

Library budget 'insufficient' to expand hours

By Tricia Waters

Dean of Libraries said.

The UNL library budget for 1981-82 calling for more than \$4 million is insufficient to expand library hours and add necessary new publications, UNL's

Gerald A. Rudolph said the library hours should stay the same this year, but he is unsure about next year. The five year budget, beginning with next year, hasn't been approved yet.

This year's budget, which is before the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, listed about \$2.4 million for salaries and wages. For library hours to increase next year, the salary budget would have to increase more than 10 percent, Rudolph said.

Many late-night employees are students, he said. They earn minimum wage, not enough money to entice them to work later, Rudolph said. With a salary increase, more students might be willing to work longer hours, he said.

UNL libraries are now open for a "dangerously low minimum" of hours he said, about 84 hours a week.

To adequately serve the students, the libraries should be open at least 100 hours

per week, he said.

Rudolph said another problem blocking an increase in hours is the relocation of books. New stacks will open in the basement of north Love Library this summer, he said. Five or six people will have to work about six months to move every book in the library.

The tight library budget also limits how many new publications the library can buy, he said. This year's budget allowed about \$1.6 million for new books and periodicals.

Over the last 10 years, the amount spent for library materials increased \$500,000, a minor increase, Rudolph said.

He said a good budget would allow the library to buy 60,000 to 70,000 new volumes per year. An amount less than that means necessary materials won't be bought, he said. Last year, the library bought about 52,000 volumes.

"We just can't keep up with getting the materials for programs," Rudolph said.

He said students should complain because they pay a lot to go to the university and they should get the best library materials available.

With enough money to buy more than 60,000 volumes a year, the library could raise its collections to an "excellent condition," Rudolph said.

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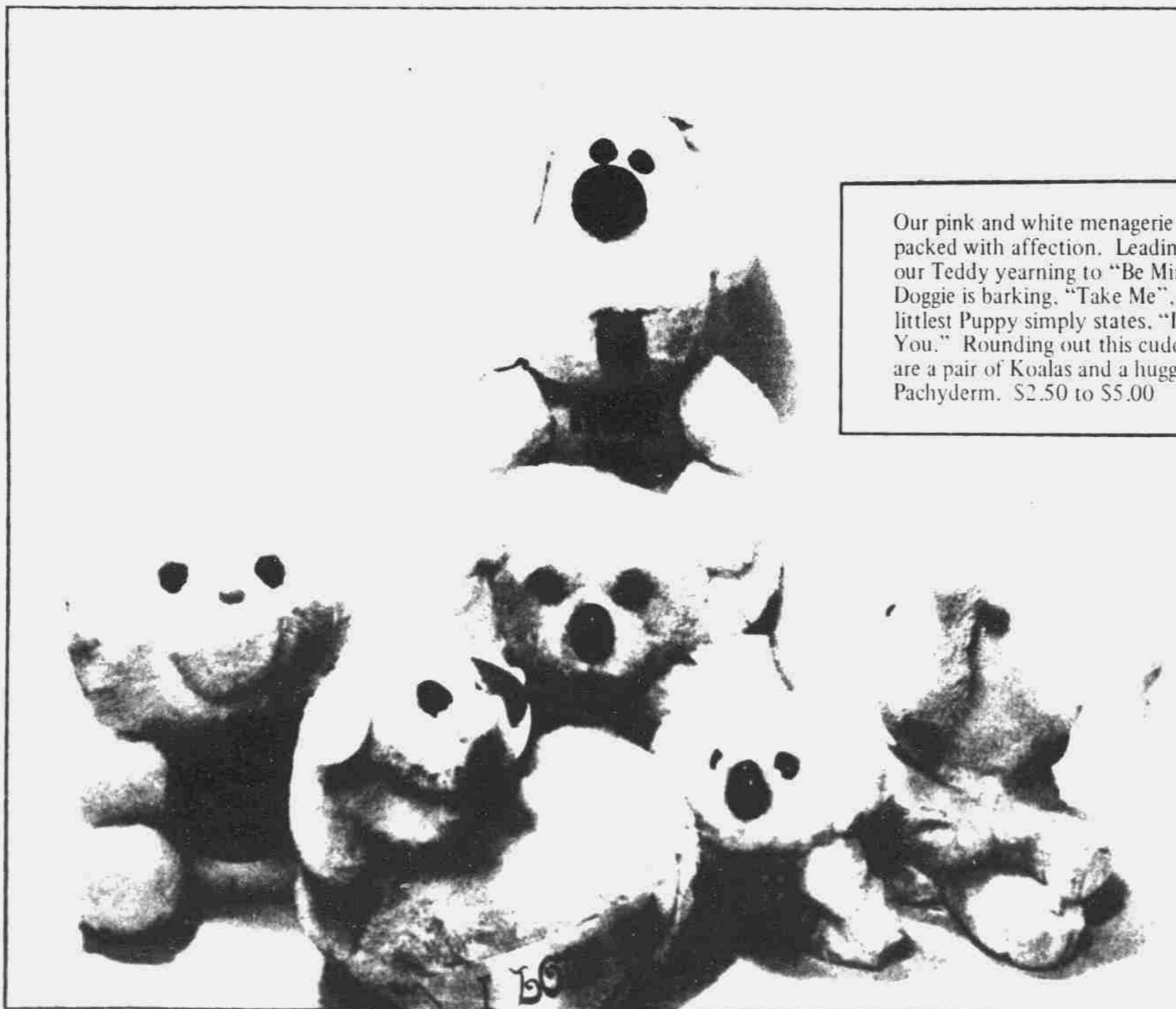
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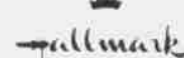
The Residence Hall Association Dance-A-Thon will be this weekend, Feb. 6-7, from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship will have its weekly "large group" meeting tonight at 7 in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

Today the Non-traditional Students will have a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

Play badminton this Monday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in 313 Mabel Lee Hall. Equipment will be provided and everyone is invited.

The UNL Chess Club will meet Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the South Crib. Beginners are welcome.



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