

Government to the rescue

Decision guarantees minority scholarships

By Kim Spurlock
Staff Reporter

Education Secretary Lamar Alexander temporarily ensured the future of UNL's Davis Scholarship last month, thus continuing the effort to allow underrepresented minorities equal opportunity for higher education, officials said.

Jimmi Smith, director of the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, lauded the decision, saying the use of government funds to provide scholarships for minority students is not discriminatory toward white students.

A previous Education Department decision required universities to show cause for using state funds for minority scholarships, but Alexander said colleges and universities should continue offering them pending a review board investigation.

The review board, involving Congress, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and the American Council on Education, will spend the next six months studying the civil rights implications of the scholarships.

Until the legality of minority scholarships is resolved by the review board, colleges will not have to prove scholarships' importance to use state money.

Smith said he doesn't think minority scholarships are a form of discrimination because 90 percent or more of white students receive more financial aid and scholarships at UNL than minority students.

Providing a "few dollars" to minorities is not discriminatory because whites make the decisions regarding who receives financial aid and scholarships, he said.

Minority scholarships were born in the 1960s, when many colleges seeking to attract minority students created special scholarship programs.

The legality of such programs was questioned in December when Michael Williams, assistant secretary of education for civil rights, said the scholarships violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The act bars racial or ethnic discrimination by organizations that receive federal funds, as most colleges do.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said the purpose of minority scholarships is to help underrepresented minorities continue their

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Griesen
vice chancellor for student affairs

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educations.

"We are trying to see that all segments of societies in Nebraska have an equal opportunity to share in the benefits of this university," Griesen said.

He said minority families take in well below the average income for white families and economic circumstances are largely to blame for minority students not attending college.

Smith said that after federally financed minority scholarships were questioned, he feared the U.S. Department of Education, which was once an advocate of minority scholarships, was now restricting access to an underrepresented American population.

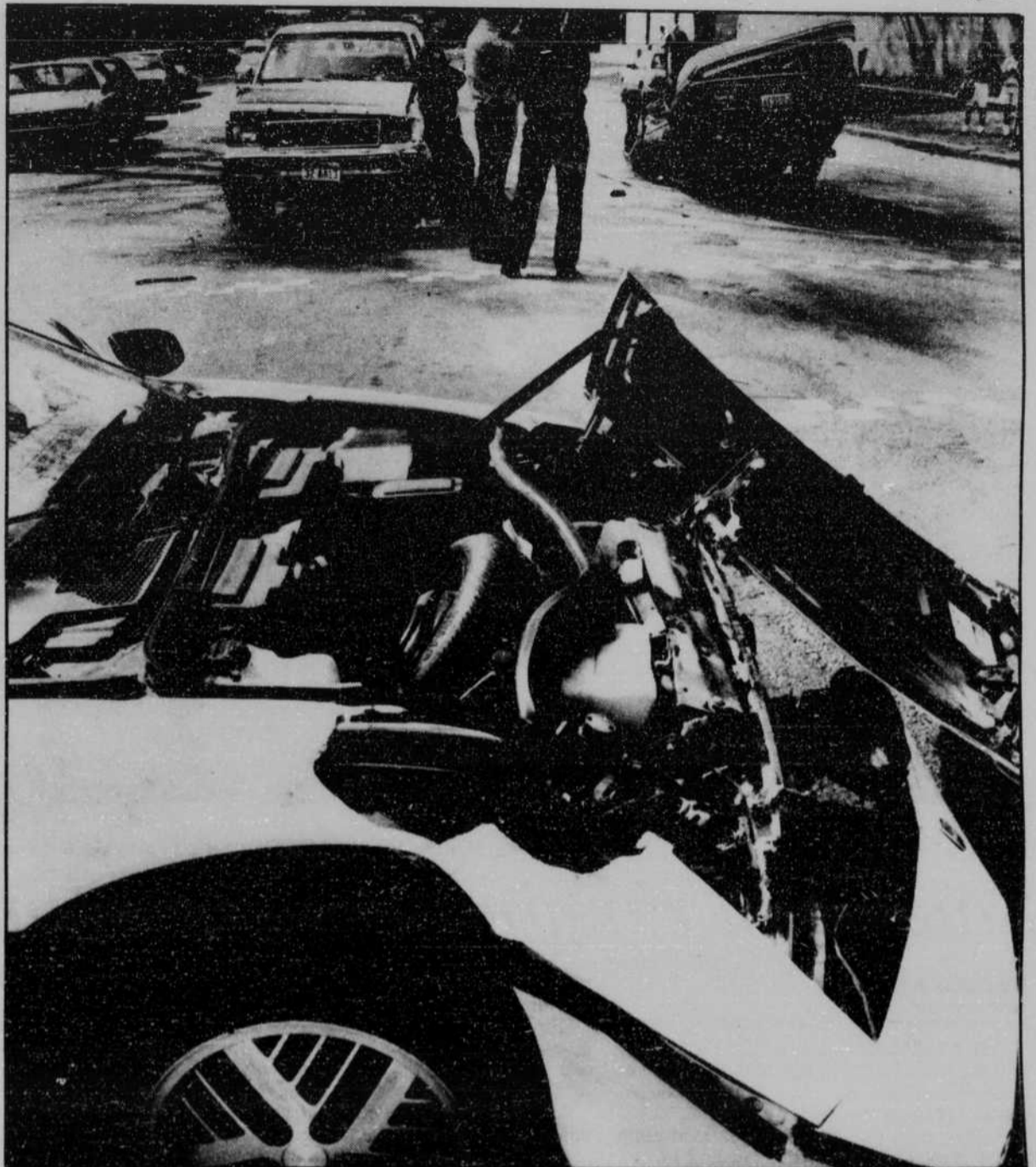
"American society requires all citizens to be more skilled, now more than ever in the history of this country. The only way to do that is to go on to postsecondary education," Smith said.

