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**This Week:**

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Reasons for Roskens' firing sought

## Former legislative aide threatens to sue NU regents

By Sara Bauder  
Staff Reporter

A former congressional aide to Sen. John DeCamp is threatening to sue the Board of Regents unless they disclose their reasons for firing University of Nebraska President Ronald Roskens.

Daniel Meyer, who was DeCamp's aide for seven years, sent a letter to Regents Chairman Nancy Hoch on August 3 informing her of his intention to sue.

"The recent action of the Board of Regents terminating the contract of Dr. Roskens and then paying Dr. Roskens a small fortune to complete the termination with the stipulation that neither the Board of Regents nor Dr. Roskens would tell the public the who, what, where, why, or how of his termination appears to me, as a taxpayer, to be improper," Meyer wrote in the letter.

"An agreement -- conspiracy may be the proper term -- to conceal from the public the how and why of the expenditure of the Board's funds has occurred."

The regents removed Roskens from the NU presidency July 31 by a 7-1 vote. Roskens had two years remaining on his contract and will receive his salary and benefits through June 30, 1991. Roskens will receive about \$250,000 for that time period.

## Burial remains returned

By Cindy Wostrel  
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will return skeletal remains and burial goods to the Omaha Indian Tribe in accordance with recently passed LB340, said John Wunder, Great Plains Studies director.

LB340 allows Native Americans to reclaim skeletal remains and burial goods of their ancestors from public institutions and agencies.

Dennis Hastings, tribal historian, said that while the tribe may study the burial goods, which probably date to the Spanish and French eras, it will rebury the skeletal remains.

"They've been out long enough," Hastings said.

Wunder said he believes UNL has had the remains and burial goods since the 1930s, when they were unburied in northeastern Nebraska.

Hastings said that in the 1930s, when the remains and burial goods were excavated, the archaeologists did not notify the Omaha Indians that they were unburying the remains and

## Regents eye study of NU structure

By Laura Smith  
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska Regent Robert Allen of Hastings said that planning a study of the university's Central Administration will be a top priority at the regents' September meeting.

Allen and Regent Don Blank of McCook said they believe now is a good time to look at the university structure to see if changes need to be made.

Regent Don Blank of McCook said, "Any time you have a

changeover in the top position, it's a good time to look at the system."

The regents removed NU Presi-

**'We want to get more education for our education dollar'**

-- Allen

dent Ronald Roskens from office July 31.

Allen said some people have questioned whether the university needs a

Central Administration.

"Nancy Hoch (chairman of the regents) has pointed out that some major universities don't have a central administration," Allen said.

He said he is impressed with the administrators who work in Central Administration, but said he feels the committee should look there to make sure money is not being wasted.

Allen said he hopes the study will be able to save money for taxpayers.

"We want to get more educa-

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In his letter, Meyer wrote that under Federal Freedom of Information laws and state open meeting laws, citizens have a right to know the reasons for the regents' actions. He said because the university receives federal funds, federal laws apply to the case as well as state laws.

Meyer said he decided to seek action against the regents after reading about the firing of Roskens in a newspaper.

"I picked up the Omaha World-Herald one morning and read an article on President Roskens," he said.

"It kind of upset me when I read it. Then I turned the page and found a little article on the town of Bruno. They needed \$250,000 for safe drinking water, and the state won't pay for it. I got to thinking about what the taxpayers must feel like in Bruno, when Roskens is going to get \$250,000 for not working."

Meyer said he then decided to do something about the situation instead of just complaining about it.

Although in Meyer's letter to Hoch he had said the Board had ten days to respond before he sued, he has since extended that deadline. He said

he is waiting for the board's attorney to give the reasons for the secrecy surrounding the Roskens' firing.

Charles Wright, the board's attorney, said he is in the process of assembling information which has been requested by the board. He said when all the information has been reviewed, Hoch would make the decision about releasing it.

