

Daily Nebraskan  
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Try sanctions

*Patience is necessary to save lives*

Senate Democrats began their own battle plan Tuesday for the showdown with Iraq.

They argued in Armed Services Committee hearings on the Gulf crisis that economic sanctions should be tried before the United States militarily drives Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.

The U.N. Security Council in a vote today is expected to give President Bush the authority to use force if Saddam doesn't end his occupation by Jan. 15.

But opponents of military action — including Nebraska's Bob Kerrey — have a point.

Although economic sanctions would take longer to work than a show of force, sanctions do not directly cause a loss of life.

Already, news reports indicate, Iraq is suffering a shortage of supplies such as tires, batteries, plastics and food. Many factories, including refineries and water purification plants, are being forced to shut down. The unemployment rate is rising, while prices have soared.

The trade embargo also denies Iraq all oil export profits, which formerly totaled more than \$1.5 billion a month, according to a Knight-Ridder article.

Despite the strains on the Iraqi economy, experts predict that sanctions could take more than a year to be effective.

But the 430,000 American troops currently in the Middle East might agree that the saving of human life would make that wait worthwhile.

Perhaps war-happy politicians and President Bush should listen to Kerrey.

A continuing show of force, he said, could lead the United States into a situation from which it could not back out. He compared the situation to World War I.

The move toward that war was impossible to reverse because once nations had mobilized, they felt compelled to escalate the process to get an edge on their opponents.

The U.S. buildup and a Jan. 15 deadline would create a similar ultimatum for the use of force.

"The administration's policy . . . is pushing us into a war we could avoid, reopening social divisions we have only recently healed and undermining public support for a sound and sustained foreign and military policy," Kerrey said.

Kerrey is right. While a show of military force might be a quick and "easy" way to end the crisis in the Middle East, the cost in human lives would be too great. Waiting for the sanctions to affect Iraq would take time, but eventually would be a more effective way to deal with Saddam.

Even if the U.N. grants the authority to use force, it should be avoided. Patience always is a virtue, but in this situation, it is more than a virtue.

It is a necessity if U.S. troops are to come home alive.

— Julie Naughton  
for the Daily Nebraskan

## Arizona merits apology

I find all the controversy over Arizona voting not to add Martin Luther King's birthday to the list of paid holidays observed each year absolutely incredible. The referendum was defeated by a narrow margin; but, by law, the difference of a single vote can pass, or in this case, defeat, a ballot issue. Having heard nothing to the contrary, I must assume that their voting was completely legal. As such, the "will of the people" must be accepted.

Anyone who dislikes the outcome of Arizona's vote to deny the addition of another paid holiday certainly has the right to their own opinion, but they go too far when they label Arizonans as being racist on that basis. First, as I have previously stated, the referendum was only narrowly defeated, which implies that nearly as many people favored it as those who opposed it. Second, the defeat of the issue does not equate racial prejudice. It seems just as likely to me that voters decided not to bankroll yet another paid holiday for state employees and add to the ever-increasing spiral of inflation.

If voters had added Martin Luther King's birthday to their list of holidays, would that mean that Arizonans were completely not racist? Does anyone have proof that the color of

