



The auction block

Economic aid to foreign countries, especially at a time when the United States is beset by its own domestic ills that need money to correct, always is a topic that stirs debate among concerned citizens.

President Nixon's reported plans to ask Congress for about \$250 million in economic aid for Egypt should not be an exception.

The reason for the handout, according to U.S. officials, is to bolster ties between the two countries.

Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) was correctly indignant when he learned of Nixon's plan.

"I am opposed to reverting to that old habit of trying to outbid the Soviet Union in securing Egypt's friendship," Church said.

But there's more to it than that. The United States has developed a foreign aid policy over the years that borders on schizophrenia. For example in the 1967 Six Day War between the Arabs and Israelis, the U.S. spent billions in reducing Southeast Asia to a wasteland and now has committed itself to helping rebuild what it once sought to destroy.

The country has before been burned—if not actually stabbed in the back—by countries receiving American dollars. In the year-long American petroleum crisis, the wily Arabs graphically demonstrated how they choose to respond to a nation in need. There is little to indicate that a multimillion dollar gift suddenly would result in any semblance of Arab altruism, Henry Kissinger notwithstanding.

Congress should consider Nixon's proposal carefully. It's only too possible that such a dole would turn into a gift horse.

Mary Voboril



Rodeo reaction

Dear editor,
This is in response to A. Hageman's letter (Daily Nebraskan, April 18) concerning the recent University of Nebraska Rodeo Assoc. performances.

More skill, endurance and training are involved in the sport of rodeo than most spectators can ever comprehend. To "thrill city folks" is hardly reason for the keen competition of a man and his horse. The rodeo stock of America includes some of the best cared for animals in the country. So far as exploiting animals is concerned, how many other horses have such excellent feeding, veterinary care and exercise as bucking horses and then are required to test that necessary skill of a cowboy for eight seconds at a performance?

Exploiting animals? I doubt it. Cowboys and cowgirls are a proud breed who respect the animals which provide their living. I can't imagine too many cattlemen providing meat for market without competent cowhands.

As for these ranch horses—how do you think they get broke to ride in the first place? Rodeo skills are a very necessary part of life in this, God's cow country. And this truly American sport, which is a big part of our heritage, is always under the society's observation.

"Don't knock it until you've tried it" bears strong relevance to this situation. If more people knew something about this sport and lent their support, perhaps this Western city could have more than one rodeo a year. The spirit of the Old West and real satisfaction from hard work and exercise to still exist, especially in Nebraska.

D. Beman
Candy Wandell
Amy Whitaker

Dear editor,
A. Hageman, whoever he or she is, evidently has never been reared on a ranch or doesn't know anything about ranching. It is a lot easier and quicker to go out in a pasture to rope a sick calf and treat it right on the spot than try to chase it all the way to the nearest corral or working chute. This is how the roping event got started. It is not cruel to the calf at all. Cattle are a lot tougher than people. Jerking a

rope around a calf's neck isn't any worse than giving someone a tetanus shot.

The bucking events are just variations of the Old West cowboy's methods of breaking a horse to ride. The saddle bronc event originated from this practice. They began to make a game out of it to see who could ride a bucking horse the longest. After all, how else can you get out to Pioneer Park and have a nice pleasant horseback ride on a Sunday afternoon? The flank strap does not hurt the horse. It can be compared with a woman wearing a girdle. It doesn't hurt the horse, but is uncomfortable and the horse tries to kick it off. I am a bronc rider myself, and it is a much rougher on the rider than it is on the horse.

The girls' goat tying event isn't any worse than watching a girls' roller derby or a wrestling match on TV.

One cowboy astride 1,500 to 2,000 lbs. of twisting, bucking and turning bull is like a flea on a dog's back. I think it is obvious that there is no way a cowboy can hurt a bull. Usually it's the other way around.

I think this explains the humanity of the sport of rodeo. I think rodeo is a lot better sport than watching 22 guys see how hard they can knock each other down just to carry an oblong piece of piskin between two poles.

As for the futility of our rodeo, we had a full crowd Friday and Saturday nights. So, some people in this fair city have a different opinion of rodeos than Hageman.

Steve Lauer

Dear editor,
I agree with the analysis of rodeos as stated by A. Hageman.

The use of devices to inflict pain on the animal is common. The purpose is to get the animal to respond in a more frenzied fashion, and hence put on a better "show."

Those culturally perverted country hayseeds who enjoy this form of entertainment are probably mentally ill.

Thus, I propose legislation to outlaw rodeos, and make them a barbaric relic of the past as they certainly deserve.

Donald J. Norden

Co-op alternative

Dear editor,
With the price of dorm rent skyrocketing to nearly \$1,100, now is the time dormies should consider the alternatives of co-op living.

There are five cooperative housing students at UNL, and my letter speaks for all of them. However,

most of my remarks are made of my experience while living at Cornhusker Co-op.

The rent money saved in a year by living in the Co-op is about \$300—enough to pay for well over half the cost of most interim study trips, a semester's tuition for about 16 credit hours or a nice Christmas or spring break vacation. The savings are because all housecleaning, maintenance, budgeting, etc. are done by the residents. Each resident is assigned "details," taking two hours a week at the most. The workload is divided so no one is overworked or underworked. The food is well prepared and good, and the food service is flexible for people with jobs, classes and activities.

There are an active social life and recreational facilities at the Co-op for those who want it, but the rights of the more serious, studious students are not infringed upon.

Cornhusker Co-op is a coed living unit, giving men and women students a chance to interact in a smaller, family-type situation. Because of the small size of the Co-op, friendships are easily established.

If students are concerned about saving money on their housing this summer or next year, they should look into the Co-ops. Cornhusker Co-op is a 10-minute walk from campus (seven blocks) so feel free to walk over and investigate co-op living, or call for information on contracts, rates, etc.

Mary Wood

Hog lounge?

Dear editor,
It seems that the University is trying to educate hogs these days. Wednesday I was sickened by the sight confronting me as I walked into the Nebraska Union lounge. Obviously, the maintenance people who regularly keep the place looking decent were not on duty that day because the trash was so deep one could hardly pick his way to a chair. I can't imagine what is the matter with some people; surely they don't keep their homes looking so horrible. It's not as if there aren't plenty of trash cans and carts for stacking dishes. Are people so lazy they can't do something for themselves?

Maybe if they would, the University wouldn't have to waste the taxpayers' money by having to hire people to pick up after a bunch of slob. Maybe the money could be used for bettering educational facilities—or towards offering a course on sanitation for some of the students here. Some definitely would benefit from enrollment in such a course.

My apology to all four-legged hogs. They're much cleaner than some people. The evidence was lying in the Union lounge Wednesday.

Sharon Cizek