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mistake in numbering

## NU status report missed deadline

By John Kalkowski

A report to inform Gov. J. James Exon of the status of the University of Nebraska compared with other Big 8 schools will not be completed by the Commission on University Funding until March or later, according to Gus Lieske, commission chairman.

The commission was formed last summer and was to deliver the report by Jan. 1 of this year.

Exon said, however, he is satisfied with the way the commission is operating and is pleased they did not pick an arbitrary date "to force out an incomplete report."

"Time is not nearly as important as a factual report," he said.

According to NU President D.B. Varner, the commission was formed last year when he and Exon discussed ways to determine the level of funding for the University of Nebraska.

### Goal is Big 8 average

Varner said he suggested finding the funding average of the top three schools in the Big 8, and make that amount the goal for the University of Nebraska.

The discussion between Exon and Varner dealt with raising faculty pay scales to make them comparable to other Big 8 schools, Exon said.

When the commission was formed, its assignment was to study NU funding needs as compared with the needs of Big 8 schools and other area universities, he said.

According to Lieske, the commission got a slow start.

He said the 12-member commission was formed last August and did not meet until September.

### Need a year

"If we had a full year for study, we would have been able to make substantial recommendations by now," he said.

Recommendations from the commission were to provide input to gubernatorial and legislative decisions this year.

According to Lieske, the commission was not able to collect and analyze the material in four months. The commission has met six times since last September.

"It has been my impression," Varner said, "that they've been slowly dragging their feet."

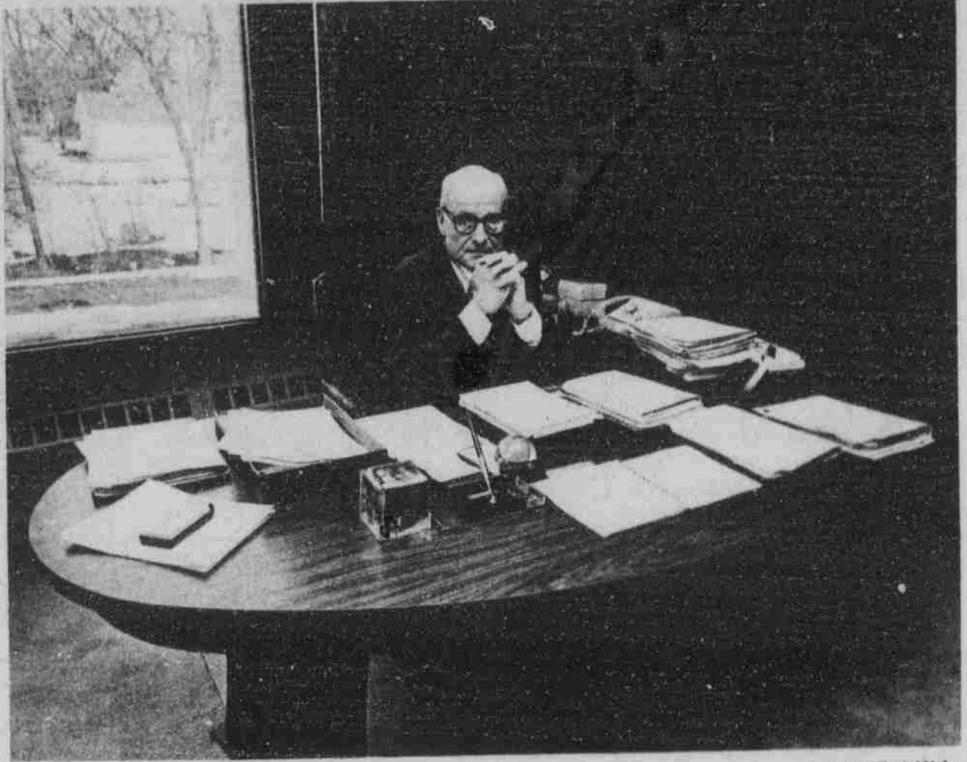
### Oral report

Exon said he has been told he will receive an oral report of the commission's progress before the next meeting.

At the meeting next Wednesday, Lieske said, the commission should decide whether to use per capita income, per student expenditures or some other measure for a recommended level of university funding.

Nebraska was listed in a previous report as 35th in population and 27th in amount spent per person on higher education.

Nebraska is third in per capita government expenditures and fifth in higher education expenditures per person among Big 8 schools, the report stated.



D. B. Varner, NU president.

Photo by Ted Kirk

## \$1 RHA proposal defeated Tuesday

By Lisa Brown

UNL students voting Tuesday in the Residence Hall Association (RHA) election decided against paying an extra dollar for their room and board contracts next year.