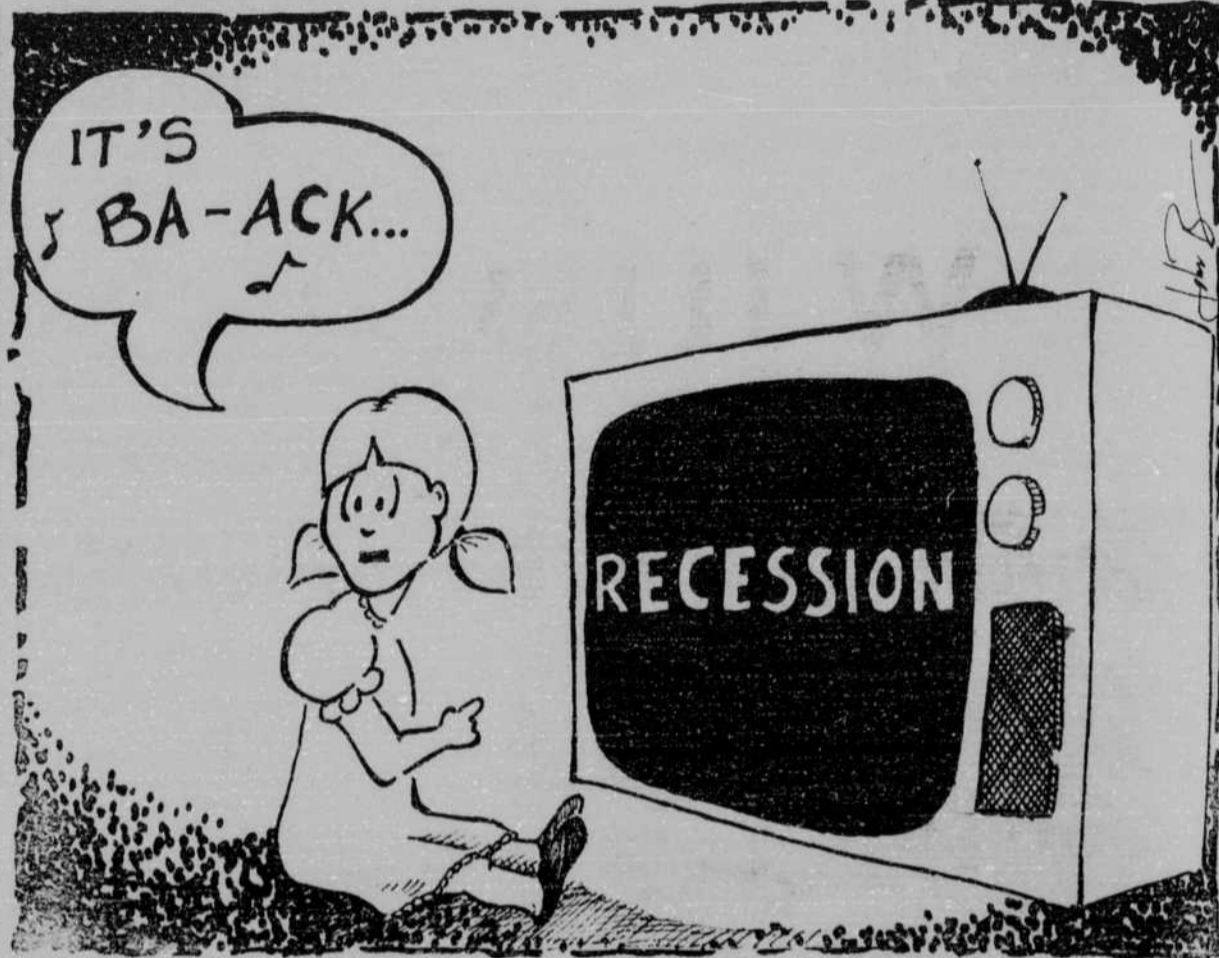
King's skin made the difference in voters failing to pass the measure? If a white man of equal accomplishments was denied recognition by having a paid state holiday in his honor, what would the implications be? Can any government or law control an individual's personal thoughts, feelings or prejudices?

I strongly object to the staff editorial headline printed in the Daily Nebraskan, which read, "Arizona Voters Should Apologize." To whom should they apologize? What should they apologize for? Did the explanation on the ballot, of what a vote against the measure would mean, say, "a vote against this measure means that you are racially bigoted?"

It seems, with all the problems in the country and the world today, that people are looking pretty hard for things like this to complain about. If you stop for a moment to look, you will see that those who are complaining are complaining about the implications they themselves make and not on fact.

Lastly, those that suggest an apology is in order are the ones that owe that apology . . . to Arizona.

Terry Holman  
freshman  
general studies



## Santa grants adult-size wishes

*Shopping-mall visit introduces new magic to Christmas season*

On the day after Thanksgiving, I visited a shopping mall. I noticed that everyone walking around at a hurried pace was bumping into everyone walking at a slow pace. Fathers were fighting over Nintendo game sets; mothers over cheap train sets.

