

# Youthful Bader is old in experience

by Michael (O.J.) Nelson

"I am charged by the Board of Regents to be an administrator and I've got decisions to make."

The administrator is Ken Bader. And for an hour and a half Tuesday he talked about his background, his interests and hinted at what sorts of decisions he might reach in his new position.

**Although he's the new UNL vice chancellor for Student Affairs, he could be easily mistaken for a graduate student.**

**His crew cut and sparkling blue eyes make him look much younger than his 38 years.**

Despite his youthful appearance, Bader probably has more experience in university administration than most men his age.

He was named Dean of Students at Ohio State University (OSU) in 1969. At age 35, he was the youngest man to hold

that job in the school's history. Before being promoted to that position he had served as acting assistant dean for academic affairs, and assistant and associate dean of students for the OSU College of Agriculture.

**Climbing the administrative ladder so quickly was hard work, work which he said was fueled by "nervous energy."**

"I have an abundance of nervous energy, although I hope I don't always reflect it," he said. He tapped his foot rhythmically through most of the interview.

It's that energy, he said, which forces him to "work hard and play hard."

When he plays, the game is usually golf ("I'm doing well when I break 100 on a championship course"), tennis or handball.

**Is he planning to challenge his new boss, UNL Chancellor James Zumberge, an avid handball player, to a match?**

"I don't think so," he said. "I hear

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he's an enthusiast and I haven't played in sometime."

He paused, and then with a smile that suggested the sweetness of a possible future victory, he said: "However, I think I'd like to get him on the golf course or the tennis court."

**Being in charge of Student Affairs won't leave much time for sports, he said. "It's not a 9 to 5 job."**

Ely Meyerson, formerly interim dean for Student Affairs and Bader's predecessor at UNL, would agree. He'd not served more than a month until he was entangled in the first of four major student-administration-Board of Regents controversies last school year: the highly publicized Time-Out Conference on Human Sexuality, followed by a birth control handbook investigation, a co-ed visitation dispute, and the much criticized conference, "Justice in America".

But the prospect of a year of conflict doesn't scare Ken Bader.

"I'm not one to run from controversy," he said. "I realize the cutting edge in education is a questioning process. That's true for things in or out of the classroom."

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