

Editorial

Students pay more, get less from UNL

Hard times are gonna get harder. The chancellors of NU's three campuses proposed \$515,798 in cuts Saturday. The cuts are subject to the approval of the NU Board of Regents in March, the *Sunday Journal and Star* reported.

The cuts mean reductions in staff, probably will cause larger classes and may mean some students will have to postpone taking some courses.

The chancellors have the power to make an additional \$2.4 million in later reallocations, the paper reported. More staff could be cut and when staff members leave their positions, many will remain empty.

The cuts hurt, but are necessary. NU

administrators have little choice now. The money isn't there to fall back on.

Next year, there are choices, and there might be more money.

Gov. Bob Kerrey's second budget includes a 7.1 percent increase in funds for the university. That includes an assumed 8 percent salary hike and a variety of improvements on buildings and programs.

However, NU plans to raise tuition 10 percent again to help defray rising costs.

Kerrey's plan basically leaves NU in a static position. A 7.1 percent increase allows for inflation, some improvements and little else. The allotment for health insurance expenses also will

increase for NU, but many employees will be losing their jobs. When professors quit, the classes they taught will probably be combined with others. Students will be paying more for less.

If even half of Kerrey's proposed 2 percent state income tax cut is used to beef up NU and public schools, perhaps education could make some improvements. Instead of barely keeping our heads above water, we could swim ahead a little bit.

The budget has not passed. If the Legislature hears a lot of angry student voices, perhaps we would see some money for improvements — like retaining all staff.

The money taxpayers spend on us is

not wasted. We will work, spend, teach and pay taxes ourselves in this state. Education is a continuing investment and because the economy is improving, we should spend more on it.

The *Sunday Journal and Star* reported that new Regents Chairman Ed Schwartzkopf said he wanted to make NU faculty salaries competitive. "People are becoming more and more aware that 'psychic income' isn't enough," he said.

Students are becoming more and more aware that a similarly intangible education isn't enough, either. And we wonder how long students will be willing to pay more for it.

—Chris Welsch

Meese takes the meat from free publications

"Want to buy a turkey?" muttered my friend Harmon Flenser, looking agitated. "Or how about a nice fat pig? Oh, that Ed Meese has cost me a bundle!"

"I sent in for this free government pamphlet, *Facts About Turkey Ham*. I got a way with animals, see, and I figured I'd make a killing as a turkey ham producer as soon as I read how to do it. Then Meese went and knocked off 1800 publications to save, he says, \$85 million."

"Gosh, that could buy a dozen gearshift knobs for our M-1 tanks," I said.



Arthur Hoppe

"At this very moment," said Harmon, eyeing me dourly, "you could be infested with firebrats or coming down with Wagner's granulomatosis."

"What are they?" I asked nervously.

"We'll never know. Besides, what's my Hector going to do without *School Drug Abuse Policy Guidelines*?"

"Your son's into drug abuse?"

"I caught him lighting a roach at the wrong end. I was hoping he could join the Wild Weasels. But Meese spiked *The Wild Weasel Newsletter*."

"As for little Evangeline," he said, "she's sure sore that we're not going to get *How to Buy a Christmas Tree*. We planned on buying one for Valentine's Day."

"You don't buy Christmas trees for Valentine's Day."

"How would we know? Meanwhile, the Missus is up in arms that Meese canceled *The Common Liver Fluke in Sheep*. "If I can't point to a lamb chop and holler, 'Hey that's a fluke!' she says, 'then we're switching to chicken and beef.'"

"Why not?" I said.

"I'll tell you why not," Harmon said. "Meese is also gone and knocked off *Controlling Chicken Lice and Bovine Mastitis: What to Do*."

"That's the question," I agreed. "What to do?"

"The first thing to do is not get bovine mastitis," said Harmon firmly, "no matter what it is. And the next thing is to throw out the kitchen range. If the government won't tell us how to clean a kitchen range, I don't want it around the house."

I frowned. "Surely, Harmon, you didn't want all of the 1800 pamphlets?"

