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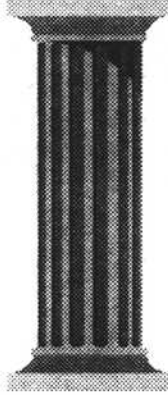
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# Panel: Colleges curb costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concluding that tuition has grown faster than the cost of educating students, a panel recommended Thursday that colleges curb expenses and make more information available on costs and student aid.

The National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education, agreeing on recommendations to Congress and the White House after just four months of work, also questioned guaranteed tenure for faculty and urged a mandatory retirement policy.

The 11-member panel, chartered earlier this year by Congress, held its final public meeting just two days after being cautioned by the chairman of the House Education Committee, Rep. Bill Goodling, R-Pa., not to understate the problem.

The commission chairman said no changes were made in the key recommendations as a result of congressional pressure. Media reports of prior meetings and a draft report did indicate, however, that the panel was ready to point out that a tuition crisis was over and college can still be a bargain.

"There is literally a college for every pocketbook and purpose," a recent draft said. It equated the cost of tuition for most full-time undergradu-

ates to that of a "decent used car."

On Thursday, William Trout, president of Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., and chairman of the 11-member commission, minimized the conflict. He said there are "lots of drafts around." He added that lawmakers had been responding to partial reports from the media and statements from individual members.

"We've been talking since day one about the need to redouble our efforts to contain costs," he said. Most of the 11 members are college presidents, chancellors or officials of academic organizations.

Thursday's session opened with a report showing that tuition more than doubled between 1987 and 1996 at public colleges and universities — from nearly \$1,700 to \$3,900. At the same time, the cost of educating a student increased by one-half — from nearly \$8,000 to more than \$12,000.

Tuition has made up for the decline in direct state support for institutions. Panelists acknowledged that colleges and universities have chosen more often to raise prices than cut costs. Increased student aid in the form of grants and loans has eased the burden for many.

But panelists also acknowledged

that student debt has grown at an alarming rate and there may be a connection between higher lending and higher tuition.

"We're asking that it be looked at carefully and quickly," said Barry Munitz, vice chairman of the commission and chancellor of California State University in Long Beach.

Trout said in an interview that despite a recent easing of tuition increases, the commission worries that another jump forward could occur, leading to pressure for outside cost controls.

Some recommendations:

■ Colleges and universities should redouble efforts to contain costs through a variety of means, including joint purchases and an elimination of overlapping courses offered by nearby institutions in subjects that are expensive, such as graduate electronic engineering, or arcane.

■ The Education Department needs to produce more data more often on college costs and prices and it should streamline aid. Colleges and universities need to provide more information about why costs are what they are and the availability of student aid. Accounting should be improved to give uniform cost information.

# Kyoto meeting debates global warming change

KYOTO, Japan (AP) — Thomas Gale Moore says he knows what the world should do about global warming: nothing.

"People like warm weather," said Moore, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institute, a conservative think tank at Stanford University in California. "Where do they go when they retire? Where it's warm."

Down the hall at the convention center that is host to the Kyoto climate conference, global warming is hardly about surf and sun — it's a matter of life and death.

"I care a lot — I'm really scared about climate change," said Dietrich Brockhagen, a German who took an 11-day train-boat-bicycle ride to the conference to protest the environmental damage caused by planes.

The vast divide between the two illustrates the wide range of opinions being tossed around at the Kyoto meeting.

In 10 days of negotiations, 2,000 delegates are trying to mandate reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases.

Scientists say the gases, which trap sunlight-generated heat in the Earth's atmosphere, may boost global temperatures, raising ocean levels and abruptly shifting climate