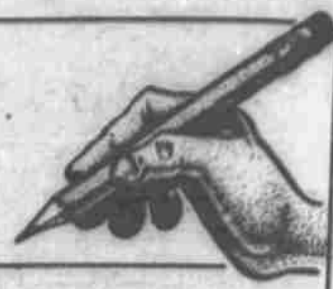


# opinion



## Martin explains surprise resignation

### Editor's note:

Dennis Martin wrote this letter to ASUN President Bill Mueller and First Vice President Tony Williams as an explanation for his unexpected resignation late last month as ASUN's second vice president. Martin asked that a copy of the letter be given to the *Daily Nebraskan*.

I am writing this letter to give you more background into my actions of the past two weeks. I ask that you read this letter the (ASUN) Senate, but will understand if you choose not to.

The story and the quotes in last Wednesday's *Daily Nebraskan* were true and were my words. However, I feel I should explain some of the things that did not appear in that article. The reporter chose to take the sensational items and make a story out of my interview that would definitely be front-page news. That is the prerogative of the reporter and I hold no ill will toward the *Daily Nebraskan*.

First, I realized that I should have notified you of my decision before I went to the press. When I had learned that the press had contacted you, Bill (Mueller, ASUN president) I decided to collect my thoughts before writing this letter. I almost wrote you of my decision before, but Bill, you were in Kansas City and I thought the letter

probably would sit on your desk until last week anyway.

My use of the word 'lackeys' (in the Wednesday story) relates to a statement that was not printed. I have been a lackey of the Administration for five and one-half years. I realized that I'd been getting false information from administrators since I have been involved with student activities at UNL. Time and time again I have received piece-meal or incorrect information for my efforts to find out what is really going on. I have gone to bat for the (UNL) administration by testifying before the regents and the Legislative committees. I'm tired of being used to state the student view to the final decisionmakers and realizing later that I wasn't told everything.

But my situation is not unique. Administrators have been telling faculty and student half-stories for as long as I can remember.

The only time I have been involved with a project where a committee, etc., consisting mainly of students and faculty made the recommendations directly to the regents was the East Union Planning Committee. However, the committee was dissolved after the project was approved. Who knows what the end product will look like now? I guess we'll know in January.

The problem with the administrators silence on the (UNL) Campus Assistance Center questions didn't relate

to the assistance center. The administration was bothered by the Coalition for University Reform petition but not because of the position itself. What is really worrying the administration of UNL? I think a few students and faculty members were getting too close to what was really worrying them. I only wish I knew the true story about their fear of what someone could possibly discover. I ran with a man whom I felt could be effective in discovering what was really bugging the administration. But, he was not elected. I felt that maybe I could operate in the ASUN with you who were elected. But the problems I immediately encountered proved I couldn't remain in office. At this point, let me expound on another portion of the article I think needs explaining. I said ASUN cannot and will not do anything to alleviate the problem. ASUN cannot do anything because the Administration does not give you the whole story.

ASUN will not be able to do anything because of the deviousness that was created last spring. The Greek slate caused a split in the student population that will take years to mend.

The only thing those people outside of the Greek system can do now is to either resign from student involvement or to organize the independents in hope of contributing to the university as a whole. So, what is my advice to you who remain involved? There are only two things that I see now:

1) Examine what you are told by the administration totally and thoroughly. Never take the first reply as the answer because in most cases you will never get the complete story. Dig as deep as you can. I no longer have the time required to search deep enough to be of use to myself or to the university. Even if I returned to law school this semester, I couldn't devote the time necessary. It's the individuals who dig that make the difference, not the ASUN Senate. The ASUN senate can do is pass resolutions to recommend to the administration.

Work for and vote, if possible, for Merle Hansen for regent. It's about time there was a regent who wouldn't take everything told him by the administration as the complete story.

In conclusion, I resign for the above reasons. I could have remained active as a student and still worked in the ASUN and Zorinsky campaigns. But, I chose not to take such an alternative. Finally, this resignation is also my swan song to my involvement with a group of people I consider close friends—the Coalition for University Reform.

Thank you for listening to my explanation.

## 'Please thy palate', caveat emptor best maxims for choosing eatery

By Don Wesley

The timely and helpful subject to which I would now like to turn, is the booklet published by Nebraska University Public Interest Research Group (NUPIRG) titled "Getting Your Money's Worth in Lincoln." This booklet was included in the Freshman Packet distributed this week to freshmen (though, inadvertently, the booklet was not placed in some packets). The booklet includes price surveys, bus schedules and helpful phone numbers which I now shall review and elaborate upon.

The price surveys conducted approximately two months ago by NUPIRG of hamburger stands, sit down restaurants, pizza restaurants, and sandwich shops are interesting but inconclusive. It was never NUPIRG's intent, I believe, to, say, compare the price of Runzas to the price of submarine sandwiches (that would be a bit like comparing a larch to a lilac, wouldn't it?). Besides, most people abide by a personal first commandment of restaurant selection—"Please thy Palate". Nevertheless, it is illuminating to be able to see for oneself how the prices of some Lincoln eating establishments compare. For those

NUPIRG's survey of product prices helps to point the way, incomplete and subjective though it may be.