The money was split equally between RHA and the dorm governments.

Of those those students returning to the residence halls next year, 44 per cent voted to pay the extra dollar and 56 per cent voted not to, RHA president Tim Evensen said. A two-thirds majority of those returning was needed to pass the proposal, Evensen said.

He said 38 per cent of the voters did not plan to live in the residence halls next year and were not included in the outcome.

Evenson said he was disappointed with the results which, he said, students still don't realize his organization's role, even though there has been an increase in RHA services and more communication about it this year.

RHA's objective is to represent dorm residents to the administration and NU Board of Regents, Evensen said.

"RHA is comprised of representatives of the separate governments and is a central organization linking all of them," he said, "not just a totally different branch of student housing."

Too many people just consider RHA to be an organization to work toward improved visitation and alcohol rules, he said. "It's real purpose is to make residence halls a better place to live in many ways," he said.

Marie Hanson, coordinator for residence hall programs, said the vote was an outstanding show of interest because 44 per cent of the students were willing to pay more. It's a vote of confidence for RHA and the governments, she said.

## TV newsman at Model UN

Same Jaffe, former ABC correspondent in Moscow and Hong Kong, will be the keynote speaker at Nebraska Model United Nations opening ceremonies Thursday. Jaffe will hold an informal rap session at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Harper Hall Main Lounge.

## Jury rules shooting death justifiable homicide

By Jim Zalewski

The coroner's jury at an inquest called to investigate a weekend shooting ruled Tuesday morning that police officers acted justifiably in the death of Elijah Childers Jr. Saturday night.

Ron Lahners, Lancaster County Attorney, said he appointed Stan Schrier, Sam Marchese, Lloyd Feerhusen, Trego McWilliams, Jim Huges and Paul Amen as jurors. Lahners said the jury deliberated for three hours before it decided Childers' death was justifiable homicide.

The jury selection was an attempt to represent the community, Lahners said. State statute specifies jury selection only as "six lawful men," he said.

Childers, 1317 L St., Apt D3, was shot three times when he attacked Detective Don Buckner with a knife. Lahners said two officers had gone to the apartment to talk to Childers about an earlier stabbing incident at the Red Rose Lounge, in which Vincent White Magpie was injured.

### Officers attacked

The officers were attacked when they entered the apartment, Lahners said. Buckner and Officer Mike Williams each fired twice, he said.

Childers was hit twice in the body and once in the head, Lahners said, and died instantly.

Six police officers were sent to make the arrest, which is not unusual considering the circumstances of this case, Lahners said.

"They (police officers) knew he was dangerous,"

he said. "Two detectives had removed a concealed weapon from Childers two months ago. They also knew he had a history of mental problems."

The jury criticized the procedures at the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC), where Childers had previously been committed, Marchese, a jury member, said.

### 'Should be alive'

"That man should be alive today and being treated at the Regional Center," Marchese said. "It really bothers me. His superiors had tried to get him re-admitted and his (Childers) admission was denied."

The jury released a statement signed by all six jurors that explained their feelings in the case, he said.

The incident was unfortunate, and the jurors do not pretend to have all the knowledge, the statement said. However, the jurors criticized the police department for a "lack of a coordinated effort."

Marchese said the jurors were more critical of the release procedures at the LRC.

"We urge a review of the policies and procedures both at the Lincoln Regional Center and the Lincoln Police Dept. to avoid this type of incident in the future," the statement said.

### Questions judgment

Marchese said he questions the judgment of Childers' caseworkers in recommending Childers' release.

"The man was a paranoid schizophrenic," he said.

"He was supposed to take his medicine, but no one was checking on him. The man was ill and should never have been released."

Ted Bastian, business manager at the LRC, said the problem in cases like Childers is one of after-care.

"Childers was admitted to the Lincoln-Lancaster Mental Clinic (LLMC)," Bastian said. "There is no way we can follow them around 24 hours a day."

Childers' release occurred under normal circumstances, and it appeared he was ready for release, he said.

Jim Fuller, Childers' therapist at LLMC, said LLMC does not have the controlling power over a patient that the LRC does. Fuller recommended December 10 that Childers' case record be terminated.

### Loses civil rights

A patient at the LRC loses his civil rights and is under the control of a team of doctors and psychiatrists, he said. The LLMC has no such legal controlling powers, Fuller said.

Fuller said there was some question that Childers could be a dangerous person, but there was no way to determine this fact.

Childers was ready to go when the LRC released him, Fuller said, but he hadn't been ready two weeks before.

Fuller said Childers' release was an attempt to get Childers back into the community where he could feel he was making some contribution.

"We tried to get him back into the mainstream of society and the more normal aspects of life," he said.