

# SUN given grant for history course

The State University of Nebraska (SUN) will continue the development of a new course on the cultural history of the Great Plains that will be financed by an additional \$325,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Announcement of the award was made by Nebraska First District Representative Charles Thone in Washington Feb. 5.

The executive director of the experimental home-learning project for adults, Jack McBride, said the course will be unique in that it will survey regional settlement from the standpoint of historical, geographical, social and ethnic influences.

### Plans started last summer

Plans for the new courses began last summer when fourteen eminent U.S. historians under the coordination of Robert Manley, Nebraska historian, formulated the course outline, which was paid for with a \$92,000 planning grant from NEH. According to SUN officials, the additional \$325,000 will be used to cover the cost of printed and cassette recorded lesson material, testing services and to produce four 30-minute educational television programs.

Marshall Jamison, executive producer in residence for SUN and the University of Mid-America (UMA), will begin filming the television sequence in May. Jamison, a winner of the Peabody and Emmy Awards, was the producer of the first two pilot SUN courses, Introductory Psychology and Accounting I.

According to SUN officials, the project may be in line for another \$875,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities later this year, when NEH reviews two completed educational segments. If NEH approves the additional grant for the completion of the project, it would mean that SUN students could enroll in a multimedia class costing almost \$1.3 million.

### Course available nationally

The regional UMA will offer the cultural history course to students in neighboring states such as Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. The course will be available to a national viewing audience through distribution by the Great Plains National TV Library.

The SUN program which had been awaiting additional financing for months, received a \$1.4 million "shot in the arm" from the National Institute of Education just a week before the NEH grant. Seeking to enlarge the curriculum, SUN has had to rely mainly on money from private foundations and federal sources, since tuition covers only half of the amount necessary to make the course available. No state funds have been allocated for the program.

SUN currently offers courses in psychology and accounting. The course offering will double on March 2 when two new courses in consumerism and computers will also be offered.



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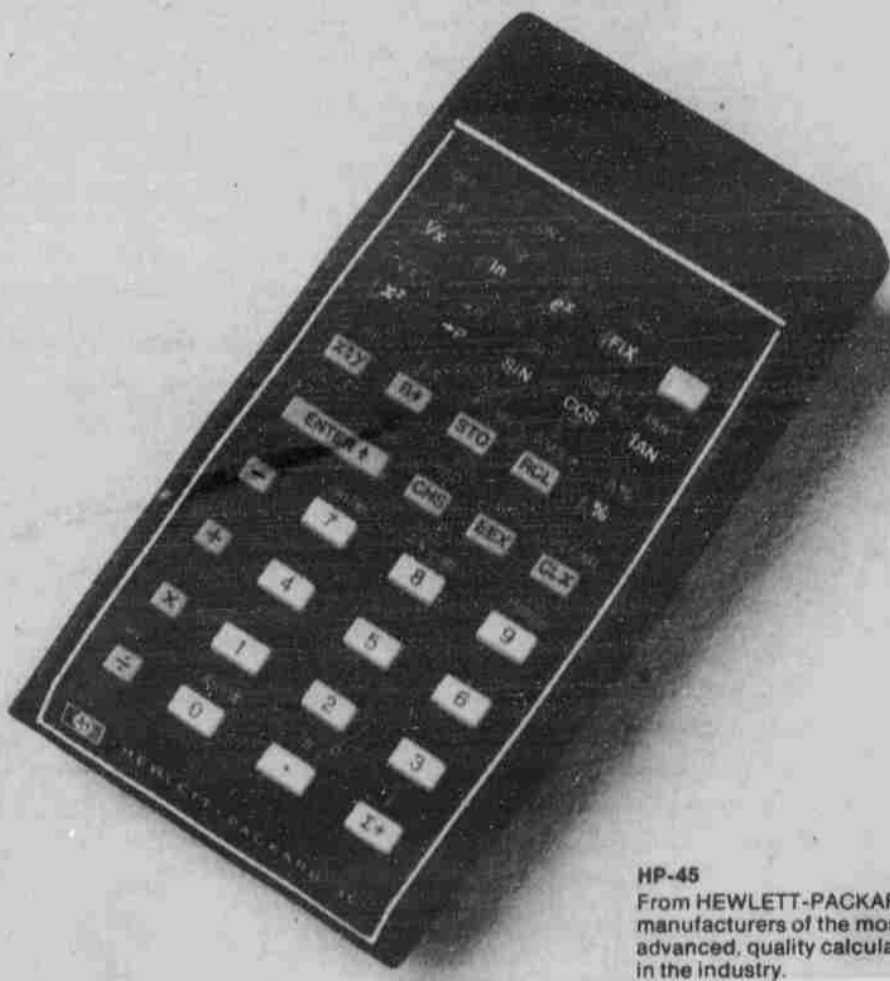
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