

"They pick on old folks who have no place to go but a nursing home," said Stephenn, a former pipe fitter now retired and living alone.

Other neighbors feel they will eventually have to leave, said Jennifer Leeth, an administrative assistant for the Hispanic Community Center, The Hispanic Center, 2027 S St., cooperates with the Malone Community Center and the Indian Center at 1100 Military Road, to provide services to 3,000 to 4,000 people who make up Lincoln's Hispanic community.

"The university does have a need for parking," Leeth said, "but I don't agree with the way the university has acquired the land. The people feel as if they are being thrown out."

But not all Malone residents are against university expansion. Richard Meehan, owner of Meehan's Used Clothing and Furniture at 20th and R streets, said the university and students are good for the area.

"The university has helped the neighborhood out. They're good for business and people," Meehan said.

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Last summer, representatives from UNL, the city and the Malone community met to discuss the various plans and to hear the concerns of Malone residents. But, Kopines said, Malone residents left with little reassurance — still uncertain of the future of their homes.

"I went in looking for a battle and it was just a wimper," Kopines said. The city's Radial Task Force — a committee set up by Luedtke to give recommendations on the best way to use the land the city owns in the Malone area — just sat there not saying a word, Kopines said.

Since then Luedtke said he has been trying to set up an exploratory committee comprised of representatives from the three groups. An agreement between the city, UNL and the Malone community is long overdue, Luedtke said.

Luedtke said the UNL plans impose on the Malone community. "That's why we're setting up the committee," he said.

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale said UNL's expansion plan is a long-term plan that UNL officials "don't expect to change."

Goebel said UNL will include Malone officials in future negotiations concerning the Malone community.

Goebel said there is no land trade agreement between the city and UNL but, "we've got aspirations and I'm sure the city does too."

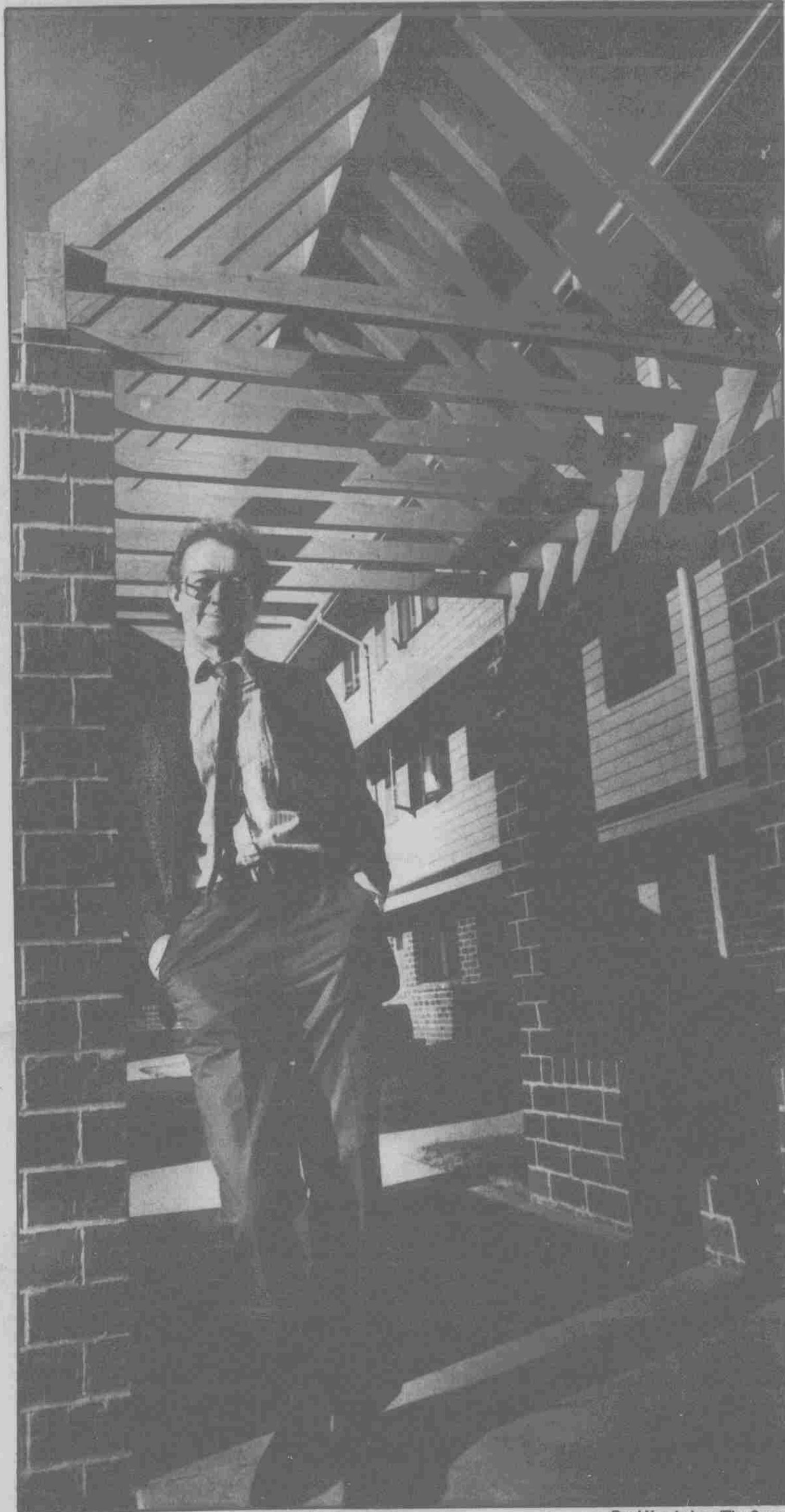
Meanwhile, Malone residents wait for the city's exploratory committee to be set up and negotiations to begin.

The future of their homes and their community is at stake.

Topher Hanson, president of the Malone Neighborhood Association, would like UNL to be a good neighbor.

But he is not optimistic.

"Massengale can't come in here on his big white horse and pretend the people of the Malone community don't exist. The university must be an integral part of the neighborhood — not an entity above and beyond the community," Hanson said.



Paul Vonderlage/The Sower

Carl Kopines, resident manager of Malone Manor.