

editorial

Anything is 'feasible' in student fee battle

Anything is "feasible."
That is the way it stands with the mandatory student fees question at NU.

The NU Board of Regents has the final say Saturday in what will happen to student fees.

They could vote to keep fees, flush them or maintain some.

But, in their usual manner, the regents are being their aloof, mystical selves. They refuse to take a stand until the meeting.

Meanwhile, back at the campus, students are rounding up support and opposition on the issue.

The regents will decide the issue.

At issue are funds for such things as Model United Nations, Art Lending Library, symphony productions, ASUN and the Daily Nebraskan.

Yes, even we are at stake. About 10 percent of our \$300,000 budget

comes from the fees in question. But, that is only \$3.42 of the \$66.50 paid each semester.

Students are paying for the bond indebtedness on such buildings as residence halls and student unions.

Where this money goes is much a mystery.

The Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group is urging a study of the Fund B money.

This also is recommended in the Universitywide Task Force on Student Fees' report. This is a good suggestion.

Some sort of accountability has to be installed into the Fund B system.

It definitely is lacking now.

What lurks in the depths of this part of student fees is unknown.

NUPIRG says it has investigated this issue for more than a year, and nothing has come of it.

A thorough study of Fund B is required. We hope the regents take this matter seriously and allow the students to know where their money is going.

As for letting the student retain control of the mere \$3.42 they now can allocate, there should be no question.

The Fees Allocation Board has done a fine job in the past, and we are confident that ASUN's proposed allocation committee can do the same, if not better, job.

The regents should look at the issue of student fees carefully, giving it more than usual consideration.

Petitions supporting the student fees have been circulating like vultures.

If the visibility of the petitions indicate the number of signatures they should get, it should be an impressive presentation.

More students, if they care about the issue, should be present at the Saturday regents' meeting.

They need to show they care—one way or the other.

Good job

ASUN, Nebraska Public Interest Research Group; the Residence Hall Association and the Council on Student Life should be commended for doing all the work on the student fee issue.

Their time is valuable, as any students, but they are doing it for a cause they believe is worthwhile—the future of valuable university programs.

Fees elimination hooks free enterprise and prostitution

I encountered my old friend Harthouse ascending the union south steps. He was reading a pamphlet titled, "Re-elect Jimmy in November."

"Harthouse!" I cried, shaking him from his trance.

He showed little surprise. "Thought you were off newspapering."

"I am," I confirmed. "But I came to town on my day off to see what's become of the campus. Say, haven't you graduated yet?"

He shook his head. "Next May."

"That's what you said five years ago. Why the delay?"

"Politics. I'm ASUN second vice president, you know."

I stifled a yawn. "What has been happening around here the last couple of years?"

"Watch," he said, as we reached the outer door. I noticed a tired-looking woman inside a ticket counter. Harthouse gave her two quarters, and she stamped our hands with fluorescent ink.

roy walden

"What gives?" I asked.
"Free enterprise." We pushed through a smelly crowd to a booth in the South Crib. My companion gestured to a blue-jeaned waitress. "Two beers."

He anticipated my question. "The union put this bar in after the regents cut off student fees. That's why they charge admission."
"All fees?"

"Just the ones for programs. They still collect for bond indebtedness. But otherwise, the only student fees are what students want to contribute."

