

Carter renews support for increased aid

By Ron Ruggless
Editor in Chief



Photo by Steve Boerner

President Jimmy Carter

Washington—President Carter renewed his support of increasing student aid in higher education here Friday, and took a swing at the tax credit proposal now in Congress.

"The tax credit plan is very expensive and not focused well," Carter said during a briefing with about 200 college editors. "It is a boon to the very affluent families."

Carter's student aid plan, introduced by Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano, would increase student aid programs from \$3.8 billion this year to \$5.2 billion in fiscal 1979.

Carter said his plan would be distributed through the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant program, the college work study program and the Guaranteed Student Loan program.

Rep. Virginia Smith (R-Neb.) said she opposes Carter's plan.

"The tax credit plan was not in his proposal," she said.

"He had to come out quickly with an alternative idea."

Smith, along with Rep. Charles Thone (R-Neb.), helped co-sponsor the tax credit plan.

It would allow parents to check off \$250 in a tuition tax credit on their income tax for each student in higher education.

Carter said the tax credit does not help the middle-income families. Middle-income families fall into the \$16,000 to \$25,000 annual salary range.

The point of dispute lies in the administrative costs of Carter's program.

Smith argues that the tax credit is much simpler than what Carter is proposing. Carter, on the other hand, says the tax credit would unnecessarily fragment education policy among congressional committees.

In other subjects at the Friday press conference, Carter commented on the following:

—**ERA.** "I strongly favor ratification of ERA (the Equal Rights Amendment)."

—**Abortion.** "The government should find every possible alternative to abortion."

—**Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.** The SALT talks are making good steady progress," the president said. If it is required to speed the talks, Carter said he is willing to meet with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

—**Fed Head.** Carter emphasized his support for G. William Miller, who was approved by the Senate to head the Federal Reserve Board. "He has an excellent understanding of economics in every respect."

—**Dollar power.** In the face of a recent decline in American dollar value against the Japanese yen and the German mark, Carter said "the basic elements of economic theory have been forgotten in the past few weeks."

—**Running in 1980.** "I will not project I will or will not run," Carter said. "There are some things over which I have no control. He added that there have been no two-full-term presidents since Dwight Eisenhower."

—**Merit appointments.** Carter said he is "deeply committed" to making governmental appointments on the basis of merit, not personal or party servitude. He said he finds the use of five-member "blue-ribbon" selection panels an equitable way to select individuals for positions.

Marathon dancers twist and hustle to wild finale

By Kris Hansen

"Midnight! We've done it!" And with a resounding yell and a cascade of balloons couples in the KLMS-Chi Phi Dance Marathon for Muscular Dystrophy leaped, whirled collapsed and screamed to a halt.

Forty-four couples entered the 30-hour event last weekend in the Union Ballroom. Forty-one couples completed the grueling course.

The dance started at 6 p.m. to the music of Cottonwood Electric Rhythm and Blues. The dancers promptly forgot all intentions of saving themselves and stomped with happy abandon. Balloons and frisbees soared through the air, and the ice bowls placed around the room were ignored.

Most of the dancers were UNL college students but they were joined by several junior high students. Two seventh-graders, Tina Laboski and Debbie Meyers, taught the contestants the "Alligator" and soon had them rolling on the floor and kicking their feet to the beat.

Three hours later Bandit replaced Cottonwood and the music grew louder. The contestants and spectators broke out cotton for earplugs and the sweating dancers paid more attention to the ice bowls. After a dance lesson from the Arthur Murray School of Dance, pizza arrived and the feast began.

Essence took over at midnight and the slower beat offered relief for aching feet. Ice fights began and balloons were twisted into absurd figures, the rowdy crowd following with a rousing chorus of "Redneck



UNL canceling three optometry contracts

Contacts with three out-of-state private colleges enabling Nebraskans to study optometry at resident tuition rates are unconstitutional and have been canceled, said Rick Lolkus, UNL's pre-optometry adviser.

Contract cancellation came after a March 1 Daily Nebraskan story about optometry contracts, Lolkus said.

Nebraska has no optometry school. Before the cancellations, UNL had contracts with five schools and openings for from 20 to 25 Nebraskans to study optometry at resident rates outside the state.

The cancelled contracts involved Pacific University in Oregon, Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, and Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton.

The Nebraska constitution does not allow state money to reimburse private operations, such as those three colleges, Mark Killenbeck UNL administration assistant of developmental disabilities said.

"There are different kinds of agreements," said Lolkus, but the contracts with these three schools did involve state funds.

"Evidently, this discovery that contracts were illegal happened last fall and we weren't informed until now," Lolkus said.

Killenbeck said that investigation into the contracts' unconstitutionality began last summer.

The attorney general was consulted in the fall, and action was taken last week.

"Why they decided to do something about it now, I don't know," he said.

UNL still has contracts with Ohio State University and the University of Houston, both public colleges. Each contract allows for five Nebraska students, he said.

Mother."

At 4 a.m. everyone tried to catch a little sleep. Bodies in sleeping bags were strewn over lounge furniture all over the second floor of the union. All too soon it was time to rise. Groans could be heard as the dancers struggled to their feet, ready to dance by 8 a.m. After a quick breakfast of doughnuts, The Statesmen began playing and the dancers were off to an energetic start.

Hustles, circle dances and trains were the order of the day. An adventurous group led half of the dancers on a chain tour of the union, startling unsuspecting cartoon watchers in the lobby.

The Mysterious Mustache (belonging to Rob Hager, KLMS disc jockey and marathon announcer) kept the dancers moving, along with alternately supplying and destroying balloons.

Heartmummer took over at noon, and the slower beat had the couples swaying listlessly in their tracks. Backaches set in and the occasional 15-minute breaks were used for backrubs.

The balloons returned to raise sagging spirits — dueling, popping, snapping, dancing and hair decorations kept the section lively.

The traditional goldfish swallow — one for every \$1000 earned up to that point — followed at 4 p.m. and 11 hardy volunteers helped the fish "wiggle all the way down."

After a long rest while faulty equipment was repaired, the marathoners stepped out to Lyon Hill. The beat was fast and revived the group. The banjo strumming prompted wild swinging and frantic jigs.

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Use for discretionary fund undetermined

A \$650,000 regent's discretionary fund recommended by the Nebraska Legislature Appropriations Committee Friday probably will be used for instruction, rather than construction, said Regent Edward Schwartzkopf of Lincoln.

Although Schwartzkopf said he wanted to see the final budget before he decides how to spend the money, "our first priority is still a 9 percent increase in faculty salaries and a 7 percent increase for other university employees," he said.

The committee's recommendation includes a 6.5 percent increase in salaries.

The committee has not yet completed its recommendation for NU capital con-

struction, but chairman Jerome Warner said there is no money for new construction. The committee probably will finish its budget recommendations today or Tuesday.

Schwartzkopf said one possibility for getting more money for construction would be to substantiate the university's cash reserves for the state money earmarked for construction. The cash reserves would then be used for construction and the state funds would be transferred to university operations.

"Capital construction is a one-shot deal. You don't want to base your next year's budget on it," he said. The governor and

the Appropriations Committee base each year's budget recommendations on the previous year's budget, he said.

In addition to the \$650,000 discretionary fund for the regents, the committee recommended \$58.7 million for UNL, which includes \$17.7 million for the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources; \$29.3 million for the NU Medical Center; \$14.9 million for UNO and \$4.3 million for the NU central administration.

The Committee's budget is almost identical to the one Gov. J. James Exon proposed, but \$6.4 million short of NU's request of \$114.2 million.

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