

Editorial

Reagan unmarred by 'sleazy' staff

The "sleazy factor" is in the news again. Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan is the latest in the long string of "sleazes" in Reagan's administration.

Donovan has been charged with grand larceny and fraud in an alleged scheme to defraud the New York Mass Transit agency of millions of dollars. He pleaded innocent.

Donovan is the first cabinet officer of a president to be indicted. It's important, though, because it underlines the "sleazy" problem within the administration.

Reagan has surrounded himself with a questionable group of people.

Let's start with Rita LaVelle, an Environmental Protection Agency official, convicted of lying to the Congressional committee investigating possible "Super Fund" fraud. Then there's Ann Burford Gorsuch, who resigned from the EPA because of the charges of political favoritism and misappropriation of "Super Fund" clean-up money.

Who could forget Interior Secretary James Watt? Everyone's favorite foot-in-mouth artist. He resigned amid a storm of controversy over his bigoted remarks about blacks, Indians, Jews and handicapped people.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro's finances are chicken-feed when you look over the number of people in the Reagan administration who

have been involved in scandal.

That none of the muck his staff flings up sticks to Reagan is probably the most outstanding aspect of the man. He is a master of shifting the blame.

He can't blame Carter, however much he would like to, for his staff selections. His poor judgment should be reflected in the polls. It isn't. He's farther ahead of Mondale than ever before.

Although Donovan's indictment has been getting a lot of coverage in the press, a story by the Associated Press in Sunday's Journal Star took the issue a little too far.

One of the men indicted with Donovan apparently made a \$1,000 donation to Ferraro's 1979 congressional campaign. So what?

William P. Masselli, who is a "reputed organized crime figure" according to the story, made the donation at a fund-raising dinner. A spokeswoman for Ferraro said Ferraro doesn't know Masselli. What is the point of the story? Should Ferraro be screening every donor to her campaigns?

Masselli admittedly isn't a savory character. He was convicted of kidnapping in 1958, paroled in 1964, and he was indicted last week for murder.

The story didn't say what connection Masselli had with Donovan.

can you name the only administration in US history sleazy enough to have a cabinet officer indicted..?



'Easterners,' farmers should stick together

Last summer, two weeks after I finished reading "Old Jules," a relative told me that my great great grandfather had come over from Switzerland on the same boat as that gruff frontiersman Sandoz in 1867.



Chris Burbach

Of course, Sandoz wasn't a gruff frontiersman then — he had just left medical school and was traveling to America, partly as an act of rebellion against his parents.

J. Anton Willy, my ancestor, was a musician. His life isn't as well-documented as that of Sandoz, so I can only guess at why Willy left the old country.

Whatever their reasons for immigrating and whatever the outcome of arguments surrounding their settling land previously settled by natives, people like Willy and Sandoz were responsible for Nebraska being the state it is today.

They and their fellow pioneers came to Nebraska with a dream of making a life for themselves and their families and a vision of what the state could be. They en-

dured adversity in pursuing that dream, they sweated to make those dreams materialize and they bound together with their fellows when those dreams became nightmares.

Many of the traditions established in those days are dying; there are no more barn raisings, no community harvests, no all-night wakes. In a few years, there may be no family farms. That should be of concern to all of us — Nebraska lives and dies with agriculture, and agriculture lives and dies with farmers. That's something we "Easterners," in our

ignorance, too often forget.

Those folks in the seed company hats with grease under their fingernails, those folks we call hicks, are the reason Omaha and Lincoln even exist. Now the cities have industries of their own. Now urban Nebraska could probably survive the collapse of the family farm — but that's not the question. The question is one of gratitude, of sticking together in a time of trouble.

For many family farmers, farming is not a business, it is a way of life. Their family has owned that land for years — each generation

has worked it and passed it on to the next. For such farmers, getting booted off their land isn't like changing jobs or getting laid off or even fired; it forcibly severs farmers from their heritage.

When it comes time to support or oppose legislation or programs affecting the farmers of this state, we should consider carefully our decision. We should think twice before refusing assistance to fellow Nebraskans just because it may cost us something. We should remember the dreams of our ancestors. And we should stick together.



Letters

Reader questions use of 'bimbo'

Shame on you, James Fussell, for using the word bimbo in your "Brazen diet approach" article. The dictionary says that bimbo means tramp. How do you know that the body-wrap boutique personnel are tramps? Such a reference is not in keeping with your excellent earlier articles decrying the use of derogatory name calling.

Marjorie Reid
University employee

the Society enjoys. Certainly Kivett has also been remarkably able in building both endowment and state support for the Society.

We can only hope that the next Historical Society Director — like Kivett — will be able to lead the Society in dynamic and innovative directions.

Peter Bleed
chairman
department of Anthropology

Professor lauds Kivett's work

The Nebraska State Historical Society is so much a part of life on the UNL campus that it was fitting to devote front page coverage to the retirement of Marvin Kivett, the Society's director. I would like to augment the article and further amplify Kivett's achievements and contributions.

As a Plains archeologist, Kivett's research contributions have been very important. He was one of the pioneers of Nebraska archeology and has remained an active force in local prehistoric research. Notably, his research in the 1940s and 50s forced anthropologists, historians and geographers to re-evaluate their ideas as to how humans made use of the Plains environment. Since becoming director, Kivett has, indeed, had to put his personal research on the back burner, but he has built within the Society active archeology and historic preservation programs which continue to research and manage the cultural heritage of our state.

Because the State Historical Society museum is so familiar to us, it is easy to forget that the Society is, in fact, a statewide facility. The outstate historic centers and local museums which the Society runs have largely come about under Kivett's direction. He deserves major credit for them and for the popular statewide support

CFA welcome input

I would like to applaud the letter of Michael Maloney (Daily Nebraskan Oct. 5) and the column of Kevin Warnke (Daily Nebraskan Oct. 3). The fact that the letters are totally opposed has nothing to do with this. I applaud both of these individuals because they are both speaking out on the critical area of student fees. For their benefit, and for the benefit of all students at UNL, I would like to point out the existence of the Committee on Fees Allocation. This committee exists primarily to give students a chance to give input on the student fees allocation process.

In addition to the regular meetings of CFA, which are of course open to the public, CFA has scheduled an open meeting for student input, to be Nov. 29, at 6:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. As a member of this committee, I encourage any interested students to attend this meeting, or any of the committee meetings, should they so desire.

Once again, this committee exists because of the interest of persons like Maloney and Warnke. I am grateful and encouraged by such interest.

Doug Weems
history
sophomore
RHA Representative
ASUN Committee on Fees Allocation

Daily Nebraskan

EDITOR: Chris Welch, 472-1738
 GENERAL MANAGER: Daniel Shellis
 PRODUCTION MANAGER: Jitty Polichy
 ADVERTISING MANAGER: Tom Byrne
 ASSISTANT ADVERTISING MANAGER: Kelly Mangan
 CIRCULATION MANAGER: Steve Meyer
 NEWS EDITOR: Michela Truman
 ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITORS: Kevin Warnke, Kenna Soederberg

PUBLICATIONS BOARD CHAIRPERSONS: Nick Foley, 476-0275; Angela Nietfield, 475-4981; Don Walton, 473-7361

PROFESSIONAL ADVISER: The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-2588 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, call Nick Foley, 476-0275 or Angela Nietfield, 475-4981.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68583-0448.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1984 DAILY NEBRASKAN