

# opinion/editorial

## UNL's budget should reflect unique duties

A resolution expressing a lack of confidence in the NU central administration will be presented Friday to the NU Board of Regents by the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The central administration, the coordinating administrative body for the three NU campuses—UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center,—was created after the university 10 years ago annexed the UNO campus, then in deep financial trouble.

It is highly unlikely that the regents will act to dissolve the so-called "systems office" which implements the policies set by the regents—who are responsible for all three campuses.

But the regents would be well advised to, at the very least, consider the problems the resolution highlights.

The problem, it seems to us, is not that of the central administration per se, but that since the system's inception, the UNL campus has been forced to take a back seat to the other campuses and to its own subdivision, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

According to figures from the Faculty Senate budget committee, the UNL budget from 1970-71 to 1979-80 has increased 125 percent, UNO's 224 percent, and the NU Medical Center's 314 percent. Functions have been shifted to other campuses. That, however, cannot account for the fact that during the last four years student credit hour production has increased 6 percent at UNL and fallen 4 percent at UNO.

Many try to explain the differences by saying UNO needed large

amounts of money when it became part of the university system. But that in itself does not justify taking money from UNL to better UNO.

Even within UNL, non-agricultural instruction and research budget has grown at only two-third the rate of the rest of UNL.

These inequities must be remedied if UNL is to maintain a quality faculty. Now, obviously, the faculty are disenchanted and frustrated.

The resolutions contain three points which are well within reason.

The first points out that the faculty supports the 5 percent budget increase which the regents will present to the Legislature in the spring.

The second calls for efforts to restore the recent reduction in UNL equipment, computer, teaching council and research council budgets.

These budgets must be restored if UNL is to fulfill the teaching, research and service roles that have been designated for it.

The third and perhaps most important point calls for a more effective method of setting the budgets and calls for faculty representation at each level of budget development.

The resolution also calls for the dissolution of the central administration, but if the second and third points are acted upon, there should be no need for the fourth.

In short, the regents need to recognize that UNL is the core of the university, that its teaching, research and service function make it the comprehensive educational institution of state, and that funding in line with those duties is necessary.

## Hostages may need Christmas spirit most

*Peace on earth, good will towards men.*

Though it is heard every Christmas, Americans have usually been able to think about that phrase in an outward sense.

They have been able to hope for peace in far away parts of the world, in places far removed from them. They have been able to hope for peace in countries whose name they could not pronounce.

But, this holiday season will be different. Yes, Christmas, 1979, has no precedent.

**tom prentiss**

We have been in military wars with countries during the Christmas season. We have been in cold wars with countries during the Christmas season.

But, we as a nation, have never been held hostage as we currently are being held in Tehran. Not at Christmas. Not ever.

AND IT IS a time of great frustration for the American people. Just discussing the Iranian situation with friends proved that. I'm sure talks you've had about it have been somewhat similar.

Some want to attack and try to free the hostages. Some want the United Nations to do something. Some want to wait the dilemma out.

But the most frustrating and saddening topic I find is that out 50 hostages may very likely spend Christmas under most trying circumstances.

Walking around the campus, you can see what students are doing to try and make the Christmas season a bit more personal.

College is a notoriously bad place to try and celebrate Christmas, because it's hard to find the time.

But, many of us are trying. Either by decorating windows with lights, putting up Christmas trees in our rooms or trying to find those old Christmas movies that we enjoyed so much as children. And still do.

Movies like *White Christmas* and *Miracle on 34th Street*.

If nothing changes, there will be no Christmas in Tehran. Not for our hostages.

THERE WILL be no trimming of trees and buying of presents for loved ones. Nor will there be the warm thought of people getting together to celebrate the holiday season.

No, our hostages will have other thoughts. Thoughts of staying alive.

For, Christmas 1979, may be better titled, "How the Ayatollah Stole Christmas."

And so, it is hard to hear the Christmas songs without thinking of the hostages.

Though the details of their captivity are vague, it is not a comforting thought to think they are at times blindfolded, handcuffed and may not be able to take regular baths.

And while this is an unfortunate predicament the U.S. finds itself in, there may be something we can do to ease the hostages' distress.

It was an idea passed onto me by Lloyd Schoolfield, 22, of North Platte. He said he was sending a Christmas card to the hostages.

Most of the time Christmas cards seem trivial to me. But, imagine the elation the hostages would get from receiving Christmas cards from the American people.

Schoolfield says he isn't making a political statement with his card. "I was just

wondering what it would be like to be sitting there, a hostage, and think—This is Christmas," he said.

HE SAID he just wanted the hostages to know that we were thinking about them. Lloyd said he heard on the radio that the mail was getting through.

Perhaps a Christmas card is the best action we can take. Protests will not help. Violence will not help.

In an already confusing situation that will seemingly become more complex, we should do something for the hostages. Something tangible to give them hope.

So if you want to wish a happy holiday season to some people who probably need it the most, here is the address.

Write to: Hostages  
c/o United States Embassy  
Tehran, Iran  
260 Takhte, Jamshid Ave.

The cost for airmail delivery is 31 cents a half ounce, Schoolfield said. It may cost more than a normal letter, but it also means more.

I don't know the chances of a card getting there before Christmas. But, chances are the hostages may be there past then anyway.

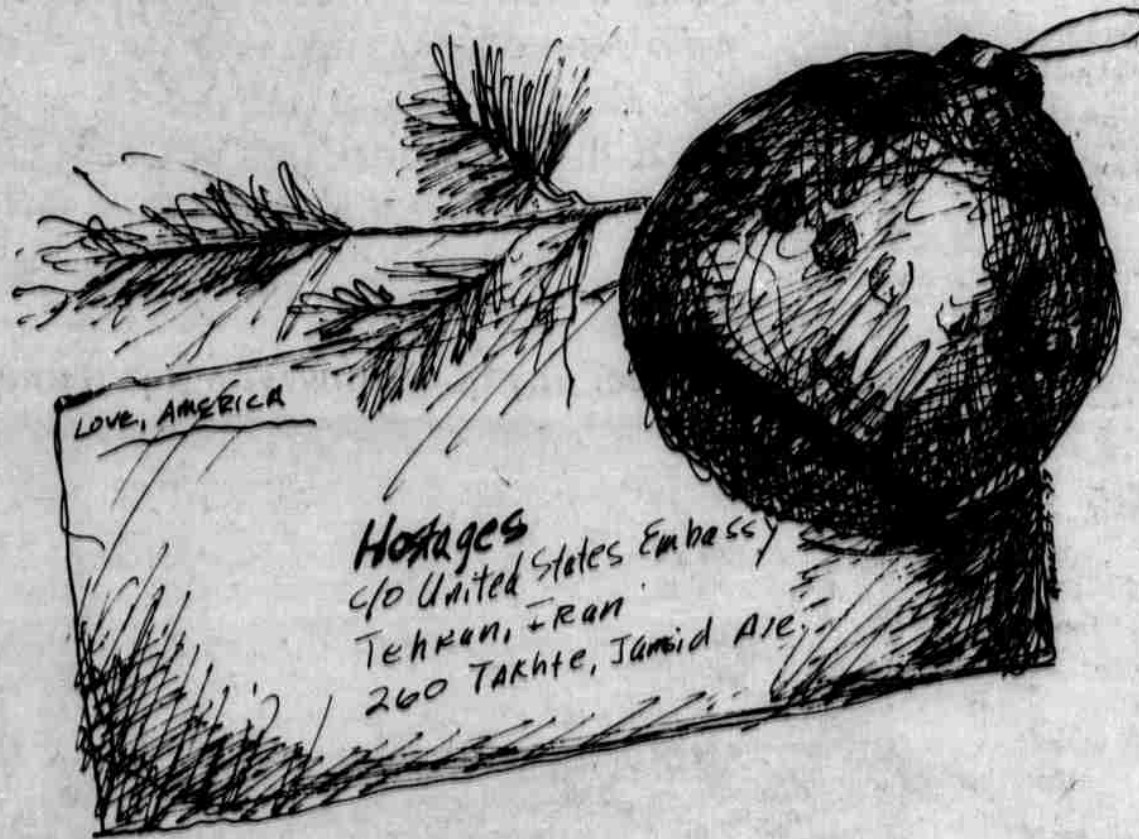
There is no need to write anything inflammatory in the card. Just something that may ease the anguish of being separated from families and loved ones during the holiday season.

Write something that you would like to hear if you were a hostage.

True, there is no guarantee that the cards will be delivered to the hostages. But, if you are tired of just watching and feeling helpless, then do something positive.

It won't take that long. It won't cost all that much.

And it will truly display that we haven't forgot what Christmas is all about.



## letters

It is sad that a college publication such as the Daily Nebraskan has stooped to such a low journalistic standard by allotting space to print the Tom Prentiss column. I make this statement in reference to his column that appeared in the Dec. 3 issue.

Once again Mr. Prentiss brings us in to his world of journalistic jargon where he makes another futile attempt at being humorous. I must admit though that the vocabulary of Mr. Prentiss brings back a certain nostalgic sentiment. It is words like

"cootie," "dirty poop," and "snot ball" that I hold dear to my heart. The last time I read these words they appeared on the bathroom walls of my junior high school.

I hope the next editor of the Daily Nebraskan will select columnists that can write in a mature fashion and show some kind of talent.

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