

# BIA funds cut may not affect UNL American Indian students

American Indian students attending UNL apparently will not lose about \$28,000 in financial aid as had been predicted, according to Karen Buller, UNL American Indian student counselor.

In 1972, former Indian student counselor John Two-Birds Arbuckle predicted that the loss of up to \$28,000 in Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) money would cause at least 40 of 47 Indian students then attending UNL to drop out of school. Arbuckle explained then that only seven students would be able to stay in school without BIA assistance.

Currently there are about 35 American Indian students at UNL.

BIA funds available to the 47 students in 1972 declined from \$38,000 to \$28,290, according to figures from the UNL Scholarships and Financial Aids Office. This cut reflected a \$17 million shaving of the national BIA budget.

A meeting this summer between American Indian leaders and UNL representatives produced a commitment from Ken Bader, UNL

vice chancellor of student affairs, to partially finance students had the BIA money been cut, Buller said.

Students have not had to take advantage of Bader's offer.

Currently, an American Indian student receives about \$1,200 yearly from the BIA to pay tuition, books, and board, Buller said. An equal sum is provided yearly from federal grants.

Although the BIA is encouraging more American Indians to go to college, scholarship funds are not keeping pace with applications, Buller said.

"That's the mentality of the present administration," she said. "Applications are increasing, but dollars are not."

"BIA spends more money on internal administration than on services," she said.

Harry Eagle Bull, the BIA regional scholarship director, has reported that demand is three times greater than available scholarship funds.

## Ag course offers overseas crop study

Leon Chesnin, UNL associate professor of agronomy, is encouraging students to enroll in Agronomy 402, an overseas study of crop production and soil management in Israel.

As many as 40 students may sign up for the 3-hour class which will leave Lincoln Dec. 26 and return Jan. 12, 1975.

Home base in Israel will be a dormitory at the Volcani Research Institute. Time will be allotted for historical and biblical touring.

Chesnin, who recently returned from a month long survey of Israeli agriculture and a class organizing trip, said that country was chosen for the study because it has a variety of climatic and soil conditions.

The climate permits crop production for 12 months, with two or three crops raised during the year. Many types of crops are grown, including some raised in Nebraska, Chesnin said.

Farming methods are very advanced and the limited land is used well, he said. Both dryland farming and irrigation are practiced.

The course is being taught over the interim period to give agriculture students, who usually return to the farm in the spring and summer, a chance to observe a foreign agriculture.

Orientation for the study tour hopefully will include a lecture by the Israeli agricultural attache, Chesnin said.

Chesnin has been presenting a slide talk, including the course objectives, to various agriculture clubs this semester. He has included a few slides on Israeli culture and people, in addition to the various agricultural forms.

The total cost of the class will be around \$700, excluding fees and tuition.



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