

opinion/editorial

Iranian crisis enters period of evaluation

It has been well over a month now since the beginning of the crisis in Iran. Unfortunately, however, there seems to be no sign of a breakthrough. Both sides remain adamant in their convictions. Even recent UN resolutions calling for the release of the hostages have done little good.

Each day, U.S. attempts to resolve the situation continue. It was revealed Thursday that President Carter and national leaders are prepared to begin a series of economic and diplomatic steps against Iran if the hostages are not released in a few days.

The options include calling for a

global economic embargo against Iran and cutting off all U.S. food shipments to the country.

Such proposals follow U.S. measures to cut off imports of Iranian oil, to freeze Iranian assets in this country and ordering the deportation of Iranians who have violated their visas.

These actions by the government reflect the mood of its citizens. In contrast to the days immediately after the Nov. 4 siege, when there were calls for immediate military action and demonstrations and violence hit several cities, Americans now are reacting to the crisis with

logic and reason.

Demonstrations and violence, for the most part, have been replaced with letters to the editor analyzing and evaluating the situation. Clearly this is good. It speaks well for the American public. And it does not endanger the lives of the hostages.

This period of evaluation has done something else as well. It has called attention to the relationships the United States has with foreign countries and to the inept bungling of our nation in the affairs of other countries.

The crisis has indeed been successful in giving the Iranians a forum for

making their complaints against the shah and the United States well known. Although the accusations of wrongdoing they present are probably exaggerated, there is little doubt that they have some factual basis.

These alleged wrongdoings, of course, do not justify the holding of the hostages and the attempted blackmail of this country. And it is unlikely that the U.S. will give into Iranian demands. At the same time, the people in this country have been educated in its mistakes, and they will be less likely to support the making of similar mistakes in the future.

Letter backlog causes delays

The number of letters the paper receives at any given time varies considerably. We're at a time now when the letter flow is very heavy, and this causes some problems.

The editorial policy for selecting letters to be published rests on the timeliness, clarity of writing, and the originality of the letter. Particularly acidic letters (written in abusive vernacular) rarely get in.

ombudsman

Because of the number of letters we are receiving, it should be pointed out that a shorter letter is more likely to make it than a long one. The longer ones are subject to editing and condensation, and I don't know anyone who likes to see his opinion cut by as much as a single word. If you *have* to be long, you might consider submitting your letter as a guest opinion, as it stands a better chance of being printed in its entirety.

Don't be concerned if your letter does not appear immediately. There is very often a backlog that causes a slight delay in publication.

