

editorial

Fee question silently simmers on the back burner

The student fee controversy—it is much like a baked alaska.

When it came, it was flaming. People kept adding brandy, it flamed higher and higher.

Finally, when it reached the NU Board of Regents table, it was going strong.

Now, the issue has been spiked and is flaring again.

Tuesday night, about a dozen people met to discuss mandatory student fees. According to ASUN president Greg Johnson, it was not under the auspices of ASUN.

The effort was admirable. The principle was good.

But when the controversy is spiked

behind our backs, it tends to leave a bitter taste in your mouth.

The student fee controversy has been a bitter, hot one, indeed.

At issue is the future of speakers—such as William Buckley and Jane Fonda—on our campus. There should be little question that these speakers benefit the students. They are an education, be it conservative or liberal.

In higher education, programs like the Union Program Council's Talks and Topics committee provided a perspective one does not always find in the classroom. Without mandatory fees there would be few, if any, outside speakers coming to UNL.

The cost of bringing quality speakers is too high for a single student, or even for a financially sound student group, to finance.

It is beneficial to be presented views different than ours. It can only broaden our horizons. And, it is true, some of our horizons need to be broadened.

What is unfortunate is that above-board discussion of the mandatory student fees issue has been lacking.

The Young Americans for Freedom raised the issue by writing letters and urging constituents to complain about the funding to the regents.

ASUN, in turn, has written a letter to the regents supporting the issue.

There it sits, amidst the regents. On which side of the table the regents sit is still unknown. There seems to be some support, some dissent.

Meanwhile, all that has been done visibly (which was by accident) is what Johnson said was a meeting of "students" to "give information" on "the fees question."

Granted, it looks clandestine. Granted, it is an effort.

But we need something more substantial.

Both sides of the issue have been publicly quiet.

The regents remain mum. All this silence is deafening.

Nebraska politicians are off and running in the race for office

As 1978 opens, talk among those involved in politics revolves around the upcoming congressional and the gubernatorial elections.

For the first time since Nebraska became a state in 1867, Democrats could win control of both the state's congressional delegation and the governorship, replacing the Republican party as the dominant party in Nebraska politics.

At the same time, a hotly contested primary battle is shaping up for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, a battle that may influence the direction of the Republican party.

I. Kent
wolgamott

Gov. J. James Exon, the dominant force in Nebraska politics for the last eight years, has announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate, hoping to join fellow Democrat Edward Zorinsky.

Exon is expected to run unopposed for the nomination, and must be considered a favorite to win.

At least two and possibly four Republicans will compete for the chance to oppose Exon in the general election.

Nebraska State Auditor Ray A.C. Johnson has announced his candidacy, as has Don Shasteen, former administrative assistant to retiring Sen. Carl Curtis.

Also mentioned as possible candidates for the nomination are: state Attorney General Paul Douglas and North Platte cattleman Jim Baldrige.

With Exon expected to capture the Senate seat, the race for the governorship takes on increasing importance as the best opportunity for the GOP to capture one of the three most important positions in the state.

The eventual Republican nominee will be called upon to assume a prominent leadership position in his party, filling a



vacuum created by the retirements of Sens. Curtis and Hruska.

The campaign has begun to heat with charges of factionalism and hierarchical control being made by one candidate and a pledge to spend up to \$300,000 to win the nomination from another.

Charles Thone, 1st District representative, must be considered the early front-runner for the Republican nomination, as he is the only candidate who has been elected on a large, areawide basis and has much greater name recognition than his opponents.

Thone is endorsed by Hruska.

Another Lincolnite, former Nebraska Wesleyan University President Vance Rogers also is seeking the GOP nod and has the endorsement of Curtis.

The two Lincoln residents are being challenged by two men from Nebraska's expansive 3rd Congressional District,

former North Platte Mayor Robert Phares and Stan Juelfs, a Kimball oilman.

Phares has raised the question of hierarchical control of the GOP, a control demonstrated and represented by the endorsements of Thone and Rogers.

Juelfs, a millionaire, has pledged to spend \$300,000 to compensate for his lack of name recognition.

Lt. Gov. Jerry Whalen has announced his intent to seek the top job, and it initially appeared he too would be unopposed in the primary. However, several possible opponents are being mentioned.

Among those said to be considering running for the Democratic nomination are Douglas County Commissioner Dan Lynch and Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff, a perennial figure on the Nebraska political scene.

As Thone gives up his seat to try for the governorship, the 1st District House race

becomes important as a political barometer of Nebraska.

If the Democrats can capture the seat along with the Senate position, they will control four of the five votes Nebraska has in Congress.

The Republicans would like to retain the seat to offset the Democratic majority in Washington and to help maintain their majority in the state.

State Sen. Douglas Bereuter of Utiča is the only announced candidate on the GOP ticket, but he is expected to be challenged in the primary, probably by his colleague in the Legislature, Loren Schmit of Bellwood.

On the Democratic side, three candidates are seeking the nomination. They are: Lancaster County Commissioner Bruce Hamilton; Hess Dyas, former Democratic state chairman and nominee for the 1st District; and Allen O'Donnell of Wayne, Democratic national committee-man.

In both the 2nd and 3rd Districts, incumbents are seeking re-election in what appears to be relatively "safe" elections.

Rep. John Cavanaugh has only one announced GOP opponent in the Omaha dominated 2nd District, Hal Daub, Douglas County Republican chairman, and is expected to be unopposed for the Democratic nomination for a second term in Washington.

The same situation exists for 3rd District Rep. Virginia Smith.

She has a probable opponent in Democrat Marilyn Fowler of Lexington, a member of the state Board of Education, and she is not expected to have opposition from within the party.

The outcome of these contests will undoubtedly alter the state's political complexion.

This could be the year in which the Democratic party takes firm control of the state of Nebraska or it could indicate a return to the Republican dominated past.

But whatever the outcome, these contests will make 1978 an interesting year in Nebraska politics.

letters to the editor

In reply to Tim Knott's letter to the editor in last semester's final issue of the Daily Nebraskan, we would like to take exception to his charge that the panel selection was "unfair".

(Editor's note: The panel concerned the Norden Dam project on the Niobrara River. It was sponsored by the UNL Geology Club.)

We believe that the panel members provided a well-balanced and informative discussion of the issues involved.

In regard to the showing of "an expensive promotional film which oversimplified many of the issues involved," we believe that two of the panel members,

William Wayne and Bruce Johnson, did a more than adequate job of exposing the oversimplifications.

Also, many additional objections to the project were discussed during the question-and-answer period following the formal presentations.

If Knott believes most of the issues surrounding the Norden Dam Project weren't touched, he wasn't listening.

In order to keep the program within the limits of an evening program, it was decided to construct a panel of four members, each presenting a 20-minute talk. This schedule was adhered to closely,

with what we believe were successful results.

Because of the small size of this panel, all groups involved in this issue, both pro and con, simply could not have been represented.

Finally, if Knott believes there might have been a pro-project prejudice in the selection of the panel, we would like to state that several of the organizers of the Geology Club's Norden Dam Debate support construction of the proposed dam, and several members oppose the project.

Val Kotrous
Sanford Sandy Kaplan

Co-chairmen UNL Geology
Club organizing committee

My name is Harlan Roeber, 21, and am serving one-and-one-half years in the reformatory.

I have no family and would appreciate a few pen pals.

I am really harmless and am in jail for burglary. I'm from Grand Island and a Libra.

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