

# O street tops Council candidates' list

BY ERIC RINEER  
Staff writer

Safer neighborhoods for students, crowded downtown bars and on-campus traffic are just some of the issues affecting university students, three City Council candidates said.

The candidates are vying for the District 4 seat, which includes the University of Nebraska-Lincoln area.

Annette McRoy, a self-employed business and marketing consultant, said she thought housing near campus could be bettered.

"If we can improve the neighborhoods around the university, it gives college students a quality, affordable, clean space to live," McRoy said.

McRoy is competing for the seat against Lincoln resident Michael Barrett and City Council Chairman Curt Donaldson.

Barrett, an author and publisher,

said improvement of neighborhoods was a vital issue. He said his volunteer work in his community reflected his desire to protect neighborhoods.

Barrett said he has spent much of his time working with groups to prevent crime in his neighborhood.

Donaldson, a six-year veteran of the council, also emphasized neighborhood protection.

Donaldson pointed to his affiliation with the Problem Resolution Team, a multi-agency group designed to clean-up neighborhood houses that are a blight to other residences. The team includes representatives from departments such as the Lincoln Police Department, the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department and the Safety Department.

McRoy said one of the biggest issues concerning university students was an overcrowding at O Street bars.

"Citizens who want to come downtown to a movie or a dinner shouldn't be

## City Council

afraid they're going to get run over by a crowd of drunk students," McRoy said.

McRoy said a plan needed to be developed so that college students could enjoy bars while, at the same time, other citizens could enjoy downtown entertainment.

Donaldson voiced concerns over college drinking habits on the university campus. Binge drinking, especially, is a real problem, he said.

Donaldson said there were some traffic issues pertinent to the university as well.

One proposal in the Antelope Valley study, for example, involves re-routing traffic-flow from City Campus through the Clyde Malone Center east of the Beadle Center.

Donaldson said this option will benefit students by removing heavy traffic

from 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> streets, making it safer for pedestrians.

Barrett said projects such as Antelope Valley, which call for developing in a flood plain, needed better planning.

"We have to take growth in stride," Barrett said. "We have to weigh several issues into the picture first."

Some of those issues, he said, were assessing the environmental impact of the project and figuring the amount of money which would be asked of Lincoln taxpayers.

All three candidates voiced opinions on their qualifications for taking the District 4 seat.

McRoy said she was tired of people "biting and complaining" about city issues but never standing up and trying to resolve them.

"That's why I'm running for city council," she said. "People deserve a voice - and I'm their voice."

She said she could help Lincoln get

back to where the average citizen is involved in the process.

"That's important," McRoy said. "We need to get back to the old days-when everybody and their dog had their say."

Donaldson made his case for reelection by pointing to a record of accomplishments built during his time on the council.

One of those accomplishments, he said, was his success in ensuring the privatization of Bryan Memorial and Lincoln General hospitals.

"I worked hard on getting that merger done," Donaldson said. "I worked hard to balance the deal."

Barrett, who criticized the hospital merger, said, if elected, could help ensure there would be more citizen involvement in big issues.

"I really want to see a working relationship with the council and the community," he said. "I can be the link between the two."

# Speaker says history books only tell half of story

BY NICOLE HALL  
Staff writer

The West was won by a diverse group of settlers, but they are not all usually recognized in history books, a Nebraska historian said Friday.

"Not all settlers who went west look like John Wayne," said Alonzo Smith, research historian of African American Cultures at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Smith spoke to a group of students and professors at Bailey Library in Andrews Hall to conclude Black

History Month on Friday. He is a former University of Nebraska at Omaha assistant professor of black studies.

The speech was sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's history department and the Center for Great Plains Studies.

Smith spoke about a book he recently published with Bertha W. Calloway, "Visions of Freedom on the Great Plains: An Illustrated History of African Americans in Nebraska."

The book detailed the history of blacks' experiences in Nebraska and their journey westward.

Smith said York, the slave of

## Black History Month

William Clark of the Lewis and Clark exhibition, epitomizes the black experience on the frontier.

York, the only name Smith gave, was the first documented black man to have passed through Nebraska in 1804, Smith said. He was both a slave and a frontiersman who had to be resourceful to survive.

"Any history takes into account many strands of people who have played a significant role in the development of the state," Smith said.

He said historians have an important

job to rediscover history and rewrite history books so they present more accurate accounts of all peoples', not just white men's, roles in exploration and expansion.

"(The book) makes it really clear what (blacks) were struggling against and realizes they have to keep going," Smith said.

Rudy Smith, photography assignment editor for the Omaha World-Herald, took many of the book's pictures.

He said although all Americans are experiencing greater freedoms, he feels there is a long way to go before true liberty is achieved.

"Freedom is not yet free," Smith said.

Alonzo Smith said now is a critical time to correctly and fairly document history.

"We are entering a period full of challenge and danger," Alonzo Smith

said. "We need to know more about the dynamics (of our history)."

The United States will be an empire that just rose and fell if democracy and diversity aren't realized together, he said.

The last picture of Alonzo Smith's book was from the 1997 Omaha mayoral race. It showed Brenda Council standing at a podium addressing her supporters after her votes came in 735 short of a victory.

"We consider she won a victory," Smith said. "She brought the people together."

Jen Rajewich, a sophomore biology major, said Smith's speech gave her a new look at history.

"He gave a different perspective on our own history," she said. "It was really neat because it gave a different perspective on where we live."

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