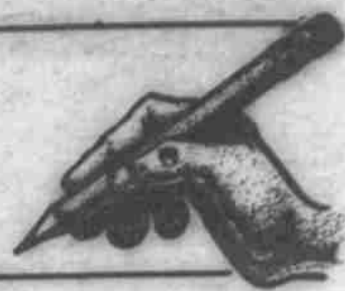


## opinion



## Resignations not to be taken as omen

You've read about the countdown. The number varies depending upon whom you list as an administrator, but about 14 persons in the upper echelons of the university hierarchy have in the past year resigned or stated their intentions to resign.

Some are speculating "the exodus" is a sign the university is in trouble—big trouble. The rumor mill has it the university is in danger of losing its accredited status—that the shrewd and able are getting out while the getting is good.

But there is no evidence to support the fears of those moping around with eyes downcast, shaking their heads and muttering about diplomas which may not be worth a fraction of the dollars spent on them.

The university does have its problems—most of which are all too obvious. As for suspicions of some ruinous revelation lurking in the next semester for two—unfounded and a little too dramatic in light of the facts.

University administrators (and NU is no exception) seldom spend their careers in one position or even in one institution. There always have been administrators willing to move on to better jobs.

An unusually large number of administrators are moving on this year. Some of the recent resignations probably were triggered by President

Verner's intentions to move. Persons who have been turning down outside offers for years perhaps decided if they were ever going to leave, this would be a good time.

The reasons for leaving probably are as numerous as the resignations.

All are leaving for a salary increase and professional advancement.

The salary increases have always been out there. One high-level administrator who is staying on suggested it is not so much the low salaries which frustrate UNL administrators as the low budgets which keep administrators from doing as effective a job as they could.

A few of the moves may have been triggered by personal clashes, conflicts among the central administration and the campuses and a lack of salary and spending money. But these problems are not new and do not suggest the university will come crashing down around those of us too short-sighted to leave.

One thing we can count on though—the personality of the university is in for an overhaul. The character of a job changes with each new administrator in proportion to the number of persons and programs affected by that job.

Two new chancellors and a new president are bound to change things at the University of Nebraska—for better or worse remains to be seen.

Incidentally, in case you are wondering what it takes to be a university president and how a university goes about finding one, the qualifications are listed below in this clipping from the "help wanted" section of the Chronicle of Higher Education.

PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

The University of Nebraska Presidential Search Committee, through authority vested by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, invites applications and nominations for the position of President.

The University of Nebraska is a state land grant, multi-campus institution with a total annual budget of \$200 million. A member of the prestigious American Association of Universities, the University offers a wide variety of liberal arts, pre-professional and professional degree-granting programs. Its three campuses—the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center—have a combined enrollment of 39,000 graduate and undergraduate students and a community of scholars which numbers over 1,900 tenured or tenure-track faculty members.

The President serves as the chief executive officer of a system governed by an eleven-member Board, works closely with the chancellors of the three campuses, and provides leadership to the entire system. A candidate must have a proven record of intellectual distinction and major administrative experience in higher education; a personal commitment to the philosophy of public higher education; and the ability to interpret the university's mission to its various publics. An earned doctorate and university level teaching experience are desirable.

Applications and nominations may be sent until August 9, 1976, to:

Presidential Search Committee  
c/o Corporation Secretary  
Board of Regents  
3835 Holdrege Street  
Lincoln, NE 68583

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## Corporation receives treatment usually reserved for individuals

By Nicholas Von Hoffman

Corporations, or fictional people as they are known to the law, have been complaining as loudly as real people that the government is as the novelist Franz Kafka described it. The difference is that while practically everybody will lend credence to any tale of official abuse directed toward an individual, many of us are skeptical when corporations complain that they are sometimes no better treated, nor any less arbitrarily, than a black welfare mother.

North American Van Lines would probably disagree, and a recent decision by a three-judge federal court in Fort Wayne, Ind., makes it look as though this big trucking company gets about the same treatment from the Interstate Commerce Commission as the welfare mother gets from a hostile social worker. Since September, 1972, action by the commission has made it impossible for North American to expand its business. For almost four years the company has been forced by the government to stagnate, to use the verb the court employed.

North American's trouble began in 1970, when the commission promulgated new and higher standards of performance for movers of household furnishings. Nothing necessarily objectionable about that. For years people had been complaining that moving companies messed up their lives by not coming on the day they promised, breaking the crockery in transit, delivering late and wildly exceeding their estimated costs. Since it also had become a piece of settled folk wisdom that an injured customer has little chance of collecting damages from a moving company, the Interstate Commerce Commission was under pressure to do something.

Hence the new, tougher regulations. The commission, which had ignored small customer complaints for years, seems to have decided to rectify one set of errors by committing another. It demanded that the moving companies sign a consent decree promising 100 per cent compliance with new regulations. After several threatening audits were begun against them, Aero-Mayflower and Allied Vans signed. North American didn't, arguing that the nature of the business is such that 100 per cent compliance is physically impossible.

The straightforward and fair action for the commission to take at that point would have been to collect information and hold hearings on the bone of contention between it and North American. That way the disagreement might

have been settled on its merits. Instead the commission decided to attack North American on the non-home furnishings part of its freight hauling business, the part of the business that had nothing to do with the new regulations.

Law and commission regulations require that every time any trucker accepts an order to carry any new sort of merchandise it must get a "certificate of convenience and necessity" which specifies what merchandise is to be carried and between what points. Small wonder that some people in the industry feel a trifle overregulated.

The commission retaliated against the company by withholding from it permission to carry such diverse and unrelated cargoes as lawn mowers, Ping-Pong tables and musical organs. In characteristic Kafkaesque fashion, permission was never denied, it was just never granted, thus prompting the federal court to say "the continued withholding of decision in North America's application proceeding has been arbitrary, without reason, without factual or legal support, in excess of authority, beyond the limits of justifiable discretion and tinged at times with bad faith." Elsewhere in the same decision the court accused the commission of "punishing" North American for "rocking the boat" in resisting pressure to sign the 100 per cent compliance decree, something the company was well within its rights to do.

The hallmark of this kind of administration is that there is never any way of determining what's relevant... They use vague expressions like "not appropriate" or "unsuitable" until one gets the idea there really are no procedures, no judicatory mechanisms. The victim is supposed to go through the hoops and monkeyshines, carefully adhering to every rule, filling out every form, so that when he finds out it was a meaningless bit of bureaucratic acrobatics, the spirit will break and he will learn that there is only one lesson to learn and that is to guess the pleasure of one's official master and comply with it.

In this case the federal court did its best to make up to North American Van Lines, but, as the judges themselves said, it has no way of compensating the company for the business it lost nor the money it spent in legal fees fighting this kind of thing for so long. The rest of us might ask how costly is this kind of regulation that affords no one any protection. We still want to protect families when they have to move, but obviously we haven't yet learned how to do it.

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## letters

## Warning prospective teachers

Regarding "Teaching Endorsement Shortage Prompts Transfers" story in the Sept. 9 issue of the *Daily Nebraskan*.

**WARNING**—To those tempted to transfer to Teachers College:

**DON'T EXPECT** to get fair treatment either on campus or in the public schools.

**DON'T EXPECT** to be sent out to NUSTEP or to student teach in your major, minor, or any subject you've ever had.

**DON'T EXPECT** to be taught any "methods" before or after you're sent out.

**DON'T EXPECT** to be treated like a human being by your (un) "cooperating teacher."

**DON'T EXPECT** any backing from Teachers College in your never-ending struggles in the public schools.

**DON'T EXPECT** to be allowed to stay in any class to get your "competencies" done.

**DON'T EXPECT** to graduate with an endorsement and a teaching certificate.

I could go on forever. These things may come to pass for you. They didn't for me, and I meet other "T.C. refugees" wherever I go. Waste your time and money if you wish (it may be three or four years before you learn the bitter truth) but ask around first.

I've been there,

## Accreditation expected?

How does the UNL Health Center expect to get accreditation when they refuse emergency treatment to those who are not card-carrying university students?

Bruce McMorris

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material published will be based on timeliness and originality. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but may be published under a pen name if requested.

Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonerasable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.