

Archives

THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

About your archives purchase: Your purchase of **25** articles expires on **06/17/2011 3:38 PM**. You have viewed **4** articles and have **21** articles remaining.

The article you requested is displayed below.

VARIETY OF TOPICS OHA faces crucial times

Author(s): 6 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER **Date:** March 17, 2011 **Section:** Sports

Here are thoughts on a variety of topics in the news: * * *

All of **Omaha** has a common interest in seeing the **Omaha Housing Authority** succeed. If the city is to address its fundamental problems with poverty, it's crucial to have a healthy, well-functioning OHA.

Unfortunately, OHA is facing major problems. And that is bad news not just for north **Omaha** but also for our entire city.

A new report from federal **authorities** gave OHA decent grades for management systems, tenant response and physical condition. That's good. But for finances, it received a D-minus.

Plus, the divisions on the OHA board of directors have gotten so awful that the board chairman resigned last week in the wake of the tumult.

Omaha isn't like some cities where **housing authority** board members can serve only if they have a background in finance or management or have received proper training in effective board service. So, Mayor Jim Suttle needs to exercise great carefulness in selecting his nominees to the board, and the City Council needs to scrutinize those nominations closely.

Members of the board are not going to improve things by indulging themselves in hectoring staff members, micromanaging or calling for witch hunts.

This is a time for consensus-building and working with - not berating and undermining - the professional staff to help OHA regain needed stability.

Our city's future will be greatly affected by the outcome of what happens on the OHA front in coming weeks and months.

* * *

UNO Chancellor John Christensen, like other university leaders around the country, has had to make dozens of difficult choices about where to cut back funding for educational offerings. Those financially unavoidable moves affect academic departments and in some cases classroom offerings, but they don't make the public spotlight.

Given that background, it has become increasingly difficult for UNO to justify the current level of ever-growing subsidies for the athletic department.

In other words, academic departments have repeatedly had to bow to major budgetary realities. UNO leaders are now saying the same has to apply to athletics, for the school's overall best interests.

* * *

Above, we noted that it's important for people not to micromanage things outside their proper jurisdiction. That lesson also applies to the Nebraska Legislature, where the idea has been floated for lawmakers to try to block or at least protest the decision by Christensen and Athletic Director Trev Alberts on how to structure UNO's sports programs.

That decision, of course, belongs to UNO and the NU Board of Regents. The Legislature has enough on its plate already. It has no business intruding on the regents' turf. Plus, it would be peculiar for the Legislature to speak out on a college sports matter when lawmakers had nothing to say when earlier cutbacks were hitting NU's academic offerings.

* * *

A "Happy St. Patrick's Day" to all. It's an appropriate occasion to note the findings of Canadian scholar Michael Cottrell. He explains that in 1880, **Omaha** residents of Irish heritage "occupied 44 percent of the city's blocks, with a concentration around the Union Pacific rail yards."

Irish settlers founded O'Neill in north central Nebraska, as well as Great Plains communities including Garryowen, S.D., and Chapman, Kan.

Technical problems: If you have a technical problem with your

account please e-mail newslibrary@newsbank.com.

Copyright (c) 2011 Omaha World Herald