

# Editorial

## UNL faculty members suffer from budget-cut-itis

Tuesday, the faculty members of the UNL School of Life Sciences formally objected to reducing faculty salaries to offset budget cuts.

Wednesday, a committee of the College of Arts and Sciences suggested that university classes be canceled for one week next spring and that students be charged a 10 percent surcharge on their tuition—both to absorb budget cuts.

A member of the Arts and Science committee said the psychology and sociology departments also approved the committee's proposal.

The dean of the College of Engineering and Technology said 50 class sections would have to go to meet a budget cut of

3 percent to 5 percent.

The dean of the College of Agriculture said the purchase of equipment would be delayed if budget cuts are demanded.

Whatever the mood is that is spreading through this campus and infecting the faculty, it seems to be spreading quickly and infecting thoroughly.

We think the disease is called budget-cut-itis. We think the faculty, damn tired of having vital parts of their departments eliminated and sick of having their salaries chiseled away, finally are willing to take drastic stands to illuminate the severe impact of further budget cuts. And we are pleased.

Why has the faculty contracted budget-

cut-itis now, in the middle of a semester, long after budgets are set? Because next week, the state legislators return to the Capitol for what is euphemistically called a special session. Special session, to university folk, means budget-cutting time.

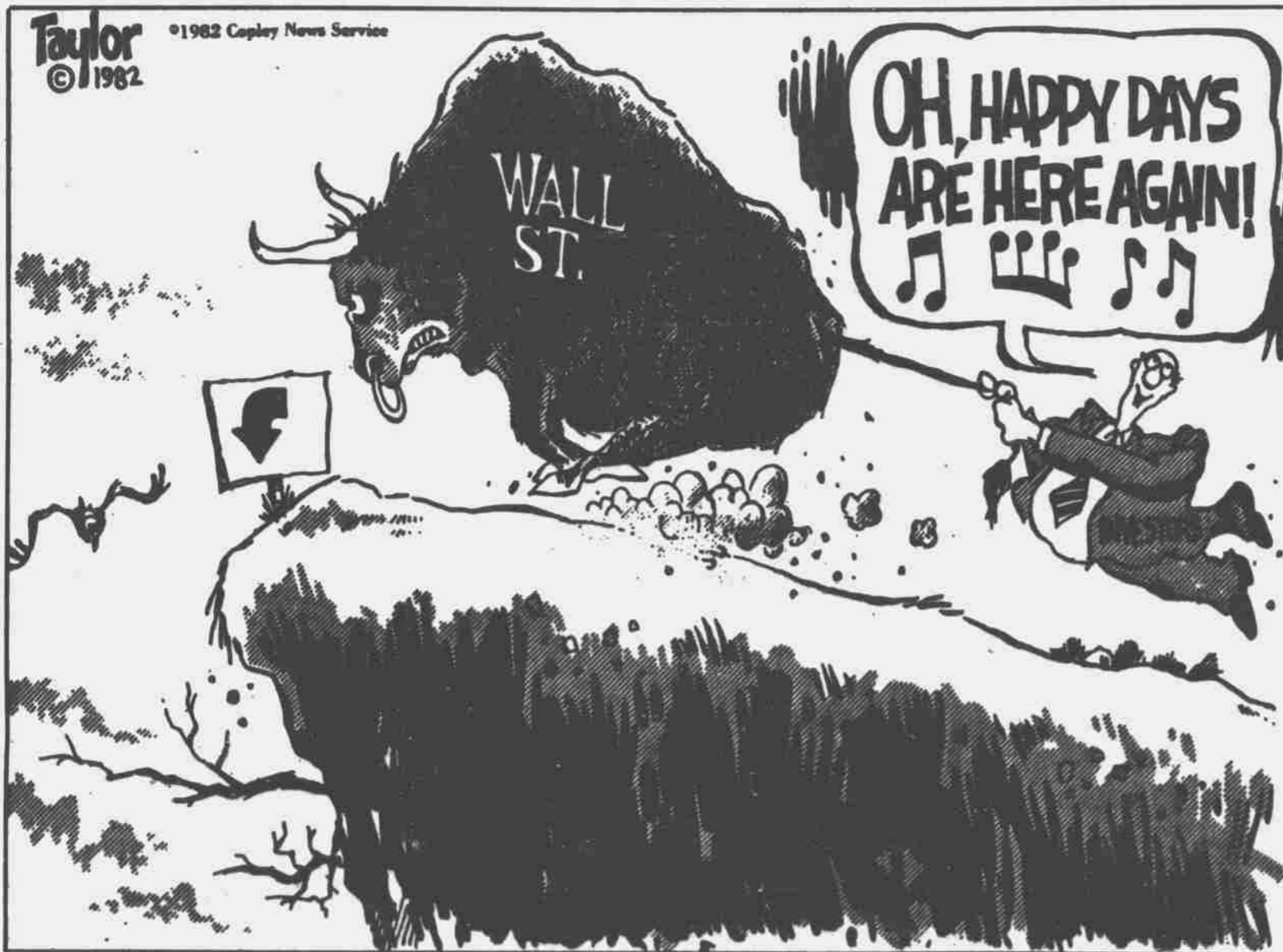
Last year's special session was called because the state appropriated about \$25 million more to its agencies than it collected in state taxes. This year's special session, which begins Nov. 5, was called because state revenue is about \$30 million less than projected.

