

Daily
Nebraskan
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Let it die

NU's decision is final, so live with it

NU Regent Robert Allen of Hastings wants to give Nebraskans some advice about presidential searches. He's upset about the way the last one turned out. He was on the losing end of the vote to hire Martin Massengale as University of Nebraska president.

Regent John Payne of Kearney and board Chairman Don Blank of McCook joined Allen in opposition to the 5-3 vote. Today Massengale is to indicate whether he will accept a contract.

The vote, and the search that led to it, were fraught with controversy. But Allen, in the name of greater openness on the board and smoother searches in the future, revealed Monday why he voted against Massengale.

Instead of helping to heal old wounds, though, his statement gives new insight into the regents' handling of the search.

Allen makes a number of allegations against other regents, Massengale, the media and members of the search committee.

Massengale will be the next president, Allen admits, but with the statement, he wants "us all to avoid the mistakes of the past in future searches such as the upcoming search for a new chancellor."

That would be nice.

But first, the mistakes must be pinpointed. Allen finds fault with Massengale supporters. But every step of the way, it was the regents who caused their own problems.

When the search committee failed to forward Massengale's name to the regents as a finalist, Allen said, "he and his supporters did not accept that decision. They intensified their lobbying and their pressure calls to the regents . . . undermining the selection search process . . ."

If anyone undermined the search process, it was the regents. They, not Massengale's supporters, decided that the interim president would be interviewed as a finalist.

"Martin put his personal and professional goals over the decision of the search committee and the Board of Regents by nullifying the policy of accepting the findings of the search committee," Allen said.

Again, it was the regents, not Massengale, who refused to accept the findings of the search committee. Throughout the search process, Massengale kept his intentions away from the public. Even if his "lobbying" for the job caused the four external candidates to drop out, that didn't happen until the regents decided to interview him for the position.

The same conspiracy theory that Allen offers as a reason for Massengale's win also was used by his supporters. They contended after the search committee's recommendations that Massengale's detractors were trying to assassinate his character.

The last thing NU needs is for the controversy to go on. The fact remains that the regents voted 5-3 to hire Massengale. The university, Massengale and the state will have to put that decision behind them. So will the regents — even those who voted against Massengale.

— Eric Pfanner
for the Daily Nebraskan

Puzzle just too difficult

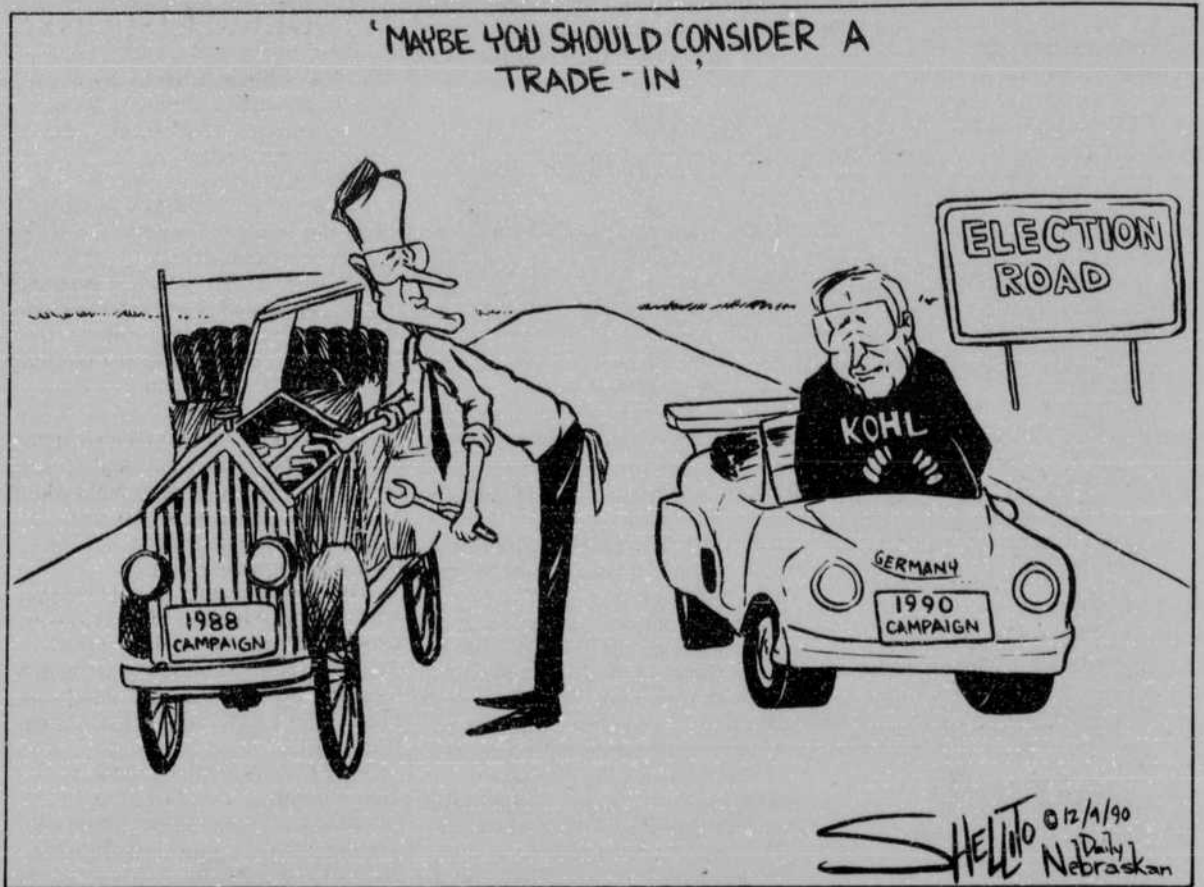
I have one goal to achieve before I leave the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is not to graduate with honors, see the Huskers win the national title or put all the Regents in a leaky boat and push them all out into Lake Superior. Not that these aren't all commendable, mind you. No, my one wish is to finish one of those damnably difficult crossword puzzles edited by Eugene T. Maleska. It is my contention that no person who walks this campus has the intellectual firepower to fill out everyone of those tiny numbered squares without cheating and looking at the answers the next day.