The Lincoln Transportation System's schedules included by NUPIRG in the booklet are fine though slightly dated. The only change in these schedules, as well as other bus schedules, is the new Downtown Loop service, instituted recently as a result of the construction on "O" Information about Lincoln's bus schedules can be obtained at the South Desk of the Nebraska Union or by calling the Lincoln Transportation System at 474-1561.

The last section of the booklet is a list of telephone numbers you can call for information or help. Like a good T.V. serial, I'm going to wait until next time to list and explain how and who you can contact to answer your questions and solve your problems, from keeping healthy to keeping out of court.

## Federal father would be failure

By Nicholas Von Hoffman

Washington (UFS)—Reverend Carter came out of softball and seclusion the other day to promise, if elected, that "we're going to reverse the trend that we've experienced in the past that has destroyed the American Family."

This is the kind of remark that candidates of both the ordained and unordained variety make from time to time, so that wisdom counsels that they not be held against the speaker. Unfortunately the Reverend has got himself and the public in a kind of cul-de-sac that prohibits him from saying anything without making it appear he's trying to deliver on it. Ergo in the next breath he announced that one Joseph A. Califano, Jr. has been appointed "a special adviser to me on how Federal programs can aid and support the American Family." Presumably, if the Reverend is elevated to that secular episcopacy we call the presidency, Mr. Califano will assume some title like Director of the Federal Family Administration or, maybe more simply, Federal Father.

Mr. Califano, who is doubtless a splendid husband and paternal parent, functioned in an earlier incarnation as an important assistant to President Lyndon Johnson. He is now, among other things, a lawyer for the Washington Post, and while he has acquitted himself adequately, even admirably in these positions, there is nothing in his record that indicates he will be able to restore the American Family. Nor is there in anybody else's, and that's the point.

It's one thing for the Reverend Mr. Peanut to recognize that the White House is, in Teddy Roosevelt's phrase, a bully pulpit; it is another to pretend to people that you seriously mean it when you say things like, "I believe we can restore human values, respect for one another,

intimacy, love, respect for law, patriotism, good education, strong churches . . . I pledge to you that every statement I make, every decision I make, will give your families a decent chance to be strong again."

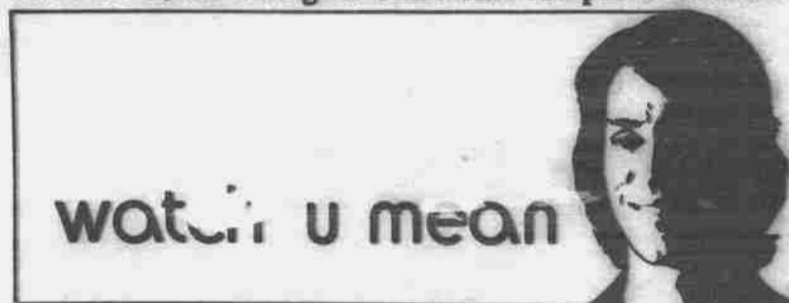
It is no good reinforcing the idea that the Federal government can be made responsible for everything.

Carter is not the first national politician to federalize a problem. By federalizing a problem, you first define a local one in national terms and then you assert a national solution. This was done by Carter's predecessors with crime, and it is being done with education and medicine to no very good purpose.

## sidewise

We can suppose utterances like this arise from what the political writers call Carter's "thematic" campaign approach, the taking up of vague but important symbols, playing with them, using them, turning them into mechanisms which bind voters to his candidacy. Defined this way, it's not easy to distinguish thematic campaigning from demagoguery, except that Carter goes about it in a low-key way that is less frightening and less likely to un- cage the bad animals within our spirits. Even so, such speechifying may agitate anxieties and contribute to the sense of unhappiness which many of us have in spite of 70 percent of the population being so prosperous that doctors warn us it is hazardous to our health.

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of you who have not and will not receive a copy of the booklet, prices very little, actually, and no recommendations can be made except caveat emptor.

I found NUPIRG's price survey of products to be more revealing and instructive. This survey compared the prices of ten household products (mostly toiletries) at eight Lincoln stores. Although one store was consistently most expensive and another store less consistently least expensive, most stores fell somewhere in between with high prices for some products and low prices for others.

The difference in prices between stores was certainly nothing to sneeze at. For instance, you would save the following amounts by shopping at one store rather than another more expensive one: 70 cents for Ban Roll-on deodorant, 69 cents for Bayer aspirin, 62 cents for Colgate toothpaste and 65 cents for Foamy shaving cream.

The difference in price between various brands of the same product also was notable. For instance, you would save the following amounts by buying a different brand than the name brand given: \$1.10 for deodorant (Ban), \$1.35 for aspirin (Bayer), 81 cents for toothpaste (Colgate), and \$1 for shaving cream (Foamy).

These savings are significant, yet, considerations other than prices also influence consumer choices. The quality of products, the amenities a store offers its patrons, such as check cashing or home delivery services, and a store's open hours and proximity also influence what we buy at which store. It is terribly difficult for any price survey, in a fair and complete manner, to include these additional considerations. Likewise, price surveys are limited in that not all products nor every store is able to be included in the survey.

Despite the seemingly necessary narrowness of price surveys they are important for a number of reasons, one of which is the reaffirmation of familiar consumer truths. One such truth stated in the booklet is that "... you can save some money if you carefully choose your store and product". Amen, as my mother used to tell me, if it's money you want to save you'd better shop around.

## ORION

