

Financial aid loss, higher cost factors in decision not to return

By Dianne Barry

Inability to continue financial aid for some students and increased costs in tuition and dormitory rates probably played a bit factor in some students' decision not to return to UNL this fall, said Ken Bader, vice chancellor of Student Affairs.

Bader said that other reasons students might not have returned included that males don't have to worry about the draft anymore, social changes make it possible for students to drop out of school for a semester or two to "find themselves" and some students are questioning the quality of university education.

Enrollment at UNL is down 400 this fall, according to unofficial computer reports. The biggest drop was in the junior class with the freshman enrollment decrease ranking second, according to Harry Allen, Office of Institutional Research director.

Although student enrollment is down, there has been an upswing in part-time students, Bader said.

"Higher costs may be one of the

bigger reasons," he said.

This year it costs \$267.50 for tuition and fees each semester for a student carrying 12 hours. Last spring a student could have paid the same amount and taken up to 16 hours. A free zone from 13 to 16 hours has been eliminated and now everyone pays \$18 a credit hour.

Ten years ago, a student paid \$102 in tuition and \$37 for fees, if he carried 12 hours. Twenty-five years ago a student paid \$60 for tuition and \$15 in fees. Before 1940, tuition averaged about \$40 a semester.

Of course, hamburger was a dime a pound too," Allen said.

According to the Business Research Bureau in the College of Business Administration, inflation has risen 44.5 per cent in the past 10 years. It has risen 32.4 per cent in the past five years and has gone up 5.7 per cent from July, 1972.

Dorm rates have increased, too. Three years ago, a double room cost \$860 per year. Last year the same room cost \$960

and this year it costs \$1,020.

While the increase in costs have bothered some students, a lack of financial aid has burdened others.

Approximately 1,200 of the 5,600 students that applied for financial aid by the required March 1 deadline were not helped through the financial aid office. Of the 1,500 that applied late, about 900 were not helped.

In order to qualify for aid, a student must need at least \$1,500. Of the 3,790 students qualifying, 90 are receiving the maximum amount of \$2,480.

A student who needs \$1,600 or above received the full amount, while others received close to the \$1,500 they required.

The office also processed about 4,000 federal loans, but the student does not apply for these through the financial aids office, Jack Ritchie, director of scholarships and financial aids, said.

Ritchie said his office contacted 40 students who applied for aid but didn't

Editor's note

This edition of EXTRA concerns the rise in cost of a college education and the loss of financial aid to assist students in paying for their education.

Each week, EXTRA, the Daily Nebraskan's magazine section, will focus on an area of concern to University students, faculty and staff.

Next week's magazine will look at the University as a community and the

following week's edition will be devoted to the topic of students' rights.

Today, writers Dianne Barry, Susanne Schafer and Nancy Stohs report on the increase cost of attending school and resulting decrease in enrollment, loss of

about 100 regents scholarships, the status of minority funding and the part-time job situation for students.

EXTRA!

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