free checking at a meeting next week.

"It costs the bank somewhere between \$40 and \$58 a year to maintain a checking account," according to Ross Hecht, NBC senior vice president-consumer division.

### \$100 minimum

NBC will charge \$1 a month and 10 cents a check on accounts that fall below \$100, Hecht said. If the

account has a minimum of \$100 or averages at least \$200, there is no service charge, he said. He estimated the check charge will affect 20 to 25 percent of the customers.

First National will offer free checking for customers who keep a minimum monthly balance of \$300 in checking accounts, according to vice president Don Dischner.

If the balance falls below \$300, the customer will be charged 50 cents a month and 10 cents a check, Dischner explained.

But the bank also will credit a five percent earnings allowance based on the account's average balance during the month, he said. The credit is used only to offset service charges. It is not interest on the account, he said.

For example, if an account averages \$100 over the month and 10 checks were written, the customer would be charged \$1 for the checks plus the 50 cents maintenance charge. An earnings allowance of 42 cents would be credited to the account and the customer would end up paying \$1.08, instead of \$1.50 for the checking account, Dischner said.

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