

letters

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I write to commend the university administration for showing the regents how budgetary constraints can be accommodated by cutting faculty, library, research and teaching services, while preserving intact the athletic program and the central administration. It is clear that the only way to respond to a decline, real or anticipated, in student credit hours or inadequate legislative funding is to remove faculty from the classroom. But how can this be accomplished? There are obvious answers, such as the release of non-tenured staff and the attrition of the lines of professors who die or retire.

Since the regents are so wedded to the systems concept, there obviously is a need for more administrators to coordinate the innovative educational experiments being conducted at Lincoln, Omaha and Wahoo High School. Even if we confine ourselves to the Lincoln campus, there is a great need for administrators to guide the students. Since independent study, self direction, and interdisciplinary programs are fashionable, while formal classroom instruction is outmoded, the students need the advice of persons who are experts at avoiding intellectual content in word and deed to counsel them on how to avoid the faculty while still obtaining university credit.

As the useful faculty members are phased into administration, those left teaching would obviously be making far fewer demands upon the students. This could involve immense savings in both the library staff and the book budget. If the books were removed from Love North to make way for closed circuit television of the football games, at even \$30 per season ticket this would easily gross hundreds of thousands of dollars in a single season, clearly enough to maintain Regents Hall.

There are also advantages to my modest proposal in terms of the university's relations with the community at large and in psychological benefits within the academic community. Since administrators are paid roughly double the salary of faculty members at a comparable level, this solution would end complaints about low salaries.

Furthermore, since most administrators come from Nebraska or neighboring states, while professors tend to come from more exotic places with decent doctoral programs, community relations would be improved with more administrators and fewer faculty. Administrators are usually better dressed and less polysyllabic than professors, another advantage in the dealings of the university with the public.

Most fundamentally, the focal point of virtually all student discontent is with professors in the classroom who for one reason or another are considered inadequate to meet their needs and desires. The fewer professors, the happier the students, and the better the university's public image. I hear constant complaints about do-nothing professors, but scarcely anything except from other professors about do-nothing administrators. We must remember that a professor who deals with numerous students each semester while turning out scholarly books and articles is

a deadbeat, while an administrator who has no classroom responsibilities is a paragon of industry and dedication for the numerous arduous hours spent in having meaningful dialogue with other administrators.

I am old enough to remember when the ideal was a ratio of one faculty member to ten students in small colleges, and perhaps one to fifteen in the state universities. What is needed to meet the challenge of the 1980s is a staff comprising ten administrators to one faculty member. The Board of Regents has obviously realized the extent of the problem. Only when the professional staff is reduced to manageable proportions, while those of appropriate inclination and talent become administrators, can the university strive to fulfill our destiny as members of the academic community. We shall move toward Excellence.

David Nicholas
Professor of History

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

FLUB	MATTE	WENT
RIPE	ACORN	AQUA
ADIT	LEGOF	LUNG
ONOMATOPOETIC		
KIWI	RKO	
POETICLICENSE		
HORNE	ACES	HAL
EPOS	DELED	RAGE
PUN	SILL	CELLO
POETSLAUREATE		
YET	NULL	
POETICJUSTICE		
WOLF	COAST	ZONE
IGLU	NOVEL	EXIT
GOAL	SPADE	DADA

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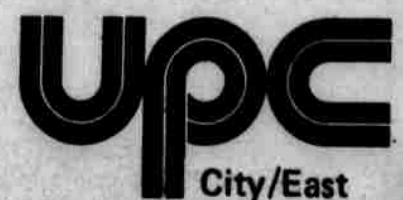
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Pick-up applications in Room 200, Nebraska Union or at East Union CAP office, 3rd floor East Union. Deadline November 29th, Interviews Dec. 1, 2, 3.