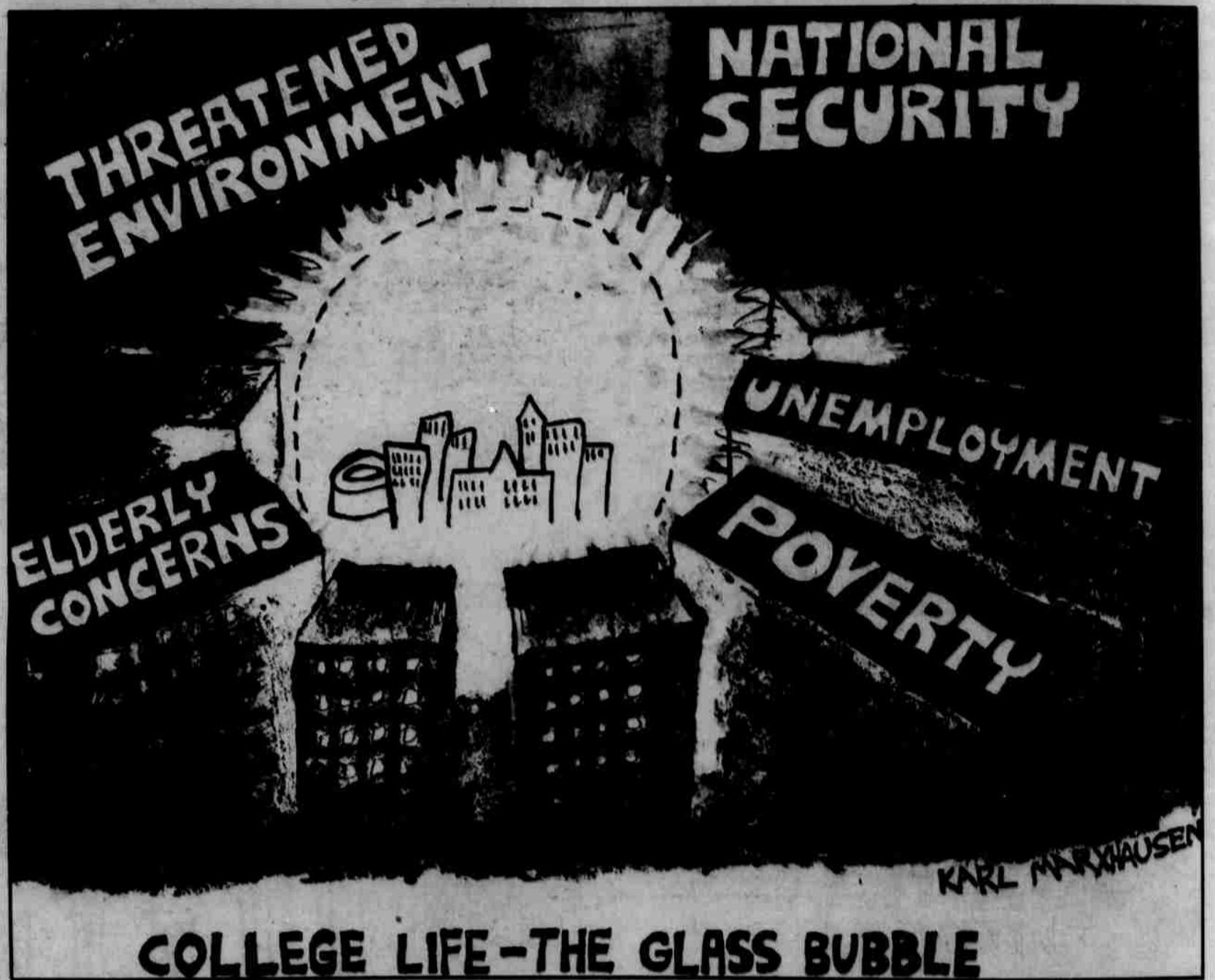
Your opinions are obviously important to you, or you wouldn't submit them. If they are that important, it might be nice if somebody could read them. Handwriting being what it is, if you can type the letter it makes for fewer misunderstandings. At barest minimum, print your letter legibly. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find good cryptography help these days.

I am becoming a little frustrated with people who wait several weeks or months after a story appears in the paper to complain about its content.

It makes it hard to follow up, and difficult to justify the concern to the powers that be. For pity's sake, if it upsets you enough to complain, complain right away.

Correction

A letter in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan entitled "Speech out of context" was incorrectly attributed to an Iranian student. The Daily Nebraskan apologizes for the error.



letters

A serious misunderstanding is evidenced in the Daily Nebraskan's coverage of the recent USED meeting. The issues which constituted the core of the discussion were not mentioned in the article and what was discussed peripherally was reported, but sadly out of context. One member of USED expressed the opinion that ASUN is no longer representative, others disagreed. The more sensational statement was reported.

It is unfortunate that neither the reporter nor an overly sensitive former ASUN senator could take the time to verify their information.

I am assuming that when the reporter referred to "open forums" she meant the Dec. 15 Regents' Meeting. The subject at issue was not whether various groups support USED, but whether USED should attempt to get on the agenda of the regents' meeting. It was tentatively decided not to have USED per se present a format of speakers on minority and women's issues because of a lack

of time and enthusiasms on the part of those groups, but to concentrate on encouraging the student body to attend the regents' meeting to support the student regents and those groups already on the agenda, such as the Feminist Action Alliance. It was decided to postpone our presentation of these groups' needs to a later date.

It was never asserted that Women's Resource Center does not support USED. In fact, WRC actively supports USED and plans to participate in programs next semester. As the Feminist Action Alliance is already on the agenda for the regents' meeting WRC, along with USED, plans to concentrate its energies in support of FAA.

It is an indication of the serious lack of attention and understanding among students including those in positions of responsibility as well as the administration, that USED's interest in the conditions of women and minority groups on campus and our belief that all students should be informed of, interested in, and part of the administration of their University should be characterized as the "play-pen" politics of "ignorant people."

Mary Tait
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Ellanora Ward
Coordinator Women's Resource Center

Editor's note: After speaking with the reporter questioned in the letter, Daily Nebraskan editors are convinced that the meeting was reported fairly and accurately. It also should be noted that the article did not say the Women's Resource Center does not support USED. The reporter quoted Tait as saying that the Women's Resource Center probably would not be interested in the forums "because they know their funding is guaranteed for another year and they don't want to aggravate men."

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