

## Christian activist gives views to UNL audience

By Mary Fastenau

They filled the chairs, lined the walls and crowded around the stage to listen.

Their attention centered on the man on the stage, Josh McDowell, Christian activist. The actions of the crowd of more than 1,300 were predictable as they laughed after planned witty comments and sat quietly when he delivered evidence for his convictions. McDowell's speech was sponsored by the Navigators-UNL, Campus Crusade for Christ, Baptist Student Union and Inter-University Christian Fellowship.

They had heard of his arrival for weeks, noting it on blackboards, lighted signs and people wearing sandwich boards.

McDowell said he arrived Wednesday night in the Nebraska Union ballroom, not to give answers, but to challenge students to be "intellectually honest" and look at evidence pointing to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

McDowell said he started his search as a second-year college student. The questions he asked were, "Who am I?", "Why am I here?", and "Where am I going?"

He stuck his hands in the pockets of his gray dress pants with a dramatic air and said he had been looking for freedom.

"True freedom," he said, "is to have the capacity to do what you have to do."

### Other ways

McDowell said he had looked at religion, education and prestige as ways to achieve freedom, but none of them had provided the answers.

"I wanted answers. I wanted something to change."

The man, who holds degrees in economic theory, languages and theology, explained that he found the answer with a small group of students who challenged him to refute Christianity.

That challenge resulted in two books and the conviction that has taken him to 550 universities in 53 countries over the last 10 years.

McDowell, however, refused to challenge members of the audience to refute Christianity in deference to the Board of Regents' policy on religion.

The announcement came as McDowell appeared to be reaching the high point of his speech.

"Usually I challenge people at this point," he said, "but I will honor the

Regents' request," after a moment's hesitation, he added, "Plus, I'll be at Pershing tomorrow night."

### Applause

The addition was greeted with rounds of applause.

McDowell said he had answered the challenge given to him by investigating the resurrection. His presentation of evidence, he explained, is often placed in the philosophy department, but he considered his documentation more closely related to history.

His historical documentation included the estimated size of the rock which blocked the door of the tomb, the documented diligence of the Roman guards who were threatened with death for leaving their posts and the intricate process of wrapping the body. This process, he claimed, left the body in a cement-like casing. He also noted significance in the broken seal on the tomb and the body clothes, which remained intact.

"Christianity is a body-less religion," he said.

Each of his reasons were accompanied by a humorous incident and dramatic movement on stage. Several times he became so involved in his words that he stepped to the very edge of the stage, seemingly unaware of anything but the message he delivered.

### Loves to laugh

McDowell explained his use of humor in delivering the message as he stated, "I enjoy life. I love to laugh."

He also claimed to love people who have convictions, even if they differ from his own viewpoints.

For people who are interested in his viewpoints, McDowell offered three books and 17 tapes for sale following his speech. If a student was unable to afford a tape, he made the vow to give them out free.

McDowell will appear tonight and Friday at Pershing Auditorium, each performance beginning at 8 p.m.

Although McDowell's arrival at UNL was sponsored by several student groups, some students have voiced concern about the separation of church and state. A previous visit by McDowell at UNL several years ago raised questions about the nature of his talks.



Josh McDowell

Daily Nebraskan Photo

## Regents' policy obligates speaker to alter message

Josh McDowell, Christian activist, agreed to modify his message on resurrection to comply with the NU Board of Regents' policy on religion, according to the program consultant for Campus Activities and Programs.

Glen Maloney said McDowell and representatives of the groups sponsoring him attended a Wednesday afternoon meeting where they were presented with the policy and McDowell agreed to change his speech.

Maloney said the third section of the policy adopted July 14, 1973, applies to the meeting. The section reads:

"University facilities will not be available for any organized event or activity if one of its essential features is religious worship or testimony in any of its various forms. This in no way precludes the use of university facilities for entertainment, athletic competition, or private social and business activities by groups organized for religious activities."

McDowell agreed to make his presenta-

tion "an intellectual discussion, not a spiritual discussion," Maloney said.

Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs Richard Armstrong said there was a meeting with administration and faculty members last week when they developed a strategy to handle the situation.

"We agreed that the point of probable controversy would be the definition of 'testimony,'" Armstrong said.

Five years ago, when McDowell last appeared at UNL, he agreed to a similar arrangement, according to Daily Nebraskan files. However, post-speech reaction included a suit filed with ASUN charging the speaker with "a blatant violation of university policy" and a re-examination by the regents of its religion policy.

Jim Raglin, director of public affairs for the office of the NU president, said there would be no violation of policy if the speech were an "intellectual discussion of religion in general."

He said this precludes any religious worship ceremonies or testimony.

## CFA asks fee hike to maintain service quality

By Kathy Stokebrand

The Committee for Fees Allocation agreed Tuesday evening that for UNL to have the same quality of programs and services, student fees cannot be kept at their present level, according to committee members Rocky Yapp III and John Parsons.

"It's a well known fact that the (NU Board of) Regents wants to keep student fees the same next year or lower than they are now, but the committee is being more realistic," Parsons said.

Basic salary increases have to be given and recreation programs must have supervisors. Basic increases in services and programs make it inevitable that fees must be raised or services severely cut, said Parsons.

"I foresee a \$3 to \$4 increase in student fees per student per semester next year," said Yapp.

The committee approved a budget of \$170,143 for the Recreation Dept. for 1980-81. The department received \$146,160 last year.

"The increases were things that couldn't be cut," Parsons said. The only way to increase the income of the department is to

increase the entry fee for participation in the programs, which could cause fewer teams to enter, he said.

### Cuts made

Daniel Steller, recreation director, said, "We will not cut back on the things we need for maintenance."

Some cuts were made in the department's budget request, however. An outdoor exercise trail, a running club's allocation and new supervisors' jackets were among the items cut.

Earlier in the meeting, the committee approved an allocation recommendation of \$53,324 for the University Program Council. The council originally requested \$60,883, and last year received \$57,607.

Yapp disagreed with the recommendation and urged the committee to give the council at least the amount they received last year, if not more. He told the committee the cut was not justifiable and it was improper to pass the recommendation merely because it had been debated for so long.

Greg Venburg, UPC-City president, reminded the committee that speakers fees were included in the budget request this year whereas there were no allocations for

speakers last year.

### Fund A decreasing

Yapp said Fund B allocations are increasing while Fund A allocations, which students see the most, are decreasing.

According to the office of the vice chancellor for student affairs, student fees for Fund A shrank from \$199,200 in 1976-77 to \$145,009 in 1979-80. Fund B allocations rose from \$2,512,179 in 1976-77 to \$2,777,008 in 1979-80.

Fund A fee users include ASUN, UPC and the Daily Nebraskan. The Unions, the Student Health Center and the Debt Service receive Fund B fees.

Although the UPC request was cut, the CFA approved the \$15,000 the council asked for in a supplemental budget. The money is to be given to the Cultural Affairs Committee to help it provide quality cultural programs.

In 1978 the Regents said all programming for each campus must come from one office, so the Cultural Affairs Committee was cut from Fund A fees. Only UPC was given fees for programming at UNL.

The motion, which passed, requires the committee to set up its programs so the council can decide to which event it wishes

to contribute.

Richard Armstrong, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he felt the committee should go back to the regents and ask for direct appropriation to the Cultural Affairs Committee.

"I know the objective of the regent's decision was to limit programming to one organization. This may be doing that in their view. I don't have any better advice to offer," he said.

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