Vietnam Spy Trial Defendant

DAVID TRUONG

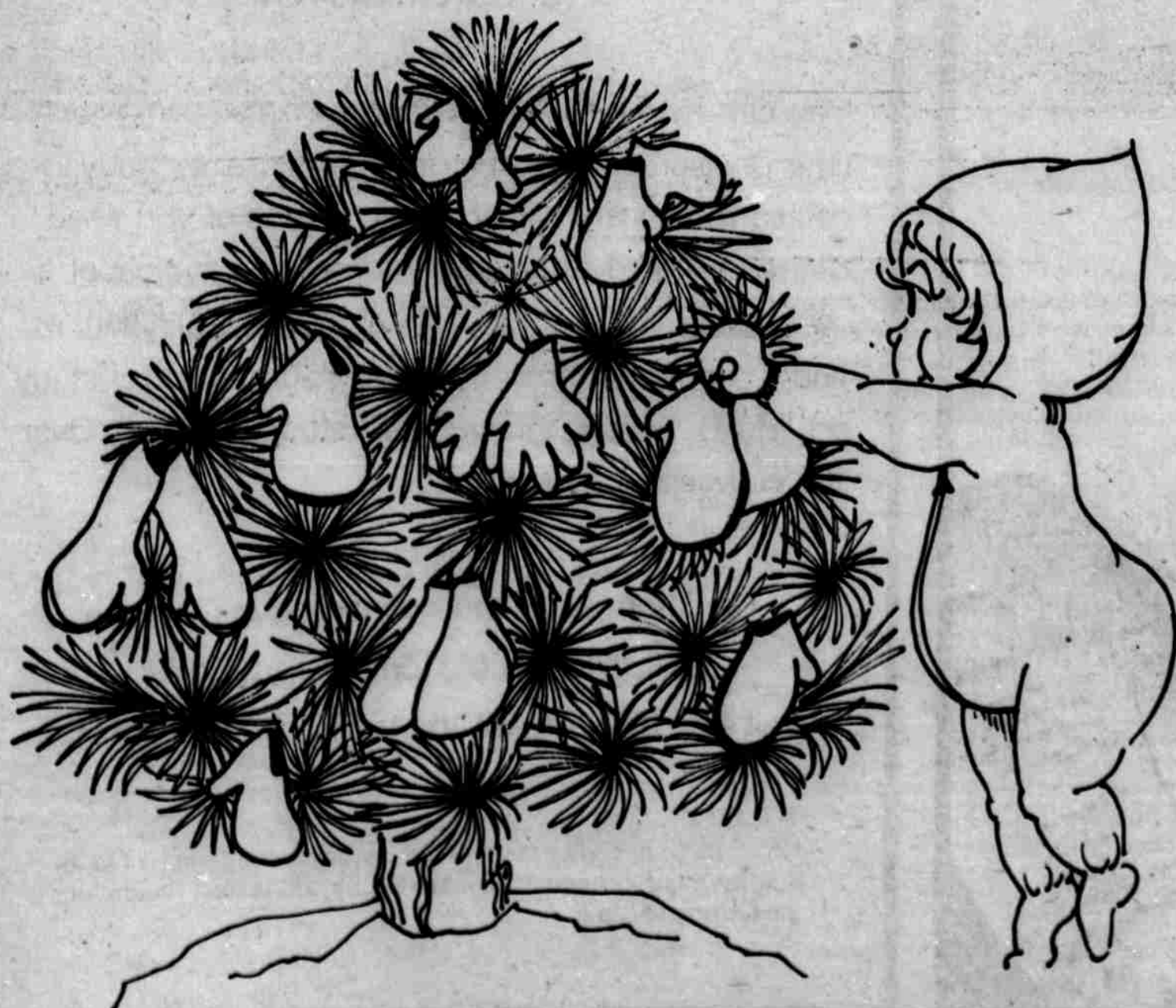
speaks on
"The Powers to Spy: Intelligence Agencies vs. Constitutional Rights"

Tuesday, November 27th 7:30 pm
Nebraska Union Centennial Room

Free Admission with UNL I.D.
General Admission - \$1.00

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Talks & Topics Committee and Nebraskans for Peace.



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To our Christmas tree.
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