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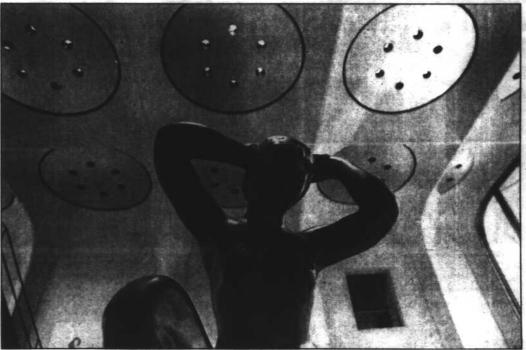
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Louis Slobodkin's Bather sculpture sits near the entryway of the Sheldon Art Gallery.

Sheldon narrows list to one for diretor's replacement

By Jason Hardy

Staff Writer

It's been almost a year since George Neubert left the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden to become director of the San Antonio Museum of

Neubert's departure left the Sheldon without a director, leaving one of America's preeminent university museums without a leader. That is, until now.

Well, maybe.

On May 25th the Sheldon announced it had narrowed the

search for a new director down to three finalists, who were to be interviewed by UNL staff, faculty and administration through may and June.

However, in the last few weeks David Mickenberg, director of the Mary Leigh Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and Charles Guerin, director of the University of Wyoming Art Museum in Laramie, both dropped out of the running.

This left Janice Driesbach, curator of art at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, California and the only finalist to actually come to Lincoln and conduct an interview, in prime posi-

Nevertheless, Herb Howe, associate to the chancellor, said the search could be far from over.

"The question is going to be what is the feedback we receive on Driesbach," Howe said. "I'm sure the chancellor won't, if she's offered the job it will be clear that she is a real strong candidate and that we want her to take that posi-

He said that the search process was a detailed and tedious one, but that the chancellor's office was prepared to reopen the search if feedback from Driesbach's interviews weren't satisfactory.

'A job like this has a number of different constituencies and interests," he said. "I think the successful candidate, whether it's Driesbach or anyone else, is someone who meets all these agendas most effectively."

Howe listed relations with the U Foundation, the Nebraska Art Association and general concerns with academic elements as well as fund raising potential as key concerns when choosing a director. He said the chancellor's office would make a decision in the next couple of weeks, one way or another.

Regardless of the choice, however, Howe said the chancellor's office was dedicated to finding the most qualified candidate.

"The Sheldon is a preeminent university museum," he said. "We need to keep that up."

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