

Davis program supported

Official: Minority scholarships to be defended

By Eric Snyder
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska officials are planning to tell the Education Department, which has put minority scholarships under fire, why its Davis Scholarship program is worth the public dollars put into it.

John Beacon, director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at UNL, said UNL intends to respond to an Education Department survey on minority scholarships by the July 15 deadline.

The purpose of the Department of Education's survey is to obtain information about minority scholarship programs around the nation, as well as to discover public sentiment on the issue. The findings are to help the Depart-

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Wood
general counsel

ment of Education establish an across-the-board policy on minority scholarships.

The survey is the latest step taken by the department to resolve a controversy started more than a year ago by Assistant Secretary of Education Michael Williams.

Williams had said minority scholarships in general were illegal, then said privately funded

minority scholarships were acceptable.

This threw the legality of publicly funded scholarships into doubt. NU's Davis Scholarship for minorities is a \$1 million endowment financed through private donors, including the Dick Davis family of Omaha, and the state. The Nebraska Legislature allocated \$800,000 for the scholarship program.

The Davis Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate students at UNL and UNO who are black, American Indian or Hispanic.

The university's chief lawyer said he is willing to go to bat for the scholarship program.

NU Vice President and General Counsel Richard Wood said he is confident the Davis Scholarship's legality would stand up in court. The scholarship was drafted using Affirmative

Action decisions as a guideline, Wood said. The intention of the scholarship is to "provide that scholarships be available as long as there is a statistically significant underrepresentation of a minority group in the undergraduate population," he said.

The Davis Scholarship is working toward raising the proportion of blacks, American Indians and Hispanics at UNL and UNO to the proportion of those groups in kindergarten through 12th grades in Nebraska schools, Wood said.

Because of its basis in Affirmative Action, Wood said, university officials feel strongly about the Davis Scholarship and are anxious to defend its existence.

"We're prepared to present a good case in defense if anyone seeks to challenge," he said.

Scientist to answer questions about clams

Children and adults who enjoy gathering clam shells can bring their collections and questions to the "Sunday Afternoon with a Scientist" program to be presented at Morrill Hall Sunday from 2 p.m.

to 4 p.m.

Keith Perkins III, an associate professor of biology at Sioux Falls College in Sioux Falls, S.D., will exhibit samples of the types of clams, or unionids, found in the state.

The program will allow youngsters to gather clams from a simulated habitat. They will learn about the environmental needs of clams, including water supply, geological formations and host fish.

Polish youth to learn about U.S. agribusiness

Young potential leaders from Poland's Warsaw Agricultural University will learn about Nebraska's field-to-market agricultural system as part of a new program offered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this summer.

The UNL program, was developed to give students from Poland a basic understanding of the legal, economic and management framework used in U.S. agribusiness.

From July 10 to Aug. 15, six students will study the production and

movement of two typical Nebraska products — corn and beef.

In following the movement of these products, the Polish students will visit farms, processing plants and agribusiness corporate headquarters.

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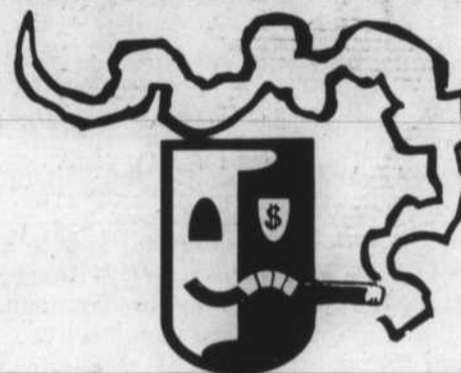
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