

# EXTRA

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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA AT RENO

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*UNR president accepts new post in Maine:*

# MILLER RESIGNS



**Dr. N. Edd Miller**  
President, UNR 1968-73

## Editorial

Two famous photos involving college presidents have flashed across national wire services in recent years. One depicts President S.I. Hayakawa roughly clutching the person of a protestor during a mass demonstration at San Francisco State; the other, reprinted in today's Sagebrush, (page four) shows UNR's N. Edd Miller surrounded by student supporters during a rally staged to show the campus' affection for its president.

The comparison is an interesting one. Eschewing flamboyance and oratory in favor of quiet, direct discussions with students, Miller's stay at UNR has been marked by consistent growth and progress. The President's announcement today that he is leaving to accept a similar post at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham is bound to elicit great regret on the part of UNR students and faculty members alike.

President Miller has used his personality and administrative skills to good advantage. He has managed to weather conflicts with two unfriendly Regents members, several militant student groups and a faculty which has had to contend with a growing student-faculty ratio. Despite the burgeoning demands of his job, Miller always left room on his calendar for individuals to come in and discuss existing or potential campus problems.

In going to Maine at Portland-Gorham, Miller is once again faced with the challenge of piloting a university that is ready to expand in prestige and population. Unlike the spontaneous student protest of four years ago which caused the President to rescind his resignation, the only appropriate response the campus can have at this time is to wish Dr. Miller continued success in the future, and to watch with pride as he moves into a new phase of his career in education.

## Miller resignation becomes effective October 17, 1973



President N. Edd Miller, who guided the University of Nevada, Reno, through eight years of its greatest growth, is resigning October 17th to assume the presidency of the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham.

Chancellor Neil D. Humphrey said after consultation by telephone with members of the Board of Regents that he is accepting Miller's resignation "with extreme regret."

"President Miller is a highly respected man who has accomplished a great deal at UNR and will be missed by all persons associated with the university," Humphrey said.

He added that he will make a recommendation to the Board of Regents Sept. 7 concerning appointment of an acting president, and will contact the UNR Faculty Senate immediately to request establishment of a presidential recruitment and screening committee.

Announcement of Miller's appointment to the new post was made at Portland today by Dr. Lawrence M. Cutler, chairman of the University of Maine Board of Trustees.

The 53-year-old Miller, a native Texan who came to Reno in 1965 from the University of Michigan, said he will leave Nevada "with great reluctance."

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*"I love this university, the state and its people," said Miller. "However, the Maine post offers both an expansion of professional opportunity and an intriguing challenge."*

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He noted that the Portland and Gorham campuses, located about 10 miles apart, were separate institutions until their consolidation only three years ago. The institution, which includes a School of Law at Portland, has about 4,000 full-time students and another 6,000 enrolled for part-time studies.

Miller and his wife, Nena, will reside in the president's home on the rural Gorham campus. His resignation here will be effective Oct. 17.

During his eight years at Nevada, Miller has been involved with a \$22 million capital improvement program which included erection of more than a dozen new buildings that have about doubled the size of the physical plant on the Reno campus.

He has watched enrollment grow by 63 per cent--from 4,618 in the fall of 1965 to 7,312 in the fall of 1972. In the eight-year period, there were 7,063 degrees granted, comprising 42 per cent of all degrees earned at Reno since the university was founded.

State appropriations to the Reno campus have grown by 118 per cent during the period--from \$5.9 million in 1965-66 to \$13.3 million for 1973-74.

Graduate programs have expanded greatly and there are new baccalaureate programs in social services and criminal justice as well as a new two-year School of Medical Sciences. The latter graduated its first class last spring.

Miller brushes aside the growth statistics, however, in favor of what he considers his top achievement: involvement of students and faculty in decision-making processes at the university. Students, for example, now sit on all university committees and student government input is frequent at meetings of the Board of Regents.

Students know him best for his availability and for his efforts to anticipate and keep pace with their changing life styles.

It was his students who in 1969, a year of widespread campus turmoil, brought him to international attention by staging a surprise demonstration for their president instead of against him.

Armed with picket signs, banners and other paraphernalia of protest, more than 2,000 students affectionately mobbed Miller as he arrived on campus at 6:30 a.m. and later presented him and his wife a free weekend in San Francisco.

The resulting "man bites dog" news story appeared on national television and in more than 150 daily newspapers with a combined circulation of about 18 million.

Miller's administrative path hasn't been without its rocks, however.

Ironically, some of the same students who participated in the personal demonstration for him ruffled public opinion the following spring with a raucous anti-war demonstration during the traditional "Governor's Day" observance honoring military cadets.

That episode, coupled with a Black Student Union sit-in at student government offices the following year, led two members of the Board of Regents to criticize the president as being too soft on campus activists.

Miller offered his resignation at that time, but it was rejected by a majority of the board, which gave him a vote of confidence.

More recently, he had a brief tangle this spring with the Faculty Senate and other faculty groups over distribution of available campus funds, but was supported by the Board of Regents.

At the University of Michigan, Miller was a professor of speech, director of the Summer Session and assistant to the vice president. Prior to that he had been professor of speech and director of forensics at the University of Texas. He earned his baccalaureate and master's degrees from Texas and his doctorate at Michigan.

Miller came to Reno July 1, 1965, with the title of chancellor, but the title was subsequently changed to president when an administrative reorganization resulted in the formation of the University of Nevada System with four autonomous divisions reporting to a chancellor and the Board of Regents. Each of the other three divisions, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the Desert Research Institute and the Community College Division, is headed by a president.



the seasons  
 have changed  
 and the light  
 and the weather  
 and the hour  
 but it is  
 the same land  
 and I begin  
 to know the map  
 and to get  
 my bearings . . .

Hammar skjold

## Biographical information

Dr. Miller is a native of Houston, Texas, born on March 13, 1920. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas. His doctor's degree was received from the University of Michigan.

Prior to coming to Nevada he served on the faculty of both Texas and Michigan. At the University of Texas he was a professor of speech and director of forensics. In addition to being in the speech department at the University of Michigan, he was an associate director of the summer session and an assistant to the vice president.

Dr. Miller first came to the University of Nevada, Reno, on July 1, 1965, to become chancellor. His appointment was part of a top level reorganization plan, and in 1968 he was named president of the Reno campus. He, thus, became the first Reno president under a reorganized University System which has a president for each of four divisions under chancellor Neil Humphrey.

As president, Dr. Miller has been a strong supporter of student government in the university. He feels student government helps prevent turmoil which has been at a minimum on the Reno campus.

Dr. Miller's sentiment on student government was stated when he began his fifth year at the campus: "We've had very good, responsible student leadership. They are full-scale members of important committees and not just window dressing."

In addition to campus duties which include such things as establishing the new two-year school of medicine, President Miller is active in community activities such as United Fund. He and his wife, Nena, have two children, Mrs. Cathy Berkley, and Kenneth, a Vietnam veteran now a student at the University of Taiwan.

## SAGEBRUSH

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# N. Edd Miller Day 1969

