

## Uncle Sam wants his shekels back!

UNL students who have not paid Uncle Sam back for their student loans can expect government men knocking on their doors later this year.

According to Bill Keifer, regional administrator for Student Financial Assistance, files of delinquent student accounts will soon be turned over to private collection agencies by the Department of Health Education and Welfare.

Keifer said about 8 to 10 per cent of the students default on government loans. He could not estimate the number of students in Nebraska that have defaulted on their loans.

Students with federally guaranteed student loans borrow from banks, credit unions and savings and loan associations. Students generally have nine to twelve months after graduation to repay the loans.

If students fail to pay back loans or fall 120 days behind in payments, the loan company has a right to file a claim with the government for full payment, Keifer said. The loan company must prove it made sincere effort to collect, he added.

Keifer, whose office is in Kansas City, said in the past the government has contacted students by mail and telephone to collect unpaid loans.

Collection agencies should have better success in collecting payment than HEW had, he said.

Agencies have "large enough staffs to get after this problem in a concerned way," Keifer said. But, the government will not permit strong-arm tactics, he added.

"There are stringent rules put on these people so they can't go out and scare people, pick up cars, harass grandmothers, etc.," Keifer said. "This will be a straightforward business proposal that the government has arranged."

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## Lots not filled

UNL parking lots are unusually uncrowded this semester, according to John Duve, parking and traffic coordinator.

But last spring, Duve said parking lots would continue to be full in spite of increased permit costs.

"Lots haven't been filled yet," Duve said this week. Even during peak periods there are 100 to 200 spaces open, he said.

"If it continues it'll be an asset for everyone," he said.

Parking permits went on sale this year for \$35 per year or \$20 per semester. Last year's prices were \$25 annually or \$15 a semester.

It's too early to tell how the price increase affected sales, Duve said, but so far he hasn't heard any complaints from students. Permits were sold at the Sports Complex Aug. 24-31. Now they can be purchased at campus police headquarters during office hours.

To help eliminate long lines, a mail-out system was tried in residence halls this year, Duve said. Students were able to mail in permit requests along with payment. They received their permits when they arrived, without having to wait in line.

Duve said about 1,200 students took advantage of the service. Normally, 3,300 residence hall students buy permits.

He said he would like to extend the mail service next year to accommodate all persons using lots.

Maybe some day everyone will be able to pre-register for parking, he said.

However, a permit will not guarantee a parking space, Duve said.

"We're selling a permit not a stall," he explained. It's not a "guarantee a space goes with the permit." But he added, students "usually can find a space."

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