

## Regent's cover up charge to get legislative attention

By Rocky Strunk

A charge of a "cover up" by the UNL administration and the NU Board of Regents made by Regent Robert Prokop of Wilbur will receive attention from the Nebraska Legislature, according to Sen. George Burrows of Adams.

"I'm preparing an amendment to bring the issue before the legislature and point out conflicts at the university," said Burrows who was one of seven state senators receiving a seven page letter from Prokop last week.

"Hopefully the discussion on the floor will bring out some logical solutions and the regents will handle their own problems," Burrows said.

In Prokop's letter, he charges that the university tried to "cover up" information about the Eppley Institute in Omaha, veterinary testing fees at the agricultural institute based in Lincoln, faculty consultantships and the University Foundation.

### Regent cover up

Prokop added that this is just part of what some of the regents have tried to cover up since 1971 and that this is "one of the biggest cover-ups on information and detail that one could find in the state of Nebraska."

He also accuses his fellow regents of "inaction and indecision except in a crisis."

Prokop is scheduled to meet with seven state senators after Tuesday's session in a closed meeting to discuss allegations in his letter.

"I'm particularly interested in private use of the veterinary diagnostic testing center since I'm from an agricultural district," said Sen. Harold Sieck of Pleasant Dale. "The private use of research bothers me and certainly needs some looking into."

### Free testing services

According to Prokop's statistics, seven corporations and individuals used \$191,123 worth of free laboratory testing services in a 24 to 30 month period. He contends that the large users utilized the testing facility for their marketing needs; not for disease control.

"I think free veterinary diagnostic research is reasonable," Burrows said. "But when it exceeds \$50,000, it is getting a little beyond the scope of free research."

Besides veterinary diagnostic fee abuse, Prokop also alleges some faculty members and administrators are too heavily involved in outside consulting work. In his letter, he cites two specific examples—Dr. Philippe Shubik, director of the Eppley Institute at the Medical Center and Dr. L. Wayne Dobson, professor of banking at the UNL College of Business Administration.

With a list of 17 professional consulting and advisory board positions held by Shubik and seven positions for Dobson,

Prokop charges that the excessive outside duties created conflicts of interest and that none of the activities were approved by the regents.

### Approve work

NU policy states that regents must approve consulting work when the faculty member spends more than two working days a month on outside duties or when university equipment is used.

According to one document presented by Prokop, Shubik spent 43 days away from the Medical Center on outside activities during a three-month period in 1977.

"One of the most damaging implications of Prokop's letter is that high level management of cancer research may be taking retainers from private firms," Burrows said.

In his letter, Prokop challenges chancellors and NU administrators to "list publicly their honorariums, consultantships and financial gains from the University of Nebraska Foundation along with their additional salary benefits."

### Omaha Law firm

Prokop also charges that the regents tried to cover up the amount of money paid to an Omaha law firm of Kutak, Rock and Hute, for legal services to Eppley. Those fees, according to Prokop, totaled more than \$46,000 in the past nine years.

Prokop said the fees were not included on a list of all legal fees that he had requested. When he asked that the fees be discussed publicly by the regents last fall, his request was denied.

"We haven't got the guts to terminate anyone making bad judgment decision or even ask for accountability," Prokop wrote. "Does the regent stand behind the bad judgment in Eppley or in the consultantship racket or whatever?"

Burrows said that he hopes the regents will take an entirely new look at the internal management of the university and that perhaps a floor debate on the subject will help bring some of the problems out in the open.

Regent Prokop was unavailable for comment on Tuesday's proposed meeting.

