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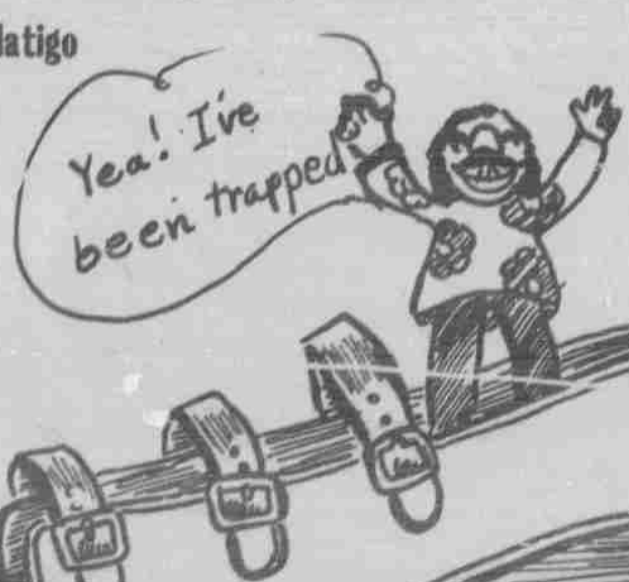
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## Professor designs vegetation map

A map showing major zones of native vegetation in Nebraska around 1850 has been developed by a UNL botany professor.

Robert Kaul has been researching the map's content for 10 years, he said. In 1974 the UNL Conservation and Survey Division, which publishes a series of maps depicting different areas of Nebraska, became interested in Kaul's work. The result was the map.

Kaul said the project's purpose was to educate laymen and to contribute to science.

Thirteen major zones are depicted on the map, each in a different color keyed to its dominant plant or plants. The distribution of forests 125 years ago is included along with the earlier range of salt marshes and many kinds of grasses.

Kaul said he put in "3,000 miles of leg work for the map's production." He said great changes occurred in Nebraska since it was part of the Nebraska territory.

He said today's richer prairie soils are used so extensively for crops and grazing that only scattered remnants of the virgin prairie remain.

Prairie fires, huge herds of grazing buffaloes, cutting down Nebraska's woodlands and weeds that compete with native species have all affected the distribution of vegetation throughout the state.

The goal of the map project, according to Kaul, was to look behind the changes brought about by historic factors affecting vegetation and to recover the distribution and character of vegetation zones in this region before Nebraska was admitted to the Union in 1867.

## Searcy: no pressure to leave position

By John Kalkowski

Donald Searcy, executive director of the Nebraska American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, said he has been under "no pressure" to leave his position.

Searcy has been criticized in news articles for mishandling commission funds, renting the commission's office furniture from his mother's antique shop in Wilber and for hiring members of his family to do commission work.

After a meeting of the commission Tuesday, Margaret Hasebroock, chairwoman, said she has not yet decided if the commission should retain Searcy. She said this was her own opinion and she could not speak for the entire commission, which has the power to remove the director.

### State audit

A state audit conducted in mid-March revealed that \$6,500, which should have been transferred to a special cash fund under the state treasurer, is missing.

The Bicentennial Commission received \$31,961 from royalties on the sales of Bicentennial medals. The report said only

\$25,380 has been transferred to the state fund.

The Bicentennial medals are being sold through the Nebraska Bankers Association as a public service at about 250 Nebraska banks, Searcy said.

According to Ray Johnson, state auditor, "the mingling of funds between the commission and the Nebraska American Revolution Bicentennial Association prevents a complete and accurate separation of commission expenditures."

### Money making group

The Bicentennial Commission was established by the Nebraska Legislature in 1972 to handle the state's Bicentennial celebration. The Bicentennial Association, a nonprofit group, was established to make money for the commission, Searcy said.

He said the Bicentennial Association is important because it can produce bicentennial products which the state does not want to sell.

The commission and association funds are combined, Searcy said. He added that

no association funds are used for commission salaries, but they may be used for office rent.

The 15 commissioners, who serve as state officials, also are on the association's board of directors.

### No attempt

A representative from the state auditor's office is working with the commission to set up proper accounting procedures for the commission, Searcy said. But, he added, his office is making no attempt to account for the \$6,500 the commission may owe the state treasury.

The auditor's report criticized Searcy and the commission for their handling of state Bicentennial funds.

The important thing, according to Searcy, is that the state auditor's report revealed no misappropriation of funds, but poor accounting procedures.

Hasebroock, said it appears that the money is missing, but it may have been spent for a purpose which may be billed to the state.

The audit did show some matters with which the commission has been lax, she said.

## Housing newsletter to continue next fall

By Lisa Brown

*Housing Review*, a four-page UNL housing newsletter distributed before spring break, explained and clarified housing policies, alerted students to summer housing and discussed innovations in the residence halls.

Fawzi Hermes, associate director of housing and chairman of the *Housing Review* newspaper board, said Thursday he considered the first issue a success and plans to publish the newsletter four times next year.

Five thousand copies were printed by the University Printing Department and distributed to each residence hall resident principals and counselors at the principal-freshman conference, housing employes, all deans and directors, the chancellor and vice chancellor's offices and the NU regents, Hermes said.

### Not distributed off campus

The newsletters weren't distributed to off-campus students because the housing office couldn't find a means of delivering them before the printing deadline, he said.

Topics included in the newsletter were the Centrex telephone system, the possible installation of closed-circuit television and cable television in the residence halls, the room and board increase, the cost of summer housing and the residence hall security program.

Ideally the newsletter should be printed once a month, Hermes said, but the staff isn't organized to do the kind of work needed to produce it that often.

The March issue is the last for this year, he said.

### Late release

The housing office formerly released the student handbook and contract after spring vacation. Occupancy has consistently dropped for the last two or three years, Hermes said.

There are several reasons for the occupancy drop, he said, but the late date of the handbook's release could have been a factor, so handbooks were distributed earlier this year.

Members of the housing staff in all divisions contributed to the newsletter, which was compiled by members of the newspaper board, Karen Veal, food service secretary; John Sipp, coordinator of maintenance and operations; and Mike Eyster, complex program director.

It was edited by Hermes and Richard Armstrong, UNL housing director.

give to the  
**MARCH**  
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