

... Bader

continued from page 7

The oddness of the thing struck Bader one morning while he was going to work. There in the parking lot by the basketball arena was row upon row, probably about 400 army trucks, he said.

"It was a dismal chapter out of my life experience. I don't like to think about it very often. I don't condone all that happened. I thought some of the concerns of the students had some legitimacy. But no one could get down to the brass tacks to work out a solution."

Since he came to Nebraska, Bader has taken on a different appearance. He has grown out his flatbrush haircut and adopted the Dry Look. A sports enthusiast, he keeps in shape by playing golf and tennis.

Lines of communication and credibility are vital to his work, he said.

"You can't be everyone's most favorite person all of the time. But I think over time students feel that I'm a person that they can talk to."

"It's been very rewarding to me to experience a trust relationship between myself and the last three student body leaders. I can't say that deep down I've felt that people have distrusted me."

Bader said his style of administration is "somewhat different" for, "I think it's important to meet individually with students."

Bader said he meets regularly with presidents of student governing bodies, like ASUN and Panhellenic. He sometimes eats at the dorms and Greek houses.

Bader discussed some of the issues that he has faced this year. Among them:

—Religious preference cards: "I am in sympathy with the need of the campus ministries to get information, but I think there's other ways for them to get that information."

About 1,000 out of the 7,000 students who receive the cards, return them. But even then, "that's a bundle," Bader said. Upperclassmen, he said, seldom fill out the cards.

"We spend about \$1,000 to put those cards in the registration packets. If the postage cost goes up the cost could go up to \$4,000. Since 94 per cent of the students here are Nebraska residents, what's wrong with the church in the student's home town

forwarding that information to the campus ministry?"

"I don't want people to get the idea that I'm against religion, but I think the ministries could get more accurate information by getting it another way."

—The student health center: "We have hired a director now, which has been a long, arduous trial."

The health center faces problems, Bader said. A facility that was built for a campus of 10,000 students must now accommodate a campus twice that size.

—Businesses in the Nebraska Union. "This was an attempt at honest exploration. I threw out the idea to Al Bennett, director of the union, to look for other sources of income."

Although it won't happen in two or three years, Bader said ultimately businesses will be let into the Union.

"That whole thing that happened last fall was a trial balloon. Everyone thought that we had already decided to lease the space. But that's part of my style. Through all the reaction that followed that proposal, we made a lot of people aware of the problems that the union is having."



—Alcohol on campus. "We have to convince students that there's a better way of presenting this issue than to run headlong and not understand the dynamics of what Nebraska is all about."

"Lincoln is like an island in the state. People here don't think like people think in Alliance or Broken Bow. After Lincoln, many people tend to measure others by their attitudes toward alcohol."

"It's just a matter of time" until alcohol will be allowed on campus, Bader said.

Bader said he sees hard times ahead.

"My job, the chancellor's and other university officials become that much harder. We have to impose a more adversarial position. We have to say no more often."

"People have this cavalier atmosphere that everything is business as usual. But we do have significant problems that we have to solve. And we don't know what the answers are. I hate the devil to sock it to the student with increased costs."

Another of Bader's concerns is "the general attitude that seems to pervade this campus regarding minority education."

"There's a lot of insensitivity to this in all walks of life. It's really depressing, especially here in Nebraska, which has the history of the Indians."

Bader said there is a real lack of cross-cultural education in the state, and he worries what effect it will have.

"How does an individual cope when he gets into the world and associates with people from these racial groups. That's an unknown question when a student comes to the university and sees two or three blacks or Chicanos living on his floor, what's his reaction?"

Bader said he can't get over how understanding and considerate people are here.

One evening he and his family were sitting in a local restaurant. They had waited 15 minutes for a waitress when another couple was seated.

"The waitress finally came and went over to the other table first, when the man sitting at that table pointed over to us and said, 'These people were here first.'"

"That to me typifies Nebraska more than anything I can think of."

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