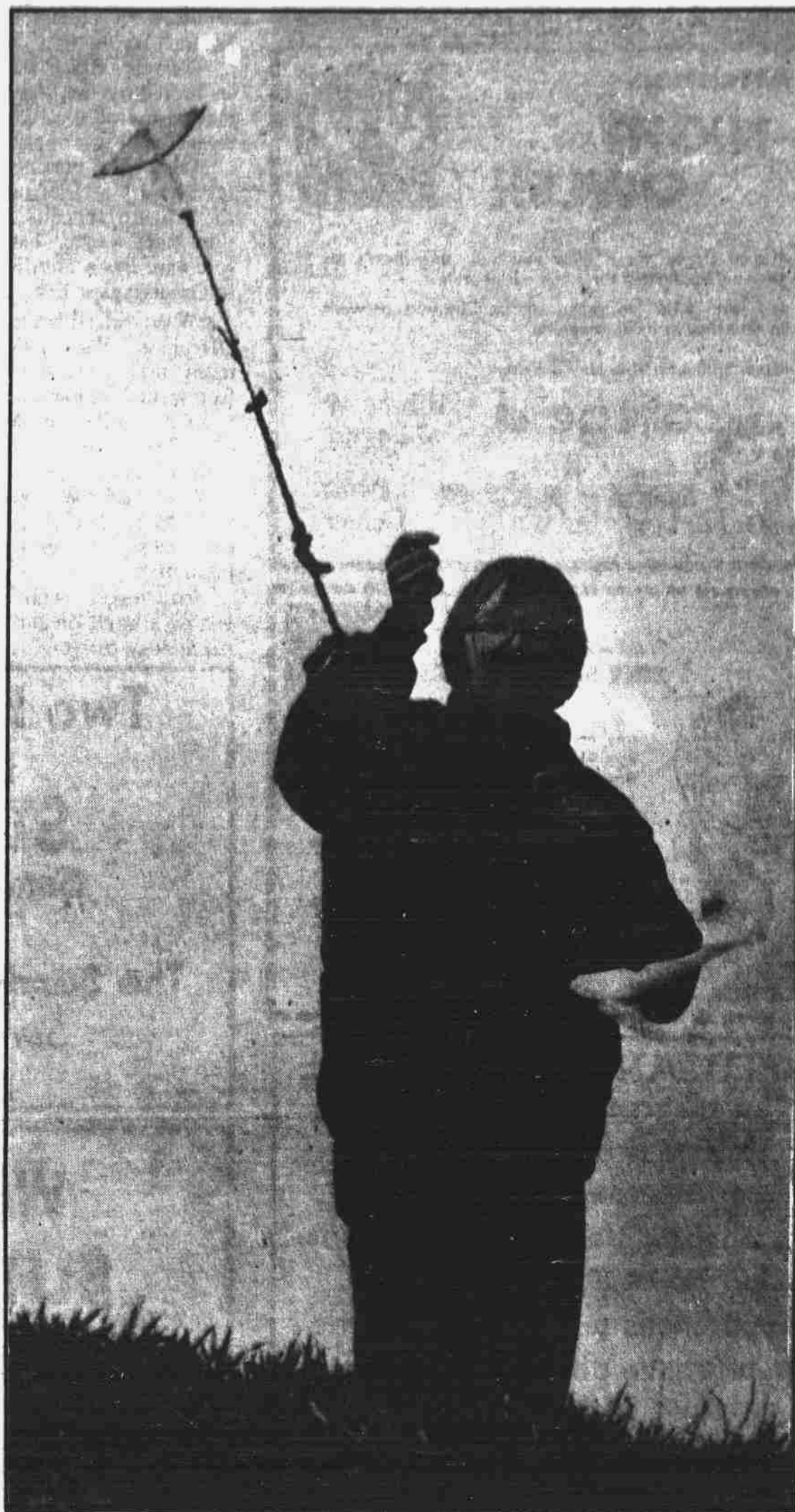


Photo by Mark Billingsley

It was with more than a little bit of difficulty that UNL Dental student Lynn Cramer got his miniature kite off the ground last weekend at Holmes Lake in that the tail needed to stabilize the kite was more than the kite could bear to lift.

## Hanna resignation 'not forced'—Hedges

Surprise and understanding were some of the reactions received in an informal interview of UNL engineering professors on the resignation of George P. Hanna, Dean of the College of Engineering.

Many of the professors said his resignation, to be effective June 30, was understandable in light of some of the criticisms made of Hanna.

Hanna, however, said his decision to resign had nothing to do with recent problems in the College of Engineering.

Ned Hedges, UNL vice chancellor for academic affairs said Hanna was not forced into resigning by the administration but "frustrations" could have had some part of the decision.

### Poor leadership

Frustrations in the College of Engineering have been brought about by an increase of the student body while the funding of the college has remained the same, Hedges said.

Earlier this year unnamed sources told the *Daily Nebraskan* that Dean Hanna had shown poor leadership.

Hedges said that he looked into the charges but found no "particular substance" to the charges.

Of 11 faculty members interviewed, six said they felt that the allegations made against Hanna were unfounded, two said they felt there was some basis for the charges and three said they had no opinion.

George Nagy, chairman of the computer science said he had the impression that Hanna did a good job.

"It was my impression that he trying to do a very hard job against long odds," Nagy said.

### 'Removed'

However, Professor Dwight Davy said that he felt the faculty's general attitude has been that the dean has been far removed from the daily problems of the faculty.

As a faculty member Davy said he had little contact with Hanna, but added that may be his own fault since it is just as easy for him to see the dean as the other way around.

The three professors interviewed who would give no comment said they felt it was better to leave the past alone and not stir up hard feelings.

Hanna said he is not leaving because of hard feelings but because he has a desire to get back into research. The move to the California State University system, Hanna said, is a natural progression in his career.

Hanna came to UNL in 1969 after leaving Ohio State University where he headed its Water Resources Center.

According to Hedges a committee will be set up to search for a replacement for Hanna. Hedges said he doubted whether the committee would be established before the next regents meeting April 21.

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