

# OPINION

Tuesday, January 17, 1995

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## Daily Nebraskan

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## Why not?

### Regent Miller brings new ideas to table

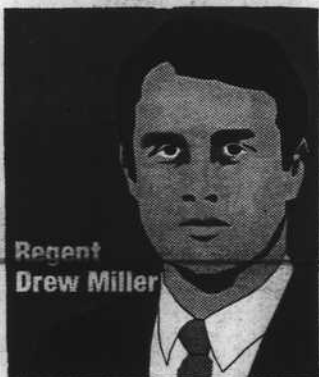
As Regent Drew Miller sat down at the long, and traditionally stoic, conference table Saturday in Varner Hall, you could tell something was going to be different about the first regents meeting of the year.

With a laptop computer by his side and an occasional boyish grin, it was apparent that Miller was bringing more than new blood to the board. He also was bringing new and different ideas.

Since he began campaigning in the fall of 1993, and since his Nov. 8 defeat of Nancy Hoch of Nebraska City, Miller of Papillion has maintained a constant theme.

On Saturday, the time had finally come for Miller to put that "cost-effective education" theme on the table.

About 45 minutes after he explained his "Administrative Process Improvement/Cost Reduction Committee" to the board, it rejected the proposal, 5-3.



Regent  
Drew Miller

After the meeting, many in the basement of Varner Hall wondered why Miller chose to bring the issue up at the first regents meeting.

Miller asked why not.

"It's my top priority," he said.

Miller's committee to promote administrative efficiency is a good idea for the university. It raises valid issues that warrant a closer look.

Other regents said the proposal smacks of micromanagement. But the Daily Nebraskan doesn't believe that is his intent. Miller wants to treat the university like a business — that's sound.

"This is not a committee to micromanage," Miller said during the discussion, "but it could have a big impact on helping to reduce costs."

Miller hoped the committee would adopt a "Total Quality Management" approach to fiscal responsibility. It would re-engineer administrative processes to take advantage of new computer technologies to reduce administrative costs. The committee also would attempt to centralize operations that are now done at each campus.

During Miller's presentation, all four university chancellors seemed restless. And President Dennis Smith seemed offended. Could it be that they are scared of what Miller and his committee might find?

Some of the veteran regents were trying to be gracious to their new colleague. Miller raised some valid points, they said, but it wasn't the job of a regent to handle day-to-day activities of the university. So the board's initial compromise was to have the business affairs subcommittee look into Miller's suggestions.

But Miller shouldn't give up. It might take a while for the other board members to get up to speed with him, both technologically and fiscally. But it could happen.

The Daily Nebraskan commends Miller for his initial attempt at fiscal responsibility. If his calculation is accurate that only 22 percent of university personnel are comprised of faculty, he probably is right in saying some administrative positions can be eliminated.

While the regents should not have their hands directly involved in daily university operations, they should continue to be concerned about ways to streamline the university's budget. And they need to find a way to do it.

### Editorial policy

Staff editorials represent the official policy of the Spring 1995. Daily Nebraskan. Policy is set by the Daily Nebraskan Editorial Board. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents. Editorial columns represent the opinion of the author. The regents publish the Daily Nebraskan. They establish the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production 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.

### Letter policy

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 or reject all material submitted. Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. The editor decides whether material should run as a guest opinion. Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become the property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned. Anonymous submissions will not be published. 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: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.

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## Daily Nebraskan readers say:



Send your brief letters to:  
Daily Nebraskan, 34  
Nebraska Union, 1400 R St.,  
Lincoln, Neb. 68588. Or fax  
to: (402) 472-1761. Letters  
must be signed and include a  
phone number for  
verification.

### Thanks for support

On behalf of the 1994 football team, we would like to thank the fans for their support this season. All year long, home and away, the fans were No. 1. The fact that so many of you lined up on the streets in the cold weather to welcome us back from Miami and waited for us at the Devaney Center really showed us that Husker fans are the best in the country.

Terry Connealy  
Ed Stewart  
Zach Wiegert  
Rob Zatechka

1994 Nebraska team captains



Bret Gottshall/DN

### Anonymous professors

It has been reported recently that a group identifying itself as "The UNL Committee of Concerned Professors" disseminated 8 pages of criticism of Chancellor Spanier and his leadership role.

In public comments before the Academic Senate, I have condemned this document as an example of intellectual cowardice and chastised Regent Robert Allen for distributing this document to a wide range of individuals and giving it a prominence and notoriety that it does not deserve. Being party to its distribution, Regent Allen bears some responsibility for the character assassination that characterizes this document.

There is no such committee as "Concerned Professors." It is anonymous and secretive. It speaks without any authority for the academic community.

There are numerous mechanisms already in place for stating grievances and expressing dissent. Chancellor Spanier stands regularly before the Academic Senate to report on his actions and to answer questions. To this extent — whether one agrees or not with his actions or answers — it must be considered one of the most open, available and responsive administrations in campus memory. There is dialogue between faculty and administration, and faculty govern-

nance is alive and well here.

To suggest that there is "an atmosphere of intimidation, creating turmoil and sweeping aside almost everything else important in the University" is an impression alien to my experience and, I suspect, most of my colleagues. To suggest that there is such a sense of fear and intimidation on this campus that professors cannot speak their minds openly is an insult to the university community.

What I am most certain about, however, is that Nebraska citizens prefer criticisms to be made openly and directly, not by hiding behind anonymous masks. If you are going to accuse someone of some 48 acts of malfeasance, then you should have the courage of your own convictions and stand squarely before the person you accuse!

I challenge this "Committee of Concerned Professors" to identify its members now.

Gerald M. Parsons  
academic senator  
chair, committee on committees

### Orphanages

As we each read the letter to the editor entitled "Poor are selfish" (Jan. 16), the first thing to pop into our minds was, "What the hell?"

What exactly is Mr. Bahar proposing? An "urchin depot,"

where the poor exchange their crying babies for a bowl of soup and a deep-down good feeling, knowing that they've done their part to help decrease the ghetto population?

Hitler had similar views. He felt the Jews were screwed up. Mr. Bahar feels the poor must be handled.

Perhaps Mr. Bahar would like it if the poor were forced to wear a scarlet letter "P," so he'd know who to spit on.

If "Boys Town-type homes" are of any value, then how did they churn out someone with ridiculous views like Mr. Bahar's?

Brice Sullivan  
sophomore  
general studies

Mick Vodvarka  
freshman  
journalism

### Celebrating football

I would like to express my thorough disgust with Paul Koester's letter to the Daily Nebraskan (Jan. 13).

To many Nebraskans, the Cornhusker national championship was more than a football victory. It was an affirmation that adherence to a system that you know is right breeds success, if you are willing to work hard enough and ignore the critics. It was evidence that nice guys can win, and do.

What it was not was some scheme to take press away from the problems that Koester perceives Nebraska and the world as having. How dare you try to overshadow something as meaningful as Nebraska football with such a shameless symbiosis of environmentalism and commercialism?

And what does it matter where Nebraska gets its football players? We welcome and accept them as Nebraskans, while they are here and after they are gone. I'm sure if the Cornhuskers only accepted Nebraska athletes, Koester would be no less outraged.

Andrew Oerman  
junior  
advertising