

Graduates and professionals hit hardest by budget cuts

By Duane Retzlaff

UNL Graduate and professional students will be especially hard-hit by proposed federal budget reductions in educational aid, Alan Frank, associate dean of the Law College, said.

In a meeting of 17 people in the Law College Tuesday, Frank said if guaranteed student loans (GSL) to graduate and professional students were eliminated, law students at UNL would have to pay a high price to continue studies.

Frank said cuts to graduate students could discourage prospective lower income students.

"Affirmative action programs could be out the window," Frank said.

Graduate students are especially dependent on GSLs because the financial aid system is geared toward undergraduates, Frank said.

Last October, some changes were made in the GSL program, Frank said. Interest rate was increased from 7 percent to 9 percent on loans taken out after Oct. 1. Also, loans were not need-based before.

If a student is still classified as a depen-

dent, and his family's income is over \$30,000, only the amount determined as "need" can be borrowed, Frank said.

Jim Kern, speaking for the State Student Association, said some changes could involve raising the origination fee, paid when the loan is taken out, from 5 percent to 10 percent. For example, if a student borrows \$2,000, origination fee would be increased from \$100 to \$200.

Kern said 1,900 students would not be able to return to UNL next year if federal education cuts are approved.

Both Frank and Kern suggested writing letters to Nebraska's congressional representatives. Kern said he has found petitions to be ineffective. "One letter is worth 5,000 signatures (on a petition)," he said.

Nancy Wiederspan, assistant vice president of the Nebraska Higher Education Loan Program, said her organization hopes graduate students will be left in the GSL program. However, they will have funding available for "PLUS" loans if necessary, she said.

PLUS loans are last resort loans and have higher interest rates than GSLs, she said.

Second student files for RHA presidency

There apparently will be two parties in the Residence Hall Association elections after all. The second party to announce, called the Opposition Party, offers Steve Mackie as a presidential candidate and Terrance Brown as a vice presidential candidate. Both are Harper Hall residents.

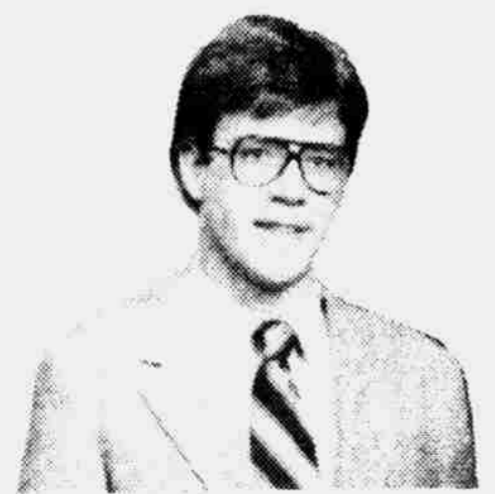
Mackie is a senior business major from Seward. Brown is a junior from Bellevue.

Mackie said his party does not have a platform. "We mostly decided to run because nobody else was," Mackie said.

"If students want to vote for your typical student government types, they can vote for the NOW party," Mackie said. "Half of the people running in it are already in RHA."

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