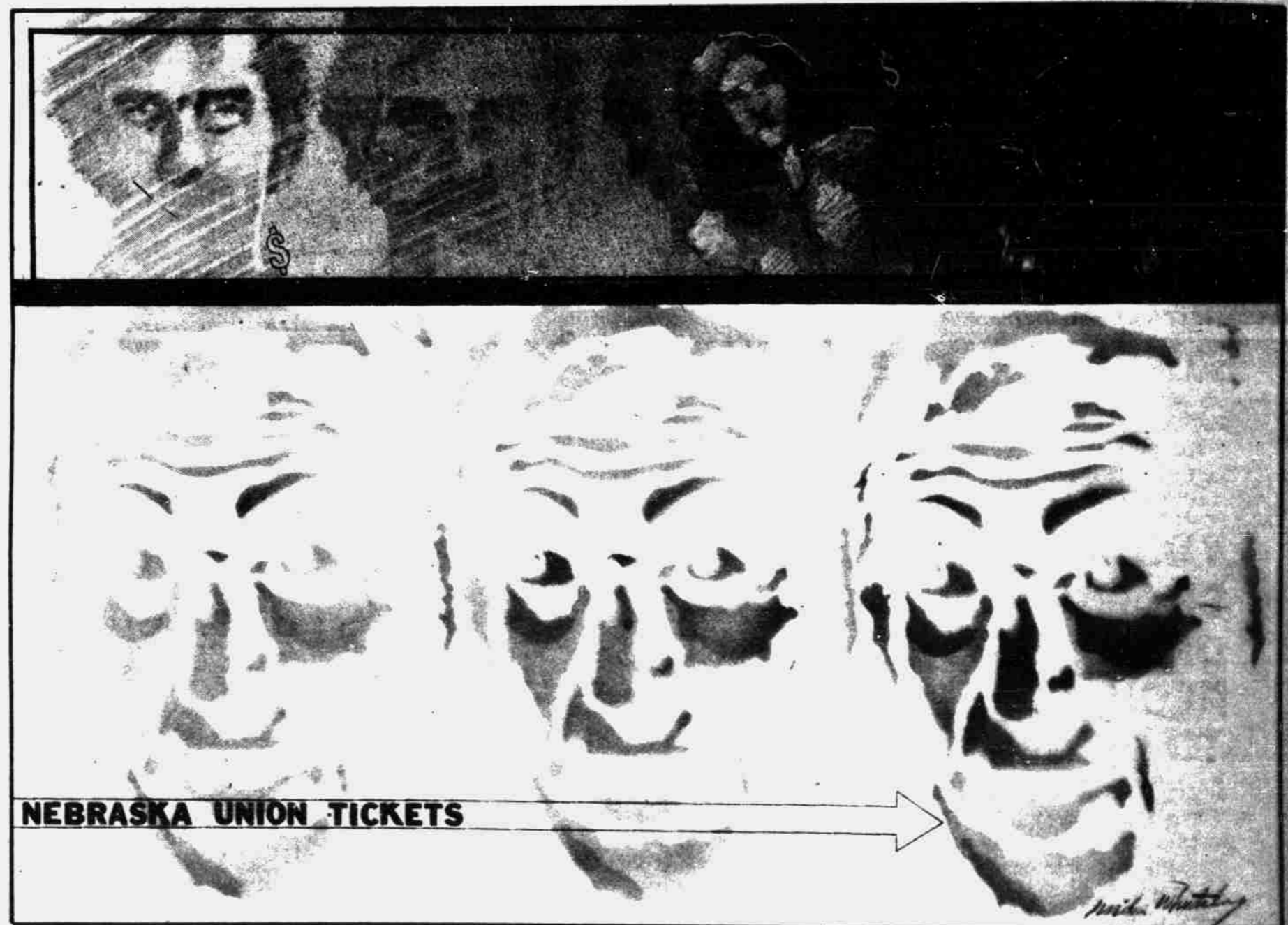
"That's disastrous!" I exclaimed. "That wipes out all the organizations, speakers, films, concerts... everything."

"You'd be surprised, actually. There still is seed money for new organizations, but that is cut after the first year. A lot of groups died out quick. But some are making a go of it by raising their own money."

"How did all this happen?"
"Well, you still were here in '78 when they set up the seed money idea and started to switch to voluntary fees. That was because of the speakers that year... Jane Fonda, I think."

"Yeah, but they had a right-winger to balance it politically."

"Didn't matter. The next year the speaker committee loaded the program with conservatives to appease the regents: a Klan grand wizard, a Bircher, a Nazi editor on parole, two Elks and a Republican. As it turned out, it was a moderate Republican,



so the regents cut off fees altogether. The upshot of this..."

Harthouse was shushed at this point by a curvaceous, thirtyish woman in a low-cut black evening gown who slinked into the seat beside him. She rapidly blinked her makeup-caked eyelids. "How about it, lover."

"Not now," he told her casually.

"What..." I began as she walked away.

"Fund raising," he explained.

"Obviously, but..."

"For the Women's Resource Center. When their fee money was cut, they set up a partnership with COYOTE, the hookers' liberation movement."

"Feminists and prostitutes? I can't buy that."

"Strictly business."

"How are the other groups coping?"

"Lotteries are the big thing. There's one going all the time. They raffle cars, cameras, TV sets. Stuff like that. Then there are the weird ones. RHA raffled a free weekend in an apartment. The men's crew raffled a road trip with the women's crew, and vice versa. Now ASUN is raffling its president."

"Huh?"

"Just the job, not the person. The winner becomes ASUN president and student regent for the semester. It beats elections."

"What about speakers?"

"Bigger than ever. Of course, the programs are a bit different because you have to pay admission. Most groups bring in their own speakers for propaganda, usually extremists from one end or the other. Other than that, the union books them for their value as a drawing card."

"Who, for example?"

"Well, last week there was Prof. Bubbles LaRue who lectured on astrophysics."

"What kind of audience did that have?"

"Packed full. She did a strip tease and a lewd dance with a telescope."

"I don't want to hear about it."

"Had 'em rolling in the aisles when she..."

"Never mind! Is there no sanity left here?"

"Not that you would notice."

"Well," I sighed as we slid out of the booth, "at least a few worthwhile groups have money to operate."

"Wrong again," he said. "They're all so busy making money that no one has time to do any work."

It's your return that counts!
March of Dimes

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