

Reduced air fares need prior plans

By Gail Stork



UNL students longing for balmy breezes and premature suntans this spring break can take advantage of the airlines' Freedom Fare economy rate—if they have planned months in advance.

Freedom Fare, offered by all major airlines, is a 30 percent reduction of coach price if tickets are purchased early and the vacationer plans a long trip, said Gladys Fouts, United Airlines sales agent.

Reservations must be made at least a week in advance to qualify for the reduced fare, but most flights especially to resort areas—fill up long before that, according to Dee Norman, Frontier Airlines reservation sales representative.

"Las Vegas reservations need a month in advance minimum. Most resort places are filled two to four months ahead," Norman said.

Ticket agents suggest customers call for reservations as soon as they have tentative dates, she said.

Fouts said Freedom Fare flyers must stay at least seven and no more than 45 days and must pick up their tickets a week to a month in advance. They also must stay at their destination over a Saturday.

A new 40 percent reduction will go into effect in late March for weekday travelers she said, but the 30 percent reduction still will apply to weekend flights.

Norman said the number of Freedom Fare passengers a flight is set by the Civil Aeronautics Board and usually varies. However, the requirements are the same for all airlines that offer the reduced fare, she said.

Airlines always have had some excursion rate, Norman said, but during the U. S. Bicentennial it was renamed Freedom Fare.

The CAB Standardizes the Freedom Fare program to limit airline competition and eliminate rate confusion, she said.

Although the airlines advertise the reduced rate, Norman said she gets calls daily from people who do not realize they have to book ahead.

Fouts said Freedom Fare advertising is especially heavy now with new fares effective in March.

Jill Richardson, travel consultant at Travel Unlimited, said she informs people who qualify for the lower rate so they may change plans.

Pleasure travelers use the fare most frequently because businessmen often do not know their schedules in advance, she said.

"A week in advance is sometimes enough, but it depends on where you go. Chicago, yes—Las Vegas, no," Richardson said.

UNL student Cyndee Swanson said she has used the fare several times, but it is hard to know at the beginning of the semester when final exams will be over.

"The sneaky thing about it (the fare) is that it fills up really fast," Swanson said. "They told me I'd have to call in September to fly home in December."

Nevertheless, the Freedom Fare is a bargain for students, she said.

"They have the same food and everything," she said. "It's just a time limit, basically."

Survey is chance to make diagnosis

UNL students have a chance this week to diagnose services offered at the University Health Center by filling out a survey form.

The survey, available at a booth in the north lobby of the union and from health aides is sponsored by the Student Council on Health.

Council member Susan Blake said the survey would be taken through this Friday because the council must present the results at the Fees Allocation Board meeting March 27.

FAB already voted against a \$2.79 increase in student fees requested by the center and tentatively decided to recommend that the center receive the same amount in 1978-1979 as it received this year.

The elimination of family planning physicians and specialty clinics, such as dermatology, allergy, and gynecology, along with increased charges for dental, after hours, lab, and inpatient services are being considered in case FAB turns down the request, Blake said.

"It's important for the students to respond to this survey, because this is probably their last chance to have some input," she said.

Blake said the survey's purpose is to determine whether students would support an increase in the \$26.92 now charged a full-time student each semester in student fees, and what services students believe are most needed in case of cutback.

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