Meyer said he does not think he should have to act at all, but that larger groups should be taking action against the regents. He said students should especially consider taking action.

"Isn't it strange that tuition and fees keep going up, and the board decides to pay someone for not doing a job?" he asked. "A strong student leadership would file a suit."

Meyer said students should be collecting money and suing to see that \$250,000 is not going to be spent paying Roskens for no longer being the university president.

He also said the press should do something about the regents' refusal to give reasons for Roskens' firing.

In a letter to Jim Raglin, manager of the Nebraska Press Association, Meyer asked the association's help in learning "what was behind the paying of over \$260,000 to a dismissed employee."

Raglin said he did not know if the association would take any action or not.

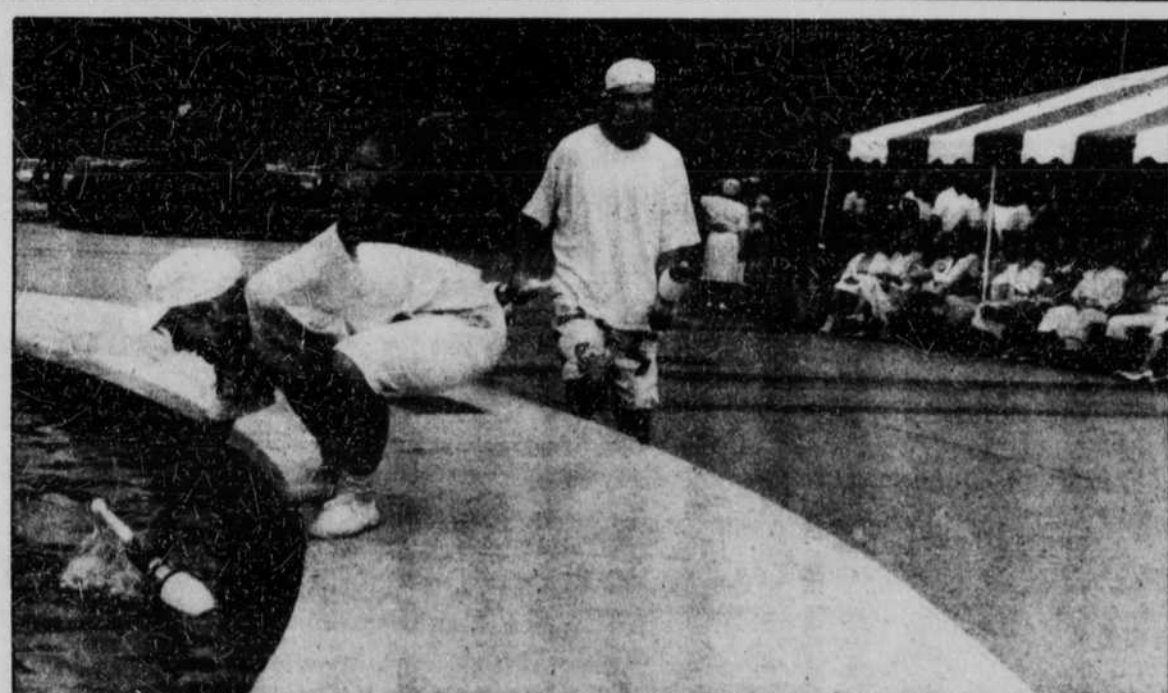
"We go to court often for open meeting laws," he said. "Any time public officials conduct business, it should be done in public."

Raglin said that since the regents' action already had occurred, there was no need to act immediately to get them to disclose their reasons for firing Roskens.

"I just don't know if we will take any action or not yet," he said.

Attorney General Robert Spire said that although generally public

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Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Elise Buchman fishes a juggling pin out of Broyhill Fountain Friday afternoon as her partner, Tom Gellatly, sneaks up behind her. The two jugglers from the Omaha Emmy Gifford Children's Theater were only part of the entertainment at the honorary dinner for trustees of the Cedars Home for Children.

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