Voluntarily-funded speaker program built on paper

By Scott Behm

The University Program Council Talks and Topics Committee will continue its efforts to bring speakers to UNL according to Tony Warner, project coordinator for Campus Activities and Programs.

A decision last year by the NU Board of Regents eliminated student fee funding for anyone speaking on ideological or political issues.

Warner said speakers of this type will have to be funded by a voluntary program. He said extensive research was conducted, and a detailed four-to-five year budget has been drawn up for such a program.

"We've built a program, at least on paper, that we feel can logically be a selfsupported speaker program," he said.

Warner said the voluntary program would depend on fund drives, grant solicitations, and a fee check-off system for students.

The check-off system would be set up so students could decide whether to help pay for speakers when they register for classes, he said.

"The whole point of having a check-off system is that the student who checks off and is willing to pay the amount, whether it is one or two dollars, is going to get into all the speakers free," Warner said.

Computer-run

He said the system would be run by a computer which would process and transfer the check-off information. Warner estimates initial costs would be around \$4,000.

Although money could be raised for the check-off system through ticket sales at the first speaker, a delay in the actual program may result because registration forms are

printed almost one semester prior to use, said Warner. The only problem with the program, he said, is that the committee "can't call a big-name speaker without having the money already in our pocket to pay him."

He said because of the regents' action, there is no money for a starting base.

May apply for grant

Talks and Topcis Committee Chairman J. B. Milliken said his committee is considering applying for a \$10,000 grant from the NU Foundation.

Milliken said he will meet with UNL Chancellor Roy Young and the chairman of the NU Foundation Grant Committee September 21 to discuss the proposed speaker program.

"The \$10,000 is an arbitrary figure we came up with last spring and worked with this summer. . . we're trying to be as reasonable as possible and still have a good program," Milliken said.

The committee worked this summer contacting big-name speakers for engagements, Milliken said, but as yet none had accepted.

Among those contacted were the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Ronald Reagan, Sen. Ted Kennedy, Henry Kissinger, Leon Jaworski, Warren Burger, and Barbara Walters.

Administration encouraging When asked about the administration's feelings on the voluntary program, Milliken

Tuition, room and board rates

said, "we've gotten nothing but encouragement from the administration, and they've tried to help us any way the can."

Millkien said he did not feel prepared to say if the administration would help with funding.

Young was not available for comment Wednesday.

Milliken said there was no truth to a rumor that the committee was planning to bring Jane Fonda to UNL again this year. Fonda's student fee-supported talk last vear began the apposition against mandatory funding for speakers.

"Jane Fond wouldn't come back on her own expense just because of her convictions. We can't afford her. I don't think she'd generate that much income after having her this last year," Milliken said.

"The regents effectively killed the speaker program, a major speaker program, by their decision. They alleviated the situation somewhat with their decision on political speakers, but it still doesn't give us the freedom to have the kind of programs we've had in the past, and I am worried that if nothing develops this semester, or at the latest, next semester, that the speakers program is going to be in serious trouble.

"We have to do something right away. We have to get a major speaker in and we have to get some money from someplace to keep it alive," he said.

Milliken said if students will support the speaker program again this year it should

Electronic blackboards talk

By Mary Fastenau

"Hello class, this is your blackboard speaking. Today I would like to show you the formula for a basic nuclear reaction."

Talking blackboards? It made sense to the NU Board of Regents Friday as they tentatively approved \$50,000 for research and experimentation with electronic blackboards.

The Bell Telephone Company demonstrated the blackboard during a regents committee meeting.

The Bell System pamphlet which advertises the blackboard explains that the surface of the board converts chalk strokes into signals that are transmitted over telephone lines. On the other end, the signals are reconverted and appear on a television monitor.

A second telephone line carries the voice portion of the lecture or dicussion. It also says students can discuss things with the instructor.

Ned Hedges, UNL vice-chancellor for academic affairs, said he thinks the blackboards help a lot of instructors and stu-

He explained that it was not always easy for teachers to change with technology. There is a need for equipment which allows lectures to be transmitted, but he said many teachers are not prepared for closed circuit television, which has been their only option.

Hedges said when using closed circuit televisions many instructors need technical assistance. This help may include voice training or special charts. Electronic blackboards would be much simpler for these instructors to adapt to he explained.

It also would be an asset to classes where there were a lot of problems placed on the board, such as math, engineering and accounting, he said.

Hedges said the system would help administrators in editing. He explained that there are times when the wording in documents needs to be changed, and it would be much simpler and more accurate to write it on the blackboard than to transfer all the messages by voice.

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climb as cost of living soars By Scott Nelson

Students paying tuition or room and board at the end of the month will find their college bills to be the highest ever. Prices are going up everywhere and, not surprisingly, the cost of a college education is no different.

An informal Daily Nebraskan survey shows that the average cost of attending a four-year institution in Nebraska has risen about seven percent in the last year.

Resident tuition alone has risen an average of six percent while the cost of room and board has climbed more than seven percent. These figures do not take into account the spiraling costs of books, supplies and transportation.

Lincoln's Union College just edged out Omaha's Creighton University as the most expensive in the state, although it raised its tuition only \$170, compared with Creighton's \$260 increase. Both schools have the distinction of being the only fouryear institutions in the state with tuition costs above \$4,000 a year.

The NU Board of Regents raised tuition for the second year in a row, this time from \$21 to \$22.50 per credit hour on both the Lincoln and Omaha campuses. Room and board went up \$70.00 at UNL.

Administrators blame the almost 10 percent inflation rate for increases in the price of education. They say they have trouble keeping up with the rising costs of food, supplies and utilities and salary increases.

Some relief for bill-weary students and parents may come from Washington. After months of debate, a bill in Congress which would allow a tax credit of up to \$250 for parents with children in college is nearing a final vote.

College costs in Nebraska

The following costs include full-time resident tuition, fees and room and board for one year.

Union College \$4,228 Creighton University 4,220 Midlands Lutheran College 3,850 Hastings College 3,840 Doane College 3,770 Nebraska Wesleyan University 3,760 3,695 Dana College 3,415 Concordia Teacher's College College of St. Mary's 3,155 UNL 1,941 1,728 Wayne State College Peru State College 1,690 1,646 Chadron State College Kearney State College 1,544

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