



Ken Bader lauded for honesty

"A yellow-bellied administrator" is what one enraged Ohioan tagged the Ohio State University (OSU) dean of students following the May 1970 student strike.

But two years later that same man, Ken Bader, was given a hesitant pat on the back instead of a slap in the face by student leaders who knew and worked with him at OSU.

Bader, who begins his term as UNL Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Friday, was praised by the OSU *Lantern*, the campus newspaper, for his "disarming honesty . . . and genuine concern." The paper also praised him editorially for his willingness to "stick out his neck for a student."

He had only "minimal support with minority students," according to Michael White, president of the OSU undergraduate student government. But

the black student added that Bader had better relationships with them than most other administrators.

White, speaking in a telephone interview earlier this week, said Bader had a "positive approach to student discipline." He also said the former dean tried to help student government implement new proposals.

Jerry Friedman, former president of the OSU student body, characterized Bader as a "compassionate and reasonable dude."

"I don't know if he really had enough power to do anything," Friedman said.

"But if he did, he didn't do as much as he could have."

He said Bader allowed advisors to student organizations to use "big brother tactics" to keep those organizations from involving themselves in controversial activity.

He also said Bader "related to only a narrow section" of students and charged that minorities and dissidents often were ignored.

"He just didn't act to his fullest capacities," Friedman said. "But I'm always critical of administrators," he added.

support
nebraskan
advertisers