

# Editorial

## Varner's deserve recognition

The NU Board of Regents' decision to rename Regents Hall, 3835 Holdrege St., after NU Foundation chairman D.B. "Woody" Varner and his wife, Paula, honors a worthy couple. Regent John W. Payne of Kearney, chairman of the board, announced the decision at a special NU Foundation dinner honoring university donors Saturday night.

The Varner's have served the University of Nebraska since 1970, when Varner served as chancellor and later as NU president. Regents Hall was built in 1973, during Varner's presidency, to house administrative offices and the foundation. Varner resigned from the presidency in 1977 to become chairman of the foundation.

Varner, 69, said in a December 1984 Daily Nebraskan article, that he tries to "find sources of funding from the private sector to help the university achieve its goals."

Despite a tight economy, the farm crisis and the inflation of the '70s, Varner has succeeded.

He helped find private financial support for programs such as the Center for the Study of the Great Plains, the Mid-America Arts Alliance and irrigation development and water research.

Varner's latest project is the Lied Center for the Performing Arts. The foundation is nearing the halfway point of its \$8 million campaign to complete funding for the \$20 million project, to be built on the southwest corner of 12th and R streets.

The late Ernst Lied, an Omaha car dealer and Las Vegas businessman, left a \$10 million estate for the center, which must be matched by the university.

Earlier this week, Williams Companies Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., announced a gift of \$50,000 to the Lied Center. It's no coincidence that Varner has been a member of the Tulsa company's board of directors for the past 10 years. Varner always finds private support for the university, and that support is needed now more than ever with the state Appropriations Committee's 1.6 percent NU budget increase recommendation.

Despite Varner's bypass operation in June and prostate surgery in August, he still serves half time at the foundation and attracts many private donors.

Varner and his wife are an asset to NU and they deserve permanent recognition. All NU students, faculty and alumni are grateful for Varner's leadership, hard work and success.



## Columnist says refugees need U.S. aid

Being batted back and forth like a tennis ball in the American ideological battle over Central American policy is the Salvadoran refugee. On the one hand I must confess skepticism of the "Sanctuary Movement's" (that is the church movement offering "sanctuary" to primarily Salvadoran refugees illegally in the United States) aims and objectives. Much of the time I sense that the movement has little concern for the refugees beyond their propaganda value in criticizing the Reagan administration's Central American policy.

objectives of the movement. First, restricting immigration to the United States is evil (and becomes quite perverse if individuals fleeing for their lives from left-wing or right-wing death squads are not allowed to immigrate). Second, Christians are morally obligated to show serious hospitality to immigrants. Third, Christians may morally violate civil law when obedience to it would cause a violation of the law of God as contained in the Old and New Testaments of the Christian Church.

is threatened by a recognizable person. Each person aggressed against by the state must have committed the wrong for the state's response to be just. Yet immigrants do not aggress against us simply by the act or attempted act of immigration; and thus it is unjust to forcibly restrain immigrants from pursuing their desired end.

Since immigrants are not to be halted by state coercion, those professing a belief in Christ must hold open the door of hospitality to those refugees willing to be aided by the covenant household. Biblical hospitality is by-and-large lost in modern culture, yet it was regarded as an important witness of God's grace by the covenant community. As the law of God declares in Leviticus 19:33-34: "When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall do him no wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." Additionally, on a national basis it is quite inhospitable to pursue a closed-door policy.

Thus it seems difficult to justify obeying the federal government's law ordering us not to extend hospitality to those in need. Ultimately as the apostle Peter pointed out when faced with government order violative of the law of God, "we must obey God rather than men."

Although there are a host of policy problems on macro level respecting Central American immigration (such as what entitlements, if any, immigrants may or ought to be able to legally claim), on a personal level it appears that we cannot morally wait for the resolution of such questions, we must act now and aid the aliens among us.



Jim Rogers

At the same time the Reagan administration's reaction to Salvadoran refugees smacks of an equal, if not greater, concern for the immigrants. The Reagan administration rushes to allay the belief that true and continuing political unrest still exists in El Salvador. Because of both sides' ideological commitments, I doubt we are getting a clear picture of the events in El Salvador. Nonetheless we must face the facts that political or economic refugees is tentative — I am always quite

I admit that the conclusion I make regarding the aiding of Salvadoran refugees is tentative — I am always quite equivocal whenever actions I forward would violate government policy (especially when few of my fellow conservatives admit to the same conclusion). Yet in affirming the following three propositions, I find myself in accord with the goal of the Sanctuary Movement to the extent of aiding Salvadoran refugees, although certainly and emphatically not the broader ideological

The question of conscience revolves around the claim that the nexus between the first and the second proposition affirmed above is of sufficient clarity that one is excepted from obeying the federal government's immigration policy. It is to the establishment of this nexus that we now attend.

Libertarian author David Friedman caustically, correctly, observes that given the immigration policy of the United States over the past 70 years or so, the inscription on the Statue of Liberty ought to be changed from:

*Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning  
to be free,  
The wretched refuse of your  
teeming shore.  
Send those, the homeless, tem-  
pest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden  
door.*

To more appropriate inscription, namely:

*America, America  
The closed preserve,  
The dirty foreigners,  
Don't deserve.*

Immigration restrictions find no foothold in the claims of justice. Use of force by the government is only justified if injury

## Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the spring 1985 Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Its members are Chris Welsch, editor in chief; Chris Burbach, editorial page editor; Michiela Thuman, news editor; Vicki Ruhga, copy desk chief and editorial writer; and Kelly Mangan, assistant advertising manager.

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## Search procedures frustrate depositors

Do you trust the state of Nebraska to respect your rights and treat you as a citizen of this country should be? If you do, you are living with an illusion!

This is about Commonwealth depositors and how they are being mistreated. At public gatherings, depositors have been subjected to search procedures. The most recent incidence occurred at the City-County Building on April 22. Security guards opened women's purses and one man had a clipboard pulled away from him before entering the court room. Who ordered these searches? Why are depositors, most of them elderly folks, being subjected to this? When the president of the



United States appears publicly, they don't search the crowd, so why is this being done in Nebraska?

If public officials have received threats, it could be that they are trying to provoke an incident with depositors. On April 17 at a gathering of depositors, banking direc-

## Letters

tor Roger Beverage called one irate depositor, "you loud-mouthed old man" — a totally inappropriate response from a public official who claims to be representing the interests of depositors. Beverage was protected by two plain clothes bodyguards at this meeting. One must realize that Beverage's department is not funded by taxpayers. It is a state agency, but sponsored by the very people they regulate, the bankers. Nebraska is not working toward deregulation... it has un-regulation in banking.

These search procedures are an over-reaction on the part of the state. All the Commonwealth depositors have sought is justice and proper treatment in a state that doesn't know the meaning of either.

Howard Vosika  
Lincoln