As I kept walking, I noticed the bright red and green decorations that filled every store and every hallway. And then I heard a loud deep intermittent noise. As soon as I saw the line of excitement-filled children I knew it was the "Ho Ho Ho" of Santa Claus.

I immediately stepped into line, jumping ahead one place each time a snotty little kid had to go to the bathroom. Soon I was next in line. I was as nervous as the last time I had done this almost 14 years ago.

"Is your son coming back from the bathroom?" said the elf who was Santa's helper.

I looked at her kind of funny and said, "I would like to have a little talk with Santa. We used to be good friends, but we haven't talked for some time."

The elf reluctantly let me go by, watching as if I was going to assassinate the fat red man who sat in front of a cardboard brick house. Santa obviously was nervous as he watched me approach his lap where everyone else got to sit.

"If you don't mind sitting on the step I think it would be better for both of us," Santa said.

As I sat down, I poured out my problems.

"I know you are here for the little kids, Santa, but I wanted to ask your help on some problems, do you mind?"

"Rob," he said, "I have been expecting you."

"You see, Santa, the world is all screwed up. President Bush wants to go to war, I think, because Saddam Hussein refuses to take a shower before United Nations meetings. And the university that I attend hasn't had a real leader for more than a year," I

said. "That's a pretty heavy load Rob," Santa said.

I sighed a heavy sigh. "Well, Santa, just one more thing. Our football coach, Tom Osborne,



Robert Richardson

(then I whispered) can't win the big game. But he's a heck of a nice guy and he really tries hard."

I never thought I would ever see Santa look so distraught. Although I knew my problems were big I thought Santa had dealt with heftier complications.

"Rob," he said, still troubled, but smiling, "luckily I have dealt with bigger problems before, and I always come prepared."

Just then the 6- and 7-year-olds started a chant — without the supervision of their mothers.

"You're too old, you're in a rut, STAND UP WALK AWAY, MOVE YOUR BIG BUTT!"

Santa quickly dug through his bag of tricks. He pulled out a real-looking machine gun.

The kids stopped their chant.

"It looks real, it feels real, but it ain't," Santa said. "It's a pure fake. And as I fly over the world I'm dropping these to replace them harmful ones. World leaders need to learn to talk. With these fake weapons they won't have a choice."

"But Santa," I said, "what if we can't afford to talk? We can't afford to let John Wayne and Rambo down."

Slightly puzzled, Santa said, "Well I'll just give 'em those guns with the sticky rubber bullets. If that doesn't help, I'll tell Rudolph and Prancer to relieve themselves as we fly over the

conflict." Seeming satisfied that one problem was resolved, he went on to try his bag with the next dilemma.

"Rob, I think that that university of yours really needs a good president. One that knows the campus like his elves. I want someone who won't be satisfied with complacency and who will restore it back to its original excellent mode of education. Plus I hear that the job pays real well."

He reached in again and pulled out a name plate that read "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, President."

"It's about time somebody listened to that animal. He's got good ideas and a lot of guts and a beautiful red nose."

Now it was Santa's turn to whisper.

"He's the only living, breathing life form that I could talk into taking the position. I want him to run your university for a while. If he doesn't do so hot, I'll ask him to step down."

"Santa, that is a great present," I said. "We'll have a visible leader and he will be cheap. You really know how to hold down costs."

"Two down, one to go," we both said together.

"Well," Santa said, "Tommy Osborne is next."

This is where Santa got real close as he put his arm around me like my dad did when he told me my dog had been splattered on the street in front of the house.

He said "Rob, some things can't be helped. I hate to be the bad guy."

With that he pulled out a pink slip and he asked me to give it to Osborne.

"Rob, he'll take it better from someone he knows," Santa said.

I left the mall that day crying my eyes out. But I still had love in my heart knowing that I might have helped, just a little.

Richardson is a junior broadcasting and English major and a Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment reporter and columnist.

## letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit

material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Letters should be typewritten.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.