I'm well into my fourth year at UNL and have squandered many pre-class minutes, and even a few class minutes, laboring on that crossword. I gave up seriously working on them back in 1988 and would be lying if I claimed to have even finished half of one. There has been countless times I've picked a Daily Nebraskan up off the floor that has been attempted by a previous reader and never are more than five or six answers filled in.

Since I've realized I'll never be

smart enough for the crossword puzzle, the puzzle must become simple enough for me. Maybe more questions about the stars of "Family Ties" and less about Mediterranean seaports and long deceased heads of state. AS an example, I offer this clue from a puzzle about a week ago: 27 Across — King of Lymnessus, killed by Achilles. Now, although those in the Classics department might scoff, I had no idea what the five-letter answer might be. Finally I filled in Sting and changed the clue to "Former lead singer of the Police." This presents problems when you get around to the answers that intersect with the one you've altered, but if your crafty enough you can just alter those. Someone should fined Eugene T. Maleska and tell him to ease up. There needs to be a puzzle for the those of us who know who killed Laura Palmer but are a little fuzzy on who got the Archduke Ferdinand.

Kirk Rosenbaum
junior
English and history



Glamour won't help homeless

Plans for downtown sidewalk stars gloss over city's problems

About two weeks ago, Lincoln city officials announced plans for a "gift" to the city. It probably will make a few people happy.

But, of course, like many decisions our elected leaders make, it won't do a lot of people any good at all.

City officials announced on Nov. 21 plans for 3-by-3-foot panels to be placed into the sidewalks along P, 12th and 13th streets around the Cinema Twin, Douglas 3, Plaza 4 and Stuart theaters.

The panels will picture artists' renditions of Nebraska-born entertainers such as Marlon Brando, Johnny Carson, Dick Cavett, Henry Fonda and Gordon MacRae.

The first stars are scheduled to be laid in this spring around the new Lincoln Theater, which is being built at 12th and P streets, across from the Plaza 4 Theater.

Along with the stars, plans call for new landscaping, complete with brick sidewalks, benches and lighting and maybe even a sign, chock full of biographical information about the celebrities.

The project carries a \$40,000 price tag, excluding the cost of the tiles. The City Council approved use of funds from the downtown redevelopment bond issue to pay for the venture.

Isn't that nice?

I have a proposal for the next City Council meeting: Why not raise funds for a big billboard with the photos of Mayor Bill Harris and council members who approved this farce? We could call it the Lincoln Hall of Shame.

More than \$40,000 for a self-serving project that will soon be forgotten by Lincoln residents, vandalized and dumped on by the starlings that in-

habit downtown's trees. Somehow, spending that much money on an undertaking like this doesn't produce visions of holiday cheer and goodwill.

On any night, one can take a walk



Chuck Green

through downtown and be treated to the sight of homeless people sleeping on park benches and digging through trash cans for meals and aluminum cans to recycle. Often, these people are arrested for vagrancy.

On cold, snowy nights like the last couple, these same people huddle in bus shelters and doorways, without the luxury of blankets.

But never mind that. What's important is letting the world know how cool we are for having various celebrities grow up in our state.

Harris and other city officials are giddy with excitement over the project. They just can't wait for the wave of tourists to engulf Lincoln, spending millions at the film shops and hotels, just to "ooh" and "aaah" over the plethora of stars Nebraska has spawned.

There's nothing like putting the city's money to good use, huh?

Steve Janovec, executive director of the People's City Mission, said it costs \$12 for the mission to provide services for one person for 24 hours.

Those services include three meals, personal clothing, counseling and job referrals. All for \$12.

For \$40,000, the mission could provide those services for 3,333 men,

women and children down on their luck.

It's hard to imagine Lincoln planners coming up with any more ideas about how to beautify the Star City. There are enough fountains, gardens, parks, rocks, historical monuments and other "pretty" things downtown to make a historian gape.

But all the beautification in the world doesn't solve any problems. It just makes them less visible.

Lincoln's economy isn't going to be transformed into a wonderland of surplus just because Gordon MacRae's face is smiling up at moviegoers. People aren't going to make detours to this city on the way to Florida or California just so they can come stand on Johnny Carson's face, or walk and spit on Henry Fonda's likeness.

Certainly, Nebraskans should be proud of fellow citizens who have made it big in Hollywood. But pride can come just as easily in the form of helping some of this city's less-fortunate residents.

Donations to the city mission would be more important than little gold tiles in the sidewalk. Affordable housing is needed everywhere — even here. And the Lincoln Food Bank could always use a few extra bucks.

Lincoln always has been an above-average entry in the attractive category. But, as we've all heard, beauty is only skin deep. The unnoticeable aspects are the most important ones.

How beautiful is any city that doesn't take care of its own? Pretty ugly.

Uglier, even, than an artist's rendition of Marlon Brando peering up from the sidewalk.

Green is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan night news editor, sportswriter and columnist.

letter

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to sub-

mit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not to run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Letters should be typewritten.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letters should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

editorial

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duction of the paper.

According to policy set by the regents, responsibility for the editorial content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its students.