As last year, the cuts surely will be made and if they come across the board as Thone has advocated, faculty salaries will decrease.

Because of that, the UNL faculty is preparing. What they seem to be saying: When you start cutting the university budget, stay away from our salaries."

To drive home their point, they are requesting preposterous money-savers: closing the university for a week, assessing tuition surcharges, requiring faculty members to take payless vacations and adopting a surcharge on football tickets.

We hope that none of these ideas were put forth for serious consideration. But we do hope that as university officials and members of the NU Board of Regents decide where to extract the 3 percent to 5 percent that Thone wants, they stay away from the salaries.



## Campus notables send Roskens (hic) get-well messages

Once again, the university community has reacted with a typical spirit of unity at the plight of one of its members. This, of course, refers to President Ronald Roskens, who was forced to miss the last NU Board of Regents meeting because of "a case of uncontrolled hiccups."

Unfortunately, the Omaha World-Herald, in its Saturday edition, reported only the reaction of Regent Robert Koefoot (an eminent physician in addition to



Mike Frost

being a fine regent). Koefoot said there was something wrong with Roskens' diaphragm and prescribed the university president a "muscle relaxant."

However, the campus reaction to Roskens' ailment was unreported by the World-Herald's crack staff of top-notch journalists.

The ASUN Senate voted to send Roskens a get-well telegram. The measure originally was defeated because many of the senators felt it was not a matter appropriate for ASUN to consider. However, the action eventually squeaked through as an amendment to a bill condemning the Tylenol killings.

The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aids sent its best wishes to the ailing president. A spokesman for the office said, "A greeting card will be sent to President Roskens with extreme speed, just like we do everything here." The spokesman said Roskens would receive his card by early 1985.

The UNL sociology department, anxious to prove it bears no grudges against Roskens for an alleged misquote to The New York Times denegrating the department, hoped for his speedy recovery. The department chairman suggested that he "drink a lot of alcohol and eat all his food real fast" as a sure cure for the hiccups.

The UNO faculty also sent Roskens a card to remind him of their concern. The letter came back, marked "Return to sender, addressee unknown."

Coach Tom Osborne hoped to quell rumors that the Missouri football team had something to do with Ronald Roskens' hiccups.

"They're a good team and they like to play tough," Osborne said. "Sometimes, though, university presidents just get sick. It's not Missouri's fault. Really. I love Missouri. Honest. I do."