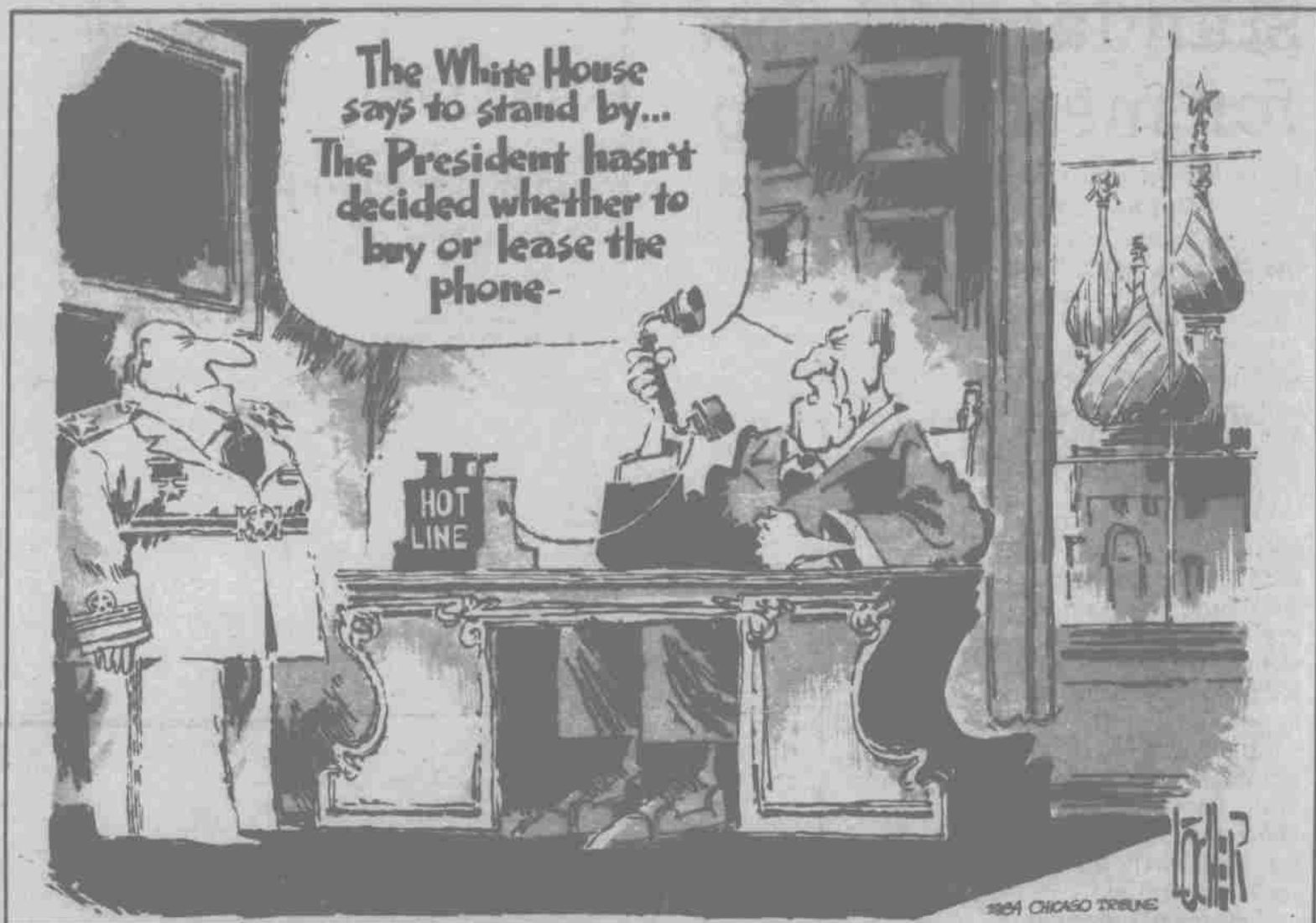
"You're right. I'm glad *Helping Ginseng Survive* is gone. That's one less cause to give to. *A Tour of Trees at Fort Leavenworth* may be the Missus' idea of a vacation, but I'll take Vegas. And as for *Living with Radiation*, who needs it?"

