

# Culture, ecology examined in archeological dig

Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are working on archeological sites along the Niobrara River near the proposed site of the Norden Dam Project this summer.

According to Carl Falk, a UNL anthropology instructor, the information gathered by the students will be useful to a contract study being done by the UNL Division of Archeological Research in contract with the Bureau of Reclamation.

The original contract with Bureau of Reclamation was for the identification of important cultural and archeological sites along the Niobrara River in the Norden Project area.

But because of U.S. District Court injunction stopping further work on the Norden Project, field work on the Division of Archeological research contract project has stopped, Falk said.

There are 18 students participating in this summer's Archeological Field School located in a 35 mile-long strip of the Niobrara, part of which overlaps the study area, for the Norden Dam Project study.

The field school site is fresh ground for archeologists, Falk said. "Prior to 1976 there were only 25 archeological sites along a 100 mile stretch of the river."

The scientific value of the area is that it can help archeologists evaluate the relationship between human

populations and local ecology, he said.

So far there has been some evidence of Indian big-game hunters in the area from as long ago as 10,000 years.

"Usually field schools are taken to be training for the students in the technical aspects of archeology," Falk said. But the UNL field school also trains the students in what archeology is and what its objectives are by having them participate in actual research, Falk said.

Student involvement in research is needed because, Falk explained, "In the last few years we are recognizing that archeological sites are an endangered resource."

Besides the benefits to research and the academic training the students get at the field school, Falk said students also get a marketable skill in excavation and field work.

Two graduate assistants and a supervisor, Dr. Allen J. Osborne from the University of New Mexico are also working at the site.

## Regents take action on student fees

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The study, Erskine said, will be done at the campus level and probably involve the student affairs administrators of each campus in the NU system, plus one or two university business officials and student representatives.

NU President Roskens said that he hopes the study could begin by this fall and be able to present recommendations to the Board of Regents by February 1.

Right now, Roskens said, the problem is deciding, with other university administrators, how such a study would be undertaken.

"There was confusion regarding precisely what the Board of Regents intended," Roskens said. "Several of them said they were favorably disposed to a study."

"My impression was that they requested a study to lead to the reduction of student fees. The Regents did not vote to eliminate student fees."

The Board of Regent's request leaves another such study out in the cold. The Student Affairs Office, according to Armstrong, had planned to set up a Student Fees Task Force early next fall, probably in cooperation with the Associated Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN).

The future of the Student Fees Task Force is now uncertain, said Armstrong.

In its annual report submitted to the Student Affairs Office last May, the FAB had recommended that this task force study the possibility of funding only the *Daily Nebraskan*, the Union Program Councils and ASUN with student fees organizational funds.

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