

# OPINION/PAGES

## Our VIEW

### 25 or 6 to 4 University needs long-term chancellors

When students start staying at a university longer than the administrators, there's a problem. It's almost as if the administrators are using their time at UNL as resumé filler—much like the students who pay to be here.

While the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has been going through administrators faster than it takes to get a degree, the University of Nebraska at Omaha has had more stability.

When UNO Chancellor Del Weber announced his retirement Jan. 16, he ended 20 years of service to the University of Nebraska. In that time, Weber became a highly regarded member of the entire NU system.

Weber did not use his esteem to work his way up the administrative ladder. He used it to turn "West Dodge High" into a strong university fueled by technology, and attractive for business investment. He also brought in quality faculty members, boosted the college's attention to fine and performing arts and oversaw improvements to the appearance of the campus itself.

The "University of No Opportunity" became a nationally-known institution with Weber as its leader. Weber, a Nebraska native, could not have made this transformation without getting to know the institution, the city, the structure and the students as he did.

And it took him more than just four years.

Weber's success with UNO should be a signal to NU President Dennis Smith, members of the UNO-chancellor search committee, UNL Chancellor James Moeser and any other university administrator.

During the recent search for a UNL chancellor, one of the most important questions was, "How long is he or she going to stay?"

No one wanted to hire someone who would use the job merely as a steppingstone to somewhere else.

A university needs someone who has a vision for the institution and plans on sticking around long enough to see it through.

Moeser isn't facing the moniker of "West O High," but UNL's publicized national clout ends at the 50-yard line. So if Moeser wants to make "Football U." rank like Harvard U., he'd better put in his 20-year lease for the Memorial Stadium skybox before it's too late.

“UNL has been going through administrators faster than it takes to get a degree.”

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## Mehsling's VIEW



## DN LETTERS

### Five-alarm Raise

Go to any grade school and you'll find many children hoping to one day grow up to be a firefighter. However, to do so they will have to experience a cut in pay from their previous part-time job at the local fast-food chain.

It sounds ludicrous, but as stated in the article "Firefighters may get higher pay," (DN, Thursday), it is true. Currently, Lincoln firefighters have a minimum hourly wage of \$6.12. This starting wage is "less than those of an employee at Amigos."

This extremely low starting wage is a slap in the face to the individuals who on a daily basis brave the elements to serve the community. Often times these individuals risk their own lives in order to help save the lives of others.

How does Lincoln show its gratitude to these men and women? By fighting the proposed wage increase for almost two years.

I believe it is time for Lincoln to show its respect for this difficult position and for a job well done. The best way to do this is to raise the minimum wage of firefighters so that it is competitive with those cities comparable to Lincoln.

Aaron Ludwig  
junior  
biology



MATT HANEY/DN

not the person is guilty seems to be decided by the public before, during and after the trial.

One of the basic values of America is that every person living here is entitled to a fair, unbiased trial in a court of law—and they are innocent until proven otherwise.

Riley Washington was acquitted of the charges brought against him, therefore he is innocent.

Mike Kimmel  
freshman  
biological systems engineering

### Balanced Scales

I would like to commend the staff of the Daily Nebraskan for their view on the outcome of the Riley Washington case.

It seems that all too often, especially in the case of well-known people, the only thing decided by a trial is whether or not prison sentences will be served. Whether or

### Beer Run

On Jan. 27, the Daily Nebraskan printed an article "Bill would allow vendors to sell liquor until 2 a.m." I

found this article very interesting and a good idea. Since the Iowa casinos have opened, Nebraskans are crossing the state line and taking their money with them. This is not good for our state and the businesses in Omaha. We need to keep our money in Nebraska and help our local businesses stay open.

Although LB242 is a good idea, it should only take effect in Omaha. As Sen. Hilger said, he is not catering to college students who want to party. The whole idea of selling liquor one hour later is to help the bars in Omaha bring in more business, not for the college students who want to party for one more hour.

Nic Douglas  
freshman  
pre-mortuary

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