

editorials

Personnel exodus must stop

Jack Baier should have been clanging cymbals and beating drums so everybody could hear what he has to say as he leaves UNL.

Baier, who has been acting dean of student development, told the Daily Nebraskan in Monday's issue that he was leaving for Texas Tech for more money and more stability.

The new twist to his departure was the stability question.

"It makes it so hard to plan beyond one year when you don't know if you're going to be here," Baier said. "Such an unstable environment is not good for retaining forward-planning, goal-oriented people."

He also noted the NU tendency to look elsewhere for administrators.

"The administration will conduct a year-long national search, looking for one Utopian person to fill a position, and then they end up by appointing a person who was already here."

This is the stuff of which an exodus is made.

Baier's complaints are not new. An NU administrator exodus has claimed more than 15 top-level people since 1973. Most left for better jobs and higher pay.

But the rumblings of discontent in the NU system have been brewing since the first of the resignations.

On the record, those leaving have few

complaints. Baier may be the first to openly voice what has been a common concern. Not for attribution, some of those leaving said some surprising things.

At least one top campus official "unofficially" was displeased with the systems concept.

Others left after being rejected for jobs they had sought in favor of administrators brought in from elsewhere.

The choices may have been the best. But the problem is despair among local administrators who want to advance.

The consequence: they leave.

There is a bright spot about the exodus: it seems to be slowing. We hope Baier's departure is the last in the series which prompted concern. There have been fewer departures this summer than last.

Normal turnover is expected. As others left, they publicly said their leaving was just normal turnover. Baier is the first to publicly tie the others moving to his leaving.

We have confidence, however, in Roskens, UNL Chancellor Roy Young, and some of those replacements. They must, and we believe they will, eliminate the rats-leaving-the-sinking-ship syndrome. If the door continues to revolve with people coming and going, the university will suffer.



'Tough cop' Kelley is low-key about leaving FBI

Washington—Outgoing FBI Director Clarence Kelley is calm and humorous these bittersweet September Days. When you ask him what advice he would give his successor, he says jovially, "Learn how to duck."

He is reflective, not angry, at the criticism he often has received, but knows the one thing he definitely would do again.

"Those valances," he said, laughing. "Those damned valances. If I'd known then . . ."

He is referring, of course, to the window valances made for him by the FBI. In an age of nitpicking morality the valances became a cause celebre against the then-new director.

But what does Clarence Kelley, the tough Kansas City police chief brought in at the key moment in FBI history, know now? What are his answers to criticisms he just hasn't used the necessary force to cleanse the bureau?

First interview

In the first interview given since Alabama Judge Frank Johnson Jr. was named FBI Director last week, Kelley answered at least three of the most important outstanding

questions.

Why had he not cleaned house of some of the more avid of the old Hoover palace guard, whom many feel have sabotaged his efforts?

georgie anne geyer

the geyer file



"My attitude is you don't fire people who are good, you change their attitudes. They're not venal, not at cross purposes. There was no necessity to dump people just to dump them. No need for a cosmetic type of change."

Were actions such as surreptitious entries, approved by higher-ups?

"My conclusions on the Hoover years are that things just grew," he said. "It became necessary to take the bull

by the horns. There was no accompanying intent to violate the law. My personal opinion is that everything was approved by higher authorities. This was not a runaway, maverick type of operation.

Someday

"Someday, I think we will know everything, but I don't know if it will come soon."

How did it come about that the top law officer in the United States at one point said he was deceived by his own men in the case of whether there had been surreptitious entries beyond a certain date?

"It sounds strange you don't know about your own people," he said, "but I made the choice of having someone outside do it (make investigations into these entries) in which case I would not know about it." In effect the Justice Department took over the investigations into the entries and Kelley, by his own desire, was not told of developments.

Perhaps what got Kelley into hot water at times is that he talks with purest fervor, not about the Hoover years (the abuses of which he has publicly apologized for), but about restructuring the bureau.

Internal reform

He waxes eloquent on his programs like participatory management, career development and hitting quality cases massively. What you realize is that these programs of internal reform are his answer to the political abuses of the past.

This process, if it works, will establish a new structured legality within an organization that, despite its heroic cast, had plenty of the rest of society's back-scratching and favoritism in it.

It is not sexy stuff. Ours is a society that likes either homesy or angry rhetoric. By the time we realize the rhetoric has done nothing, it's too late.

So this will probably go down as the saga of Clarence Kelley. "In years past, this has been a very autocratic organization," he said. "People have said to me, 'Why don't you just say autocratically, do it?'"

Yet, had he taken the autocratic route, he would have continued the way that J. Edgar Hoover today is so bitterly criticized for.

September Days

September Days. The time is going fast. He seems genuinely to like his successor. "The right balance?" he says of Judge Johnson. "I do sincerely think so. It appears to me a good background to have such an intimate knowledge of the law and the Constitution.

It is a good thing, too, to have the background of association with agents. He does feel the law is paramount, and he makes firm decisions and stands by them. In particular, he is not afraid to make them. He comes in with a very fine background."

Kelley thinks Johnson's biggest task will be shepherding through the immediate future the changes already made, and making his own. "You don't know how traumatic was the idea of change here," he said.

As for Clarence Kelley, it may be almost September, but it's certainly not December. No fading away. He intends to write a couple of books; he is considering an open-ended teaching job at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and he intends to practice law here and in Missouri.

When the final rolls of history come in, it will be fascinating to see how this low-key, dogged man rates next to the angry young men our society so often—and so mistakenly—reverses.

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Ah, summer: writing for fun, profit

While you spent an uneventful summer in Seneca or Springview, many Daily Nebraskan writers led exciting lives as professional journalists.

I, for example, free-lanced. I was tempted to sign a contract; *Adult Biker* magazine offered me gift certificates to a local adult bookstore in exchange for several articles.

Despite this lucrative proposition I decided I was too inexperienced. Instead, I wrote several articles for women's magazines. You might have read my "Fun Fashions for the Nude Beach" and "The Next Use For Vitamin E: Birth Control."

ron ahrens
enjoying
the scenery



As I scoured Lincoln in search of material I noticed many of the better gardens. A patch of marijuana flourished at a campus chapel—until harvest time.

As a diversion from the rigors of writing I attended free pop concerts. My enthusiasm was stifled by the irony

of the setting. As the band swung into a rendition of "America the Beautiful," a train roared behind the bandstand, drowning out the music.

Nevertheless, I remained amused thanks to letters from Grandma. Collected, these notes might be called "The Saga of the German Shepherd." Recently, Grandma discovered that Raven, her watchdog, had been blind for several years. She tried a smaller dog, but gave up when it ate only Meow-Meow Cat Food.

She bought a new police dog named Muffins. It quickly disappointed Granny by scarfing 3 1/2 ozs. of Vaseline. At least Muffins has a well-lubed bark.

The dog compounded Grandma's worries. Summer itself is cause for concern, according to her: the hot summer sun causes sunstroke! "Always wear a hat," she warns. Even on her short treks to the clothesline, my Grandma covers her head with a newspaper to prevent sunstroke.

Her worries increased after watching a recent news program that featured a report on child pornography. She wrote, alerting me of the danger. "Next time you hitchhike to San Francisco, be careful! They'll put you in those movies."

Thank you, Grandma, for giving me something to think about besides women's fashions and hairstyles.