According to a recent article in USA Today, a survey by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities showed that nine of 10 private colleges have minority scholarships.

NU's Davis Scholarship, in memory of the late Rick Davis who died of pancreatic cancer in 1988, is a four-year scholarship for outstanding minority freshman students.

Davis, a former football player at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, established a successful insurance firm before his death, Griesen said. Prior to his death, Davis arranged to leave \$50,000 to start an endowment for minority scholarships.

Further efforts by Davis' brother helped boost the scholarship fund to \$1 million, which includes \$800,000 in state funds.



Staci McKee/Daily Nebraskan

UNL freshman Matt Branting talks with Lincoln police officers after a three-car collision on the corner of 16th and R streets Monday afternoon. Branting was the only person uninjured in the collision.

UNL students injured in accident

From Staff Reports

A Chevrolet Nova ramped up and flipped off a Pontiac Fiero on the corner of 16th and R streets Monday, landing upside down on a GMC Jimmy and seriously injuring a pedestrian, a Lincoln police officer said.

Lt. David Beggs said it was unclear who was at fault in the 2 p.m. accident, but "obviously one of the

cars had to have run a red light."

University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Christina Howlett, the injured pedestrian, was listed in serious condition Monday night at Lincoln General Hospital, 2300 S 16th St., said Rhonda Kazebeer, nursing supervisor at the hospital.

The driver of the red-and-silver 1986 Nova, UNL student Kurt Brumbaugh, suffered possible neck and

head injuries and was treated and released by Lincoln General Hospital, according to Kazebeer. The driver of the white 1984 Fiero, UNL student Suzette Spratt, also was treated and released.

Matt Branting, an 18-year-old UNL undeclared freshman, said the only thing he saw from the driver's seat of his 1983 Jimmy was the Nova coming down on the top of his hood.

Parking

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remote lots.

But, Todd said, the plan will not work "without a decent shuttle system that goes beyond the red-and-white buses."

She said the plan calls for a shuttle bus route that is "harder not to use it than to use it."

Tom Johnson, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources coordinator, said the aesthetics of UNL would be hurt if on-campus parking were provided for everyone.

"We'd have wall-to-wall parking in order to provide 100 percent of people with parking," he said.

Ray Coffey, UNL business manager, said a multilevel, on-campus parking garage would not be financially feasible. Annual costs would be about \$800 per car, plus security and maintenance expenses, he said.

The long-range plan also would establish loop roads on both City and East campuses. Todd said the roads, which the committee passed a motion to support, would create new campus entrances to help alleviate traffic congestion.

In other business, the committee passed a motion stating that parking in a permit-designated university lot requires a parking permit.

Karels said that sometimes people visiting downtown Lincoln park in university lots. And, he said, many times students park in visitor lots.

"Visitor parking is our biggest shortfall because students are parking in visitor places," he said.

Members of the committee discussed the possibility of creating a guarded visitor lot to stop students from parking there.

LSAT adjusts to high score boom

By Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

The Law School Admission Test will have a revised scoring scale and one new section to adjust to increases in high scores, a representative from the organization that administers the test said.

Jana Cardoza, public affairs coordinator for Law Services, which is in charge of the LSAT, said that although the LSAT has been restruct-

ured, it is "not terribly unlike the current test."

Cardoza said the main reason for the changes, which will take effect June 10, was a general increase in very high scores over the past five years. She said the changes should not affect the test's difficulty level and scores in general should remain consistent with previous years.

The test is revised periodically, said John Gruhl, University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of political

science and pre-law adviser.

"They do a lot of tinkering with it," Gruhl said.

The new LSAT, which is being revised by the Law School Admission Service, consists of four sections that test logical reasoning, analytical reasoning and reading comprehension. These sections are identical in format to the ones in the current version, and both tests also have a final, non-graded section with potential questions for future tests that do not

count in the student's overall score.

The revised version has an additional section of logical reasoning and a new scoring scale. Scores were previously scaled from 10 to 48. The new scale will be from 120 to 180.

"They are trying to have a better, fairer test," said Glenda Pierce, assistant dean of the UNL law college.

Cardoza said changes will not be made in the type of questions on the test, so students should prepare as they are now.

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