

# News Digest By The Associated Press

## College aid will be harder to get

LINCOLN — Thousands of Nebraska college students who depend on federal aid to help pay their expenses will have a harder time obtaining aid next fall, college officials said.

The financial squeeze could force some students to drop out of school and leave others in doubt until the last minute, officials said.

Among the factors leading to reduced student aid are:

- The Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law, under which schools could lose \$244 million in student aid this year and more in 1987.

- Action by Congress and the U.S. Department of Education that would stop Nebraska schools from putting up money to match federal Student Incentive Grants to private colleges.

- A reduction in payments the

federal government makes to banks as an incentive for them to make low-interest student loans.

- Tighter federal regulations that could send more students scrambling to prove that they really need financial aid.

Private colleges will be hurt the most by the student aid cuts, said Nebraska Wesleyan University President John White Jr.

Eighty-five percent of Wesleyan's students get some form of financial aid, he said. Thirty percent of the students come from homes where incomes qualify them for federal aid based on financial need.

Under a proposed bill in the legislature, the state would provide about \$160,000 to match federal student aid

grants to private colleges in the state. Until now, the state has only provided matching funds for federal grants to public institutions.

At UNL, about 15,000 of the 24,000 students got a total of \$50 million in some form of aid last year.

Don Aripoli, UNL financial aids officer, said students needing financial aid will suffer if government cutbacks cause banks now offering low-interest student loans to pull out of the loan program.

The Gramm-Rudman law will have a drastic effect on student aid, said Larry O'Mera of the Nebraska office of the Higher Education Assistance Foundation. The foundation guarantees more than \$500 million in loans from Nebraska financial institutions to 227,000 students.

## Omaha Tribe seeks land

OMAHA — The Omaha Indian Tribe, which won 2,200 acres in a court battle over who owns land along the Iowa side of the Missouri River, has asked a federal judge to award it 4,190 more acres.

The white people who occupy the land and the state of Iowa say they own the land and the tribe's request is without merit.

The tribal suit awaiting action in U.S. District Court is the latest in 10 years of tribal attempts to gain possession of 11,300 acres of cropland, timber, hunting and recreation lands near Black-bird Bend.

The land, northwest of Onawa, Iowa, is across the river from the tribal reservation in Macy, Neb.

The case has national implications because the final court ruling might be cited in other land disputes between Indians and whites, tribal attorney William Veeder said.

The legal battle began in 1975 when Omaha tribal members moved onto the Iowa land and planted corn and soybeans. The Indians said the land belonged to them and that whites who lived there were squatters.

The tribe said the land once was on the west side of the Missouri River, but that a sudden shift in the river's course put the land on the east side.

Whites said the river changed course gradually over the years, washing away Indian land and creating new acreage which the whites leveled, planted and farmed.

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