"I also don't need *Simple Plumbing Repairs*. I thought I did when I sent in for it a week ago. But meantime I found an old government pamphlet that solved the problem. It's called *Raising Carp in Your Basement for Fun and Profit*."

"I guess some of these government pamphlets can be useful," I said. "I see that Mr. Meese handed out a new one at his press conference entitled *Eliminating Fraud, Waste and Abuse in the Federal Government: A Progress Report to the President*. Maybe you can get a copy."

"All things considered," said Harmon, "I'd rather have *Facts About Turkey Ham*."

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Candidates take to talk show trail

Sunday's Democratic Presidential Candidate "Debate" in New Hampshire could be a trendsetter in American politics. Hosted by veteran television personalities Ted Koppel and Phil Donahue, the debate was something of a free-for-all. Candidates were under no time constraints or equal time protection. And they were allowed to use whatever language they wanted to appeal to the electorate. For example, Walter Mondale used the word "baloney," attempting to cash in on the large Oscar Mayer contingency in New Hampshire.

While the format of the debate was interesting, the most significant factor was the inclusion of Koppel and Donahue. Each man's segment eerily



Mike Frost

resembled their respective television shows. Koppel asked direct, probing questions of the candidates, and Donahue hopped around the audience, thrusting his microphone toward the face of anyone who cared to comment.

The blending of politics and television talk shows is an interesting phenomenon and one that will undoubtedly become commonplace during this otherwise lackluster election year. The possibilities are endless.

The Democratic Candidates on *Entertainment Tonight*:

Ron Hendron: A new supergroup getting a lot of attention in the media lately is the Democratic Presidential Candidates. Robin Leech has the story.

Leech: A new supergroup getting a lot of attention in the media lately is the Democratic Presidential Candidates. Walt, John, Jesse and the entire troupe have been grabbing the attention of people everywhere. I asked group leader Walter Mondale what it was like to be really rich and famous.

Mondale: Excuse me?

Leech: Rich and famous. I bet you know a lot of superstars.

Mondale: Well, Jimmy Buffett did do a benefit for me once.

Leech: Jimmy Buffett? He's not very famous. What

about Barbra Streisand or Warren Beatty? Do you know them?

Mondale: Well, no. I did see both *Funny Girl* and *Reds*, though.

Leech: Well, so did I. So has everybody. Come on, you must know somebody really famous.

Mondale: Well, when I worked for Jimmy Carter, I met Willie Nelson.

Leech: Well, he's pretty famous. Thanks for your time, Walt.

Mondale: Wait, don't you want to ask something about nuclear disarmament or something?

Leech: Maybe next time. For now, Robin Leech, *Entertainment Tonight*.

Ron Hendron: Coming up next, a frank talk with Pia Zadora.

The Democratic Candidates on *Hour Magazine*.

Gary Collins: Today we have a very interesting group of men appearing on *Hour Magazine*: the eight Democratic Presidential Candidates. They'll be discussing some of the burning questions facing Americans. We'll start with you, Gary Hart. Have you ever burned lasagne?

Hart: I wish I had a nickel for every time I burned lasagne. What am I saying? I wish the federal government had a nickel for every time I burned lasagne.

Collins: How can you avoid it?

Hart: Well, I found the most effective method is to allow the cheese on top to just start turning to a golden color, then turn off the heat. The heat that has stored up in the oven is adequate to cook the lasagne, and I don't have to worry about burning it.

Collins: And, of course, it conserves energy.

Hart: Yes, an important part of my overall policy. You see, in order for America to remain strong, we ...

Collins: We have to break away for a commercial, but we'll be back with tips from Reuben Askew on how to get invited to parties.

The Democratic Candidates On *Late Night With David Letterman*:

Letterman: A fine bunch of humans assembled here tonight. Make welcome if you will, the Democratic Presidential Candidates.

APPLAUSE.

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