

# Daily Nebraskan

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AUGUST 25, 1994

## Lied search for director almost over

By Brian Sharp  
Senior Reporter

After four months, the search for a new director of the Lied Center for Performing Arts should be decided in the next week to 10 days, officials said.

Herb Howe, associate chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the screening committee met with Chancellor Graham Spanier for 1 1/2 hours Monday morning.

The committee presented Spanier with four candidates narrowed from a list of seven or eight received from the search firm Management Consultant for the Arts, Howe said.

The candidates presented to Spanier were:

● Bill Cook, recently at the Wexner Center at Ohio State University, where he served as associate director and then interim director.

● Michael Goldberg, director of the University of Wisconsin at Madison Art Center.

● David Levenson, director of the Performing Arts Center at Brooklyn College.

● Bruce Marquis, director of the arts center at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

"These are all highly experienced arts administrators," Howe said. "The people that we got were all quality candidates. It was a real challenge to bring it down to those four."

The search firm, hired in April, was the same used in hiring past director Robert Chumbley five years ago.

Chumbley accepted the executive position at the Fine Arts Center at the State University of New York in Buffalo.

Nine people made up the screening committee, Howe said, with representatives from Friends of the Lied, the Lied Advisory Board, Educational Television and the University Foundation. Others were a student, two faculty members, Howe and one of the original chairmen from the committee that raised money to build the Lied.

Members evaluated candidates on their interest in involving students and the academic community, ability in programming to provide a broad base of experiences and fiscal responsibility, Howe said.

"It happened to me many times," he said.

Spanier said he and Howe would be evaluating the information that the search committee provided, as well as feedback from three dozen others who met with the candidates. Those reactions came from people involved in the

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## UNDER THE BIG TOP



Jeff Haller/DN

Mark Oliver Gebel takes a look at his elephants as he waves to the crowd at Omaha Civic Auditorium. Gebel and his Prestigious Pact of Pachyderms performed Tuesday and Wednesday nights for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. See photos and story on page 19.

## Commission chooses executive director

### Midwestern work of David Powers touted as benefit

By Rebecca Oltmans  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education unanimously elected David Powers on Wednesday as the commission's new executive director.

Powers, executive director of the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board since 1989, also has served as senior vice chancellor of the West Virginia Board of Regents.

"We are fortunate to have a person of his expertise, reputation, talent, and willingness and excitement to come to

Nebraska," said Eric Seacrest, chairman of the four-member search committee.

The commission met through a video conference to finalize Powers' election.

Seacrest said the committee was impressed by all four finalists and the decision to hire Powers was not an easy one.

"But Powers is bringing a great deal of talent and enthusiasm to this job," Seacrest said.

The committee also said Powers' familiarity with Midwestern issues and concerns would be beneficial.

The commission was enacted by the Nebraska Legislature to assure there is no duplication of higher education programs in the state universities and colleges.

Powers' salary will be about \$95,000.

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— Seacrest

chairman of the four-member search committee.

He will be reimbursed for moving costs up to \$10,000. He will begin his job as director in October.

"That's similar to what most of the

finalists were asking for," Seacrest said.

Powers said in a letter to the commission that Nebraska had solid academic institutions in place with good leadership.

He said that the sectors and leaders of higher education in Nebraska know that they have to make coordination work.

"I will try to help the commission be a catalyst in making it work", Powers said.

Now that the search is over, the commission will start reviewing its comprehensive plan, said Patsy Martin, commission spokeswoman.

Martin said that the commission asked Bruce Stahl, the current executive director, to remain on until mid-October when Powers will assume responsibility.

## Volunteer discovers miracles endure in Bosnian misery

By DeDra Janssen  
Staff Reporter

Abbas Ali believes in miracles. During a recent yearlong stay in Bosnia, Ali said miracles continually saved his life.

"It happened to me many times," he said.

Ali, a graduate student in mechanical engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, spent a year in Bosnia starting in late 1992 as part of a volunteer relief effort called the Benevolence International Foundation. He also volunteered for the Lincoln-based Al-Nasr International Organization, another relief group in Bosnia.

In early 1994, he returned to Bosnia for one month as a volunteer for those organizations.

Ali's work there included opening clinics, managing refugee camps, transporting supplies

and moving people from dangerous areas to safe areas.

It definitely took a miracle to transport food and people to and from Bosnia, he said.

"The main problem is transportation," Ali said. "Roads are closed. It's a big problem to take food from one city to another."

"A lot of people are trapped. It's very difficult to leave and go into Bosnia. It's almost impossible."

That's why it takes a miracle.

For example, Ali said, once when he and a friend were moving two others to Bosnia, officials stopped them at a check post.

"I told them some blah-blah story," he said. "I told them in a couple hours, I'd come back."

The officials counted the number of people in the car and let Ali proceed, he said.

Determined to complete his mission, Ali left

two of his passengers in Bosnia. As he approached the same check post on his way back with fewer passengers, Ali said he didn't know what to do.

"I didn't know what to tell them," he said. "I was thinking, 'Oh God, it's up to you. I've done my job.'"

When Ali was stopped at the check post, two war planes suddenly flew over, diverting the officials' attention from him, he said.

"Everybody started looking, and I was free to go."

Ali, who moved to Lincoln from Pakistan four years ago, said he went to Bosnia because so many people there needed help.

"It's a very different world," he said. "The situation is bad."

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## BOSNIA



DN Graphic