Supporters of the proposed Veterinary College, trying to show the practical application of their field of expertise, also voiced their concern. "Sounds like something's wrong with his gizzard. Or maybe one of his stomachs."

The Daily Nebraskan also revealed plans to pay tribute to the president. Soon to appear on the front page is what is captioned as a photograph of "workers waving 'get well' to NU President Ronald Roskens while working at a really big building in downtown Lincoln."

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## It's time to pull the U.N.'s plug

George Shultz, speaking for his president, is exactly right. If the United Nations General Assembly expels Israel, he said the other day, "the United States (will) withdraw from participation in the assembly and (will) withhold payments to the United Nations until Israel's right to participate is restored."

Apparently that announcement was sufficient to forestall Israel's ouster for now, but as Scarlett O'Hara said, "Tomorrow is another day." Next week, next month, next year — the expulsion fires will be heated up again.

Yet the bigger question deserves consideration: Has the U.N., in terms of America's interests, outlived its usefulness?

Soon after its birth 37 years ago, the U.N. prematurely entered doddering senility. It began babbling and making no sense at all. Some samaritan took it to the intensive-



Ross Mackenzie

care unit, where it was hooked up to American-provided respirators that have kept its heart and lungs pumping for the many years since detectable brain function ceased. Perhaps, in the name of compassion, the time has come to pull the plug; perhaps the time has come to allow the U.N. to drift away into a dignified death.

The U.N.'s intended function was to serve as a town meeting of the world. It was based on the premise that nations would not start shooting at one another as long as they continued to talk to one another — usually about peace.

Never mind that its precursor, the League of Nations, didn't have that effect: The Japanese were talking about peace in the league when they stole Manchuria; Mussolini was uttering paeans to peace in the league when his troops invaded Ethiopia; Stalin was singing hosannas to peace when he attacked Finland, for which his government was thrown out of the league.

The U.N. was to be somehow different, but it hasn't been. And it hasn't been different because of the communist bloc, which has refused to cooperate in peace. Indeed, the communist bloc uses the U.N. as a weapon of war. Lenin and Stalin, and their contemporary Kremlin

disciples, postulated the inevitability of war for the final overthrow of capitalism. But they postulated as well the weakening of the capitalist world through the medium of negotiation and talk. As Stalin said in 1927, citing Lenin: "The maintenance of peaceful relations with capitalist countries consists in admitting the coexistence of two opposed systems."

Long ago the U.N. ceased to be a world forum for the airing of views, and became instead a pit for the baiting and bearding of Uncle Sam and his allies. The process was complete when the practice of universal membership replaced the principle of selectivity stipulated in Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the U.N. Charter.

Instead of accepting into membership only those nations that embraced civility and decency, the U.N. began accepting every tin dictatorship, every regime of every panjandrum and potentate — almost all of whom have joined together in beating on the United States and its friends.

So Nationalist China and South Africa were expelled (in ironic violation of the practice of universality), with Israel probably soon to follow. So the U.N. has demanded independence for Puerto Rico, while effectively ignoring the gassing of innocents in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia by the Kremlin and its goons. So the U.N. has intoned about racism in the United States without uttering a word about the Soviet gulag. The influence of the Soviets in the U.N. General Assembly and in U.N. committees and agencies has become pervasive — and where that influence prevades, of course, the interests of the West accordingly suffer.

Back in the '50s, Charles de Gaulle saw clearly. He told President Eisenhower: "You will lose control of the United Nations to the developing countries and the city-states, who will inevitably be easily manipulated by the Soviet Union." We have learned how right he was.

Let the Reagan administration, then, declare that henceforth the United States shall continue to participate in U.N. deliberations, but that it no longer will vote — on anything. Thereby, the United Nations would deny meaning to every U.N. vote. And if the panjandrums and the commissars fail to get the message — the message that we are done with being rhetorically roasted largely at our own expense — then, surely, we ought to pull the plug. Maybe, even now, the moment for pulling it has arrived.

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