

Cutbacks for those with good grades

Even good grades can't get a student money in some cases. The University's major source of awards to top students, the regents scholarship program, has had to be cut back this year, according to Jack Ritchie, director of scholarships and financial aids.

The total number of scholarships awarded has had to be reduced, Ritchie said, because state money budgeted to the program "just didn't keep pace with the tuition increase."

Stories by Susanne Schafer

Two types of regents scholarships are awarded: the four-year full tuition scholarship, given to incoming freshmen who scored in the top 100 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). One-year scholarships are given on a yearly basis to freshmen, upperclassmen students in the professional schools and to Nebraska high school students.

Students who maintain a high grade average usually are able to renew their scholarships.

This year, however, about 100 regents scholarships were cut. All of those were one-year upperclass scholarships.

Since the upperclass one-year scholarships are the last to be awarded, they were the first to be cut, Ritchie said.

Those scholarships are awarded on the basis of the student's percentile rank in the university class in all colleges and schools. This year only those students in the 99th percentile in class rank and above were able to receive a one-year regents.

This means, Ritchie said, that many students with 3.8 and 3.9 accumulative averages "got nothing."

"If we were funded by the number of the scholarships we want to award rather than the strict dollar figure, we could keep pace with the rising tuition," he said.

In cases where financial need is great, students have been able to receive aid, Ritchie said.

Most students contacted by the Daily Nebraskan who had lost their regents scholarships this year received some assistance. In one case, a student received a larger amount through the combination of two substitute scholarships than the amount he previously had received.

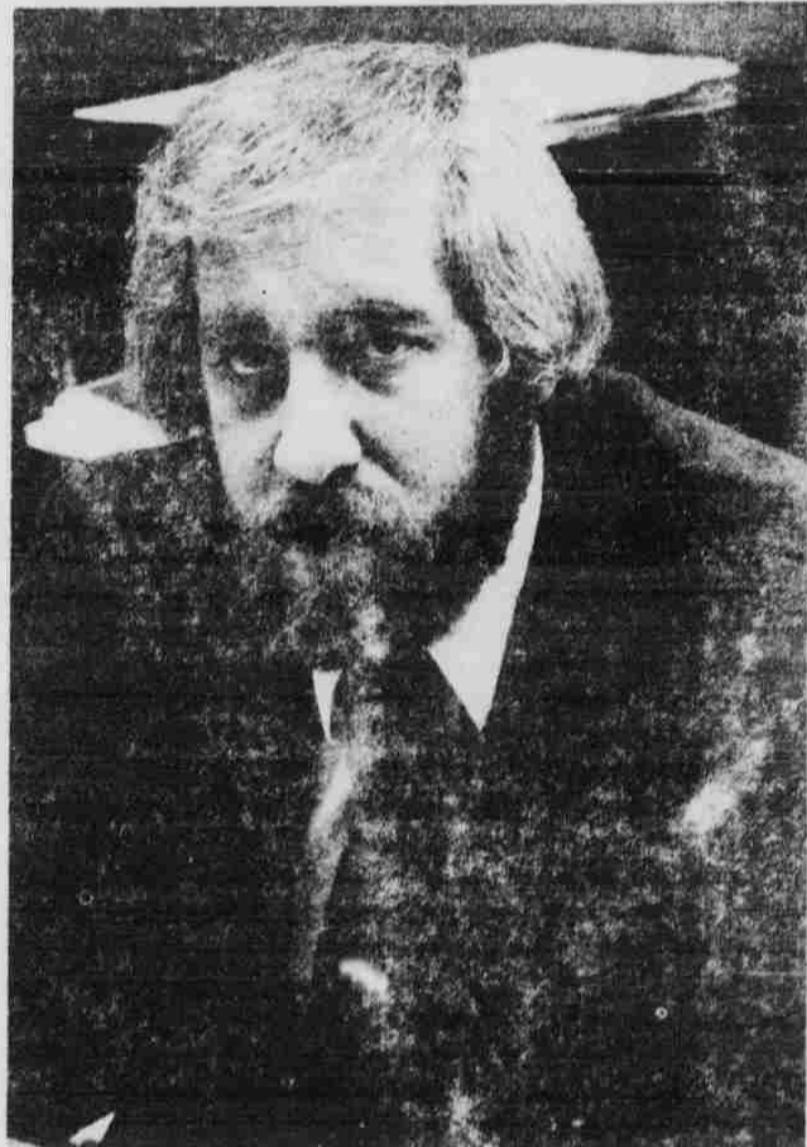
John Urich, a student living in FarmHouse fraternity, said he would not have been able to attend school this year if he had not received a substitute grant. His parents are unable to help him with his education, he said.

Regent Edward Schwartzkopf has asked that a study of the regents scholarships program be made.

Schwartzkopf questioned awarding some of the scholarships on a geographic basis as now done and then penalizing the student if he or she is not able to meet high academic demands at the university.

If the student received the scholarship on a geographic or academic basis, then the continuation of the scholarship should be judged on that basis as well, Schwartzkopf said.

It has been announced by NU President D.B. Varner's office that the study is expected to be completed before Jan. 1.



Jack Ritchie

Photo by Gail Folda