

opinion/editorial

Student support needed for budget increase request

UNL students have won two major battles in recent weeks. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Ned Hedges announced two weeks ago that Love Library next semester will not close on Saturdays or an hour earlier on weekdays. And Friday, the NU Board of Regents reversed a two-year-old policy forbidding the use of student fees to pay political speakers.

Some people will wonder what has caused the big turnaround. "Are the administrators and the regents ill? Have they lost their senses," they will ask. Student concerns generally have had about as much chance for success as the proverbial snowball in hell.

Many people believe the closing of the library (and its reopening after student outcry) was simply a poli-

tical move designed to raise student support for proposed university budget increases. But, we feel that a good portion of the credit should go to students, who, after the announcement of the library closing, expressed united opposition to the move.

It indeed may have been a political action, but there is no doubt that without the united student front, the library would be closing at the ridiculous hours that were proposed.

And the reversal of the policy forbidding the use of student fees to pay political speakers is a direct result of organized student action on its behalf. Regents Robert Koeft of Grand Island and Robert Simmons of Scottsbluff told the students as much at the meeting Fri-

day.

But students should not let things drop here. Another united student front is needed—one supporting the 15 percent budget increase that the regents will ask from the Legislature this spring.

Tuition probably will increase 10 percent next year, forcing some students to drop out of school and preventing others from entering. Funds for research, the measuring stick by which quality is measured at most universities, have been drastically cut, making study more difficult for faculty and students. Faculty salaries are among the lowest in the Big Eight, making it more and more difficult for the university to attract and retain quality professors.

All of this is interfering not only with the ability of students to get a

quality education, it also is interfering with the ability of the university to function as the teaching and learning center for the state of Nebraska.

This is the message students need to take to their families and friends this Thanksgiving. The entire state of Nebraska benefits from the presence of a high quality university. And the rest of the state must help pay for the operation of it.

Gov. Charles Thone has said he will not support more than a 7 percent budget increase for the university. In so doing, he is doing what is politically safe, not what is best for the university or the state. But, if he will not support the increase the people of the state must. And to get it past the legislature the students need to play a large role in generating that support. The future of this university depends on it.

letters

I am a student at the University of Nebraska and even though I am an Iranian, I feel the situation of the embassy take over in Iran is terribly wrong and has gone too far. I feel humiliated walking to class and being pointed at just because of my race. I think Ayatollah Khomeini is making a big mistake by supporting the people who took over the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

The revolution took place because people were unsatisfied with what the shah was doing to them. A lot of families lost their members in the revolution. The main point of the revolution was to get rid of the Shah. Now people should forget about him and spend their time trying to construct a new Iran that every Iranian can be proud of.

Since the Shah left the country, the people who thought of themselves as being the revolutionists were so busy executing the Shah's people that they forgot there is more in a country than that. The religion has gotten so powerful that the government has no power. The country is going down instead of improving.

I feel strongly that the U.S. should not hand over the Shah because you never hand over your guest no matter what the price is and besides no one should support terror terrorism.

As an Iranian I am so ashamed of this situation that I really don't know what to say.

Also I believe strongly that this country should deport those students who are demonstrating or acting as leaders of the political group.

I personally don't care for politics at all and I am sure there are more Iranians who think the same way. I don't think all of us should be blamed for the action of a few. I am a member of nowhere and not anti revolution or for revolution and not for the Shah or against the Shah.

Editor's note: The name of the above student is being withheld because he fears the reactions of his fellow students.

One tyrant for another

A letter from the Moslem Student Association printed in the Nov. 9 Daily Nebraskan left me with the many unanswered questions and no information. The letter explained that "since the revolution, the U.S. government has refused to pay any attention to the legitimate demands of the Iranian people—concerning the mutual relationship between the two countries." So, what kind of legitimate demands do the Iranian people have concerning the mutual relationship between our two countries?

I have heard repeatedly reference made to the medical treatment the Shah is receiving in New York as a sham or cover for his presence in this country. Why is it so difficult for the Iranian people to accept the possibility that the man is gravely ill? Is it because they feel they will be cheated out of causing his death? The question was asked, why the Shah or the U.S. government did not allow the Iranian physician to examine him? My question is, why? It seems to me that the Iranian people are a bit paranoid. Fantastic strides have been made in this country in the last 10 years in the area of cancer research and treatment. It does not seem unusual at all to us for an important personage to come to this country to partake of our medical expertise.

A figure of 76,000 deaths were attributed to the Shah last year, I can neither attack nor defend this statement, but how many deaths have been caused by the new regime? It seems as if one tyrant has been replaced by another one.

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Potomac fever last disease of decade

Sometimes I think the 1970s were full of diseases. The Hong Kong flu struck the nation at various times, leaving people afraid to wander further than 10 feet from the nearest bathroom.

An outbreak of a mysterious illness in Philadelphia came to be known as the Legionnaire's Disease.

tom prentiss

Now, our president tells us that we are suffering from a "national malaise." Imagine that. The entire country in the midst of a social disease.

In sheer numbers alone, this must be worthy of an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records.

And now as we close out the 70s and head hesitatingly into the 80s, we are faced with another illness that will affect the nation.

Actually, this illness has only stricken 13 persons—so far.

It is called Potomac Fever.

POTOMAC FEVER is an illness that becomes highly visible every four years.

Potomac Fever is a disease that causes normally sane people to run for the presidency of the United States.

It must be a disease because anyone who actually wants the job of president must be ill.

The hours are long and the ceremonial functions often tedious. The pay is good, but not great. The president of Chrysler made more than the president last year, and we all know what kind of a year he had.

But, when Potomac Fever strikes, politicians scratch it like a bothersome mosquito bite.

The upcoming election is a good example of an epidemic outbreak of Potomac fever.

The Republicans have 10 people seeking presidential

nomination. The Democrats have two challengers to the incumbent president.

For some of the candidates, Potomac Fever is not an illness. It is a way of life.

RONALD REAGAN, Edward Kennedy, John Connally and Howard Baker are examples of this.

Reagan, in his third attempt for the Oval office will run as long as his Grecian Formula hair dye holds out.

Kennedy is making his first run for the office. But, he has been a possible candidate since 1972.

As children, while you and I were taking out the garbage and mowing lawns, Kennedy was probably in a Hyannisport treehouse with political aides mapping out strategies for the 1980 election.

Baker and Connally, have long hinted at running and are finally acting out their fantasies. Too bad they have to act them out on us.

Others running in the Republican party, like George Bush, John Anderson, Benjamin Fernandez, Phillip Crane and Larry Pressler have so little popular attraction that they could probably star in an old favorite movie of mine.

It was called "The Man Who Never Was."

ON THE DEMOCRATIC side, Jerry Brown makes his second run for the White House. Brown espouses a basic theory of "Save the People. Protect the environment. Explore the universe." Or words to that effect. He keeps changing them.

It becomes difficult to tell whether the candidates are devoted to the ideals of the nation or just trying to gain glory.

The only cures for Potomac Fever are election or rejection. And unlike most illness, we the people, will be the doctors. We will prescribe for the nation a remedy to hopefully cure its various wrongs.

So, let's hope that the people keep an eye on the presidential race and listen to the issues.

For if we don't make an educated choice, Potomac Fever could result in a malpractice suit the people brought on themselves.