

# A modern-day 'Christmas Carol'

CAROL from Page 4

"What do you think? 'Oklahoma' with Gordon MacRae every weekend." "Buy why... how?" "Seems Doc Tom couldn't attract top players because there wasn't enough money for NU's renowned underwater basket weaving major. The animal tricks major had to go next. The cream of the crop went to Oklahoma and Iowa." The governor stuck his face into the spirit's armpit and sobbed, pounding his fists on the solid chest. "Let this be a dream, please — I never knew." The spirit deposited the now dejected governor home with a brisk pat on the back. The governor held his head in his hands and waited for the last spirit. The spirit seemed to float into the room. He was cloaked, and carried a deflated football under his spindly arm. His face could not be seen, but glasses glimmered under the hood. "Come," the spirit ordered. "Who are you? I must know." The governor pulled back the hood before

the spirit could respond. "Why, you're Don Wesley." "No I'm not," the irritated spirit said, pulling his hood back on. "I'm the Spirit of Budgets Future, and I'd appreciate it if you would shut up. I'm not supposed to say anything." The two flew to campus and into the Temple Building to a theater class. No teacher was at the front of the class. Instead, a flickering, small black-and-white TV showed "Gilligan's Island" at a loud volume. The students were enraptured. "What? No more Shakespeare? No 'Terms of Endearment'?" The spirit nodded yes, and the two flew to a residential house in the suburbs. Inside, a raggedy Bob Crachit, who looked like NU President Ronald Roskens placed a magazine in front of a Tiny Tim, who looked like ASUN President Gerard Keating. "Time to study for your literature class, Tiny." "Not Tiger Beat again, Dad," the boy whined.

"Your uncle Bob said we couldn't afford expensive professors who teach fancy books. The legislature family agreed, so just study and do the best you can," Crachit said. Outside, the governor grabbed the spirit and shook him. "No, no, no... don't let this happen spirit! Please, I'll be better, I promise." The spirit then led the governor to a graveyard. "Why are we here?" The spirit pointed to a grave. The epitaph said: *Here lies a governor cheap who slighted education's keep and just reward he did reap* The governor fell, crying. What seemed like minutes later, he woke in his bed. A new day was breaking. "Oh. Am I too late?" he cried. Looking out the window, he spotted a paperboy. "Hey boy, what day is this?" "It's the start of the new Legislature, gov'nor. Didn't you know?" "Here's a budget increase for good ol' NU, boy... run it to the Legislature before it's too late — and here's some money for your education!" "Gee, thanks gov'nor!" the boy said as he went running to the Legislature with the proposal. Well, Virginia, you know the rest of the story. The governor became conscious of the importance of education and lived until he died. What's that, Virginia? Another fable? Not tonight, little one. I'm going to watch "Christmas on Gilligan's Island."

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