

**to the editor**

The news for the last 450-plus days has been dominated by the hostage situation in Iran. "America held hostage" in our opinion not only has clouded the news, but also the minds of many Americans. The 52 people held hostage by Iranian revolutionaries seem almost insignificant compared to 240 million Americans held hostage by their own ideas that comprise this country.

In fact, it is our opinion that the 52 people were held hostage not by Iran, but by America. True, the United States didn't physically imprison them, but exploitive treatment of Iran caused them to naturally strike back at the United States the 52 Americans were simply handy at the time.

Why does the United States exploit other nations? One possible reason is America no longer has the resources and markets to satisfy its peoples' insatiable demand for material goods. Therefore, we must obtain the largest possible amount of wealth at the cheapest possible price from underdeveloped nations. If this means supporting cruel regimes in these countries, so be it.

Now, however, it appears that at least in Iran, the plan has backfired. More countries will undoubtedly follow Iran's example and rebel against the oppressive U.S. foreign policies. Can the CIA resolve our problems with assassinations and coups?

An obvious solution to the problem of "America held hostage" seems to be the realization of the fact that we can't be the imperialists of old. On earth, there are limited resources and unlimited wants. If we are ever to become a great nation, as Ronald Reagan would like, we must realize this.

Craig Priefert  
Junior, Political Science  
Brian Lojek  
Junior, Business

**Remembering POWs**

It really does amaze me the way our government here in the United States works! Of course everyone is pleased about the hostages being released, and we are very lucky that all of them are alive and I

personally wish all of the 52 hostages the best of luck. But, something has been tormenting me about the government's treatment of the ex-hostages since their release.

The special treatment would be all well and good if this same treatment and concern were to be applied to the veterans of our military services. The MIA's in Vietnam and the men who were POW's in WWII and WWI were the real heroes of this century.

The 52 persons who were taken captive in Iran were free to leave and in fact, were asked to leave by the Iranian government and did not do so.

I realize that some of the hostages were not government employees, but I wonder had the majority been civilians or Americans with dual citizenships, if all this hoopla would have been made. Remember there is still a female journalist being held in Iran and we can only guess the number in El Salvador that have actually been killed.

I think it's wonderful that the ex-hostages are home but in my opinion, we owe the veterans and the men who gave their lives for this country a lot more than the hostages received. But unfortunately, this will never be.

Tracy Roberts  
Custodian (UNL)

**SSA money tentative**

I would like to compliment Kathy Chenault on her Jan. 26 editorial concerning ASUN's budget request and the tentative allocation made by the Committee for Fees Allocation. The accuracy with which she approached the subject is commendable, with one exception. The \$20,750 tentatively approved for a State Student Association was approved with the stipulation that if the association is not formed, the money will not be received by ASUN.

I would also like to remind the editor that the entire allocation is merely a tentative allocation, and that the final allocation will be made in the next month.  
Becky Stingley,  
CFA member

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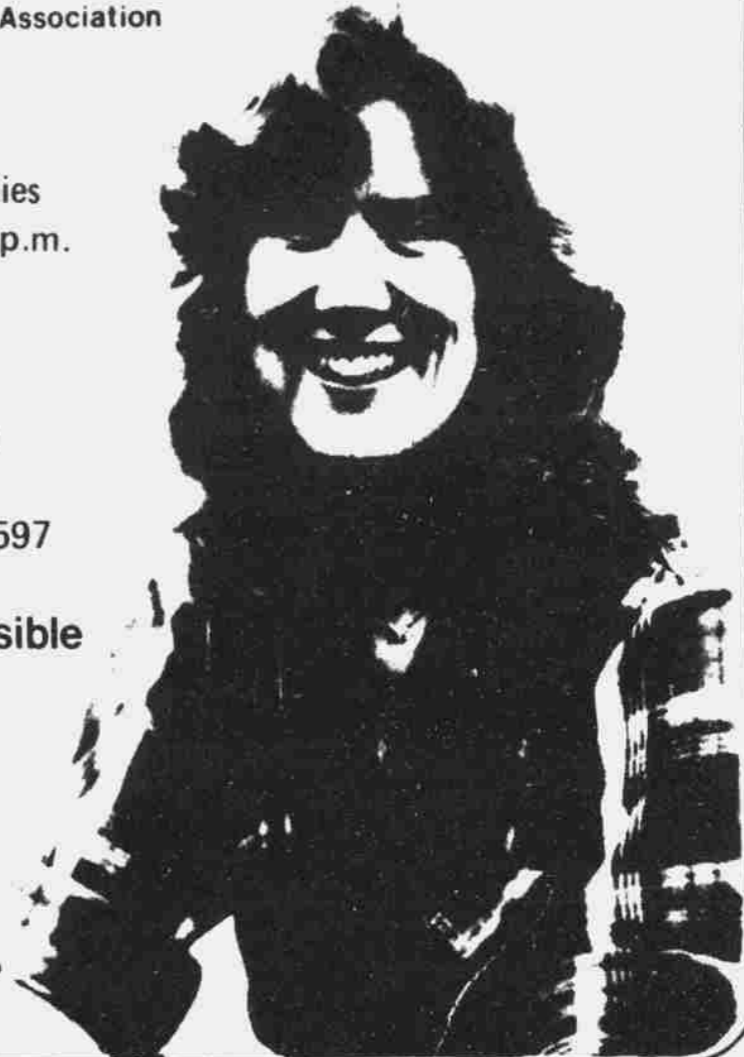
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**Hostage crisis . . .**

Continued from Page 4  
ing over the airport in a plane were news teams. The teams could not see or hear the activity below them, but they were able to report that the hostages landed, something they could have done outside a fence or within visual distance of Freedom I. The media could not even spare five minutes of privacy for the former hostages and their families.

Now that the crisis is nearly ended,

many people will try to learn from it. Politicians from all over the world probably will review international policies. The United States probably will look at its past and toward its allies. And hopefully, the United States' media will re-evaluate its performance and learn from the way it covered the crisis.

Unfortunately, it will be awhile yet before we stop hearing, "So, are you glad to be back?"

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