

'New kid on the block' hopes to improve communication

By Cindy Coglianese

He calls himself the new kid on the block. His office is evidence that a lot more of Jim Raglin will be moved into his Director of Public Affairs office at Regents Hall.

Raglin, 53, was appointed as the Director of Public Affairs in November by the Board of Regents, a position that had not been filled in three or four years, Raglin said.

Previously a columnist and assistant managing editor for the *Lincoln Journal*, Raglin said he left the newsroom for the office because he "enjoys change."

"Young people think change is exclusively theirs. I enjoy change also, I like something different. Hell, I don't think you have to be young to try something different."

The Independence, Kan. native said since he has been in office, he has found the coffee, the restrooms, his boss's office and pens and paper, although, he said, the paper sometimes gives him trouble.

"Actually my chief responsibility is mainly communicating with the general public. The system has really not been communicating or at least that's what I've been told," Raglin said.

"I'll be writing news stories and helping broadcasters and making speeches. I think the university system is probably a mystery to the student body too and I have them on my priority list." Raglin added that he will be truthful to the students in his reporting because they have a good concept of what happens on the UNL campus.

"I'm just a communicator," Raglin said.

Various stories about UNL, and having three children study at the university have helped to familiarize Raglin with the university system. He said that issues have changed since his three children have been at UNL.

"Today students aren't necessarily content," he said. "I think issues are still provocative to them. They are less anti-establishment."

Raglin said he makes his judgements concerning the students from talking with his children and students at UNL, whether it be over a beer, a cup of coffee or on the bus.

One of his sons, Jack, is an artist for the *Daily Nebraskan*. Raglin said parents and taxpayers are concerned with paying for their children's education, cars and other materials.

"It's devastating what inflation does to most parents," Raglin said.

Raglin is optimistic, though, about his new job.

"This is a great university. I'm not a graduate but I guess I have enough skepticism in me. There's a lot to be proud of and I'm enthused about expanding that pride."

"I think this university delivers a hell of an education for the bucks," he added.

Though his enthusiasm for his new \$26,500 a year job

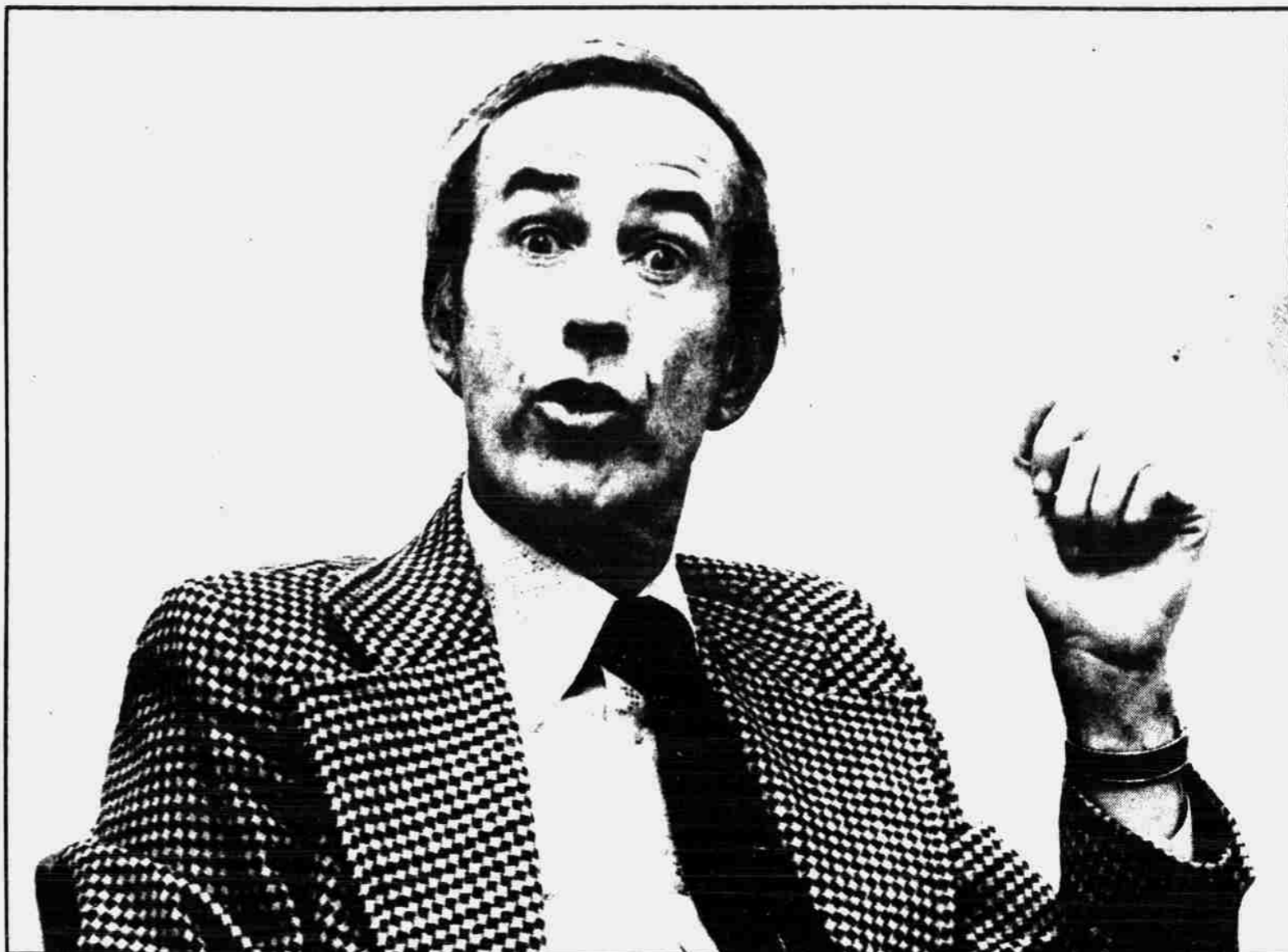


Photo by Jerry McBride

Jim Raglin, director of public affairs at Regents Hall, says he will miss the newsroom but will enjoy the change.

seems genuine enough, Raglin does admit to a loyalty to writing, reporting and the newsroom. He describes his attraction to journalism like the Sirens of Greek mythology that lure seamen close to the rocks with their singing.

Raglin earned his B.S. degree from the University of Kansas, worked at a few odd jobs and then began work for the *Lincoln Journal* in 1951. In 1962, Raglin and another reporter started a public relations firm where he stayed 12 years until he came back as assistant managing editor of the *Journal*.

He more recently wrote a column for the *Journal* on "things in general."

My column was once called 'Close to Home,' Raglin said. "Then a sweeping re-do of graphics threw away all column heads leaving them nameless. Suddenly my column head became white space."

"It was a general column, anything I wanted to write about. I could write things that were in reverse position of editorials and poke fun—hilariously and judiciously, I hope."

Raglin said that was a reason why it was hard to give up his three-times-a-week column.

The change of jobs had no effect on his favorite hobby—reading.

"I'm going to lose my eyesight because of reading," Raglin said. "I have no reading discipline," adding that he reads everything including candy wrappers and who made the stop sign.

"I'm more discerning with what I eat than with what I read," he said.

"I'm always going to miss the newsroom," Raglin concludes, "but I am very excited about this job."

Regent listens to Nebraskans and students

By L. Kent Wolgamott

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of in-depth profiles of the eight members of the NU Board of Regents.

Four student body presidents serve on the NU Board of Regents, the three-campus body presidents and a former student body president, Regent Robert Raun of Minden.

A 1951 graduate of the university, Raun was a member of the Innocents Society, Gamma Sigma Delta and Alpha Zeta honorary organizations and Alpha Gamma Rho social fraternity.

A farmer and stockman who lives south of Minden, Raun maintains contact with the university in a very personal way, as four of his children, Carol, a senior in Teachers College, Kevin, a senior in agriculture, Chris a junior in Arts and Sciences and Elizabeth, a sophomore in Home Economics, attend UNL.

Based on his experience with his children, Raun had this to say about the role of the regents as substitute parents:

"I think the die is cast when students come to the university. Most are adults by that time or if they're not they should be. But, at the same time, the parents of the students expect that we should have a reasonable amount of regulations.

Not parents

"I think we need to take a moderate position on rules. We aren't here to play the role of parents, but parents expect that we won't just let things go."

An Air Force veteran who holds a commission in the Air Force Reserve, Raun also is a member of the Nebraska Water

Resources Association, the Nebraska Livestock Feeders Association and the Rotary Club.

The 50-year-old regent was appointed to the board on Jan. 11, 1966 by former Democratic Gov. Frank B. Morrison to fill the unexpired term of former Republican Gov. Val Peterson who had resigned.

Raun was elected for a full term on Nov. 5, 1968, defeating Robert Koeft who now serves on the board along with Raun. Regental districts were reapportioned following the 1970 census, allowing both men to serve on the board.

Barnyard lawyer

He was re-elected in 1974 to serve a six year term which expires in 1980.

Raun is one of the best members of the board, according to ASUN President and Student Regent Ken Marienau.

Raun said he sees his primary role as regent as selecting competent administrators, assessing their performance and making large-scale policy decisions such as setting budget guidelines.

Raun is known as the "barnyard lawyer" to members of the board according to Marienau.

Marienau said Raun's knowledge of the practical application of the law earned him that title from his colleagues and led to their habit of asking Raun for his opinion on legal questions, partly in jest but with respect for his knowledge.

Raun, who represents 21 counties in south-central and southwest Nebraska has been a strong voice on the board for the College of Agriculture and agricultural research.

Listen to students

A conservative representative of his

area, Marienau said, Raun is honest and open with students and will listen to and consider students' opinions.

"There is no question that I listen to the tax-paying citizens of Nebraska," Raun said. "Not just parents of students. That does not mean the views of students are not considered because they are."

Raun voted to remove mandatory student fee funding for speakers but he said the system set up by the regents should work well.

"I think the structure of the program as it now stands will accommodate a very good speakers program, but its going to depend on determination and hard work on the part of the students."

One man, one vote

Raun also said he opposes the concept of a voting student regent.

"I don't think that voters would approve of a voting student regent and if they did, I think it would be unconstitutional because the courts have insisted that in all governing bodies the principle of one man, one vote be used.

He said constitutional problems of dual representation and possible out-of-state residency of student body presidents (last year's ASUN President Greg Johnson is from Balti, S.D.) would work against the concept of a voting student regent.

Raun has consistently voted against allowing alcohol on campus.

Raun said he felt NU's reputation among other colleges and universities is "quite good. I wish it were better, but we are making progress."



Daily Nebraskan photo

Regent Robert Raun of Minden is known as the barnyard lawyer to members of the board.

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