

# editorial

## Profitable ideas cloud University Bookstore's future

As long as the Nebraska Union is trying to get a lot of things together, why not include the University Bookstore as well?

That seems to be the sentiment of the Fees Allocation Board, and union officials seem to accept the idea.

Suggestions for latching onto the bookstore in the basement to help the union hold the line on future student fee increases have included charging the bookstore rent of incorporating it into union services.

As Al Bennett, union director, explained, before making a move as significant as this, it is necessary to work through the proper administrative channels and to examine how this would fit into the union's future plans.

We agree with this cautious approach.

If the union would charge their normal rental fee of \$4 per square foot, the bookstore would be paying out at least \$40,000 annually.

According to University Bookstore manager Larry Behrens, this extra cost most likely would be absorbed in higher prices. Obviously, this would remove the 5 percent discount the bookstore offers to students purchasing more than \$30 of supplies and books, or at the very least, negate the savings the discount

allows.

On the other hand, if the bookstore was put under the union's willing wing, it is hard to predict what would happen. Knowing the union's financially troubled past, we doubt that Bennett and associates would make the fatal mistake of undertaking an operation that would put an albatross around their necks.

But considering that the union is still fighting a deficit and has a host of revenue-generating projects in mind, we hesitate to see the union undertake this project without a lot of study.

Another consideration is that even if the union would take over the bookstore, profits would be used to reduce the union's deficit and to curtail possible student fee increases.

Either way, students would lose the benefits they now enjoy at the bookstore.

Since FAB has broached this idea, it is unlikely that it will die a quiet death. The chances of the bookstore in the union basement operating the way it always has probably are nil.

In the interest of keeping the bookstore as serviceable as possible to students, we suggest that the feasibility study to be conducted on the bookstore's future consider several alternatives besides charging rent and giving the bookstore to the union.

For example, maybe the bookstore could be relocated in another rent-free space and its basement location in the union be rented out to other businesses.

Possibly, the union could investigate charging a reduced rental rate to the bookstore, since the bookstore is a widely used student service.

We advise the union to keep up their cautious attitude toward incorporating the bookstore.

At all costs, or better, at no cost, it should be remembered that the bookstore is a student service and should offer the lowest possible prices to its clients.

## Engineer fair dome-inates this weekend at university

An object straight out of "Star Wars" is the earthly landscape near the Nebraska Engineering Center.

Darth Vader, R2D2 and C3PO are absent. Luke Skywalker is not there either.

But, thanks to a dedicated group of engineering students, E-Fair is now upon us. Please don't be frightened, E-Fair is not an evil princess, but instead, is the College of Engineering and Technology's Engineering Fair.

It starts today with an open house and runs through Friday.

This has become an annual event for the college. One that takes a great deal of organization and effort to plan, coordinate and pull off. Some 50 student projects — includ-

ing the interplanetary dome skeleton — will be on display for viewing and judging.

On display is future and current technology by the future engineers.

This is not only an opportunity for students to display their creativity and genius, but it gives the public a chance to see what local talent and instruction can produce. Any university department can use a bit of public relations to boost its credibility and stature among other institutions and in the job market.

And, this time, it is the students who are doing much of the planning and the organizing of this effort.

These students are to be commended for their hours and thoughts put into E-Fair.

## Republicans bid for move from Legislature to Congress

Inflation and problems which result from it are the main issues facing the nation according to the two candidates for the Republican nomination for the First Congressional District.

State Senators Douglas Bereuter of Utica and Loran Schmit of Bellwood said in separate interviews that they believed economic difficulties pose the greatest problems for the country.

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"Government spending is a major cause of inflation," Bereuter said. "But it is difficult to deal with due to high unemployment."

Schmit attacked government programs which he termed "unnecessary."

"We have to stop spending money we don't have for things people don't want to solve problems that aren't there," Schmit said.

The candidates split on their views on the differences between them.

"First of all, I'm more conservative on fiscal matters," Schmit said. But he added

he was liberal in areas where people are concerned, and listed bills he had sponsored for social programs.

"I oppose the extension of government into the private sector," Schmit said. "I understand agriculture and business better than all the other candidates and I understand what happens when government interferes in businesses."

Schmit said Bereuter's background was more government-oriented. He cited two bills sponsored by Bereuter—a land use bill and a bill which removed billboards from roadsides, which Schmit opposes as increased government regulation.

Bereuter said the major difference between himself and Schmit is their method of operation.

"I prefer to do and do my most effective work in committee," Bereuter said.

"I have gone to substantial lengths to keep lobbyists at arm's length and have taken pains not to be too closely associated with any special interest groups," he said.

Bereuter said he was the only senator in the state legislature who always took a position on bills by voting on its final passage, even though "it may be politically expedient to hide in the weeds."

"My biggest single emphasis is to make government work more efficiently and reduce regulation to business and

consumers," Bereuter said.

Both candidates are negative in their appraisal of President Carter's performance.

"A principal issue is going to evolve around the inattentiveness of the Carter administration to the needs of the people and its inability to reach a decision," Schmit said.



Photos courtesy of the candidates  
Douglas Bereuter (left) and Loran Schmit (right), Republican candidates for the First Congressional District, currently are serving terms as senators in the Nebraska Legislature.

The coal strike and farm legislation are examples of Carter's inability to reach a decision, Schmit said.

Bereuter said he felt the Carter administration is a disappointment for most people and has accomplished little.

Bereuter also criticized the White House staff as being generally "short on talent" and said Carter brought in too many staff members with no Washington experience.

Both agreed that increased agricultural exports are necessary to aid the nation's farmers.

The candidates differ on abortion and marijuana decriminalization.

Schmit said he opposes abortion except to save the mother's life. He said he has introduced legislative support measures to

occasional user to be stuck with a felony record," he said.

Schmit said decriminalization had some merit, but he felt "it is important we do not take action which might encourage our young people to say 'well I can handle this thing.'"

Both agree that the Middle East problem is difficult, but they disagree on the U.S. role in the conflict.

Bereuter said he believed the United States should keep communications channels open between the Middle East nations and should provide "some kind of balance in military power through arms sales."

Schmit said the United States has abdicated its leadership role in the Middle East and Israel has become the dominant force in that part of the world.

## letters to the editor

You entertainment section has always been full of absurd "reviews" but the attack on the drawings of Christopher Hickey (3-6-78) was so unprofessional that I felt a need to write.

Starting with the first part of the title "Drawings display art class taboos." What sort of art class did Mr. Williams ever take? If he had ever been told not to erase, smudge or leave heavy outlines it could only have been a beginning exercise taught to make the students respect the lines that are drawn.

I also can tell that the author has not realized that there are things involved in these sensitive pieces called content and

concept.

I have come to believe that the only thing the author was concerned about were the prices of the pieces which by all means were not overpriced. If he wants a student discount he should shop elsewhere.

All said, I feel that Mr. Williams has absolutely no credentials. He has shown us time and time again no sensitivity or knowledge about art. Also, has he not heard that such slander has been taken to court? Being glib and clever does not a good critic make.

Ursula Werner  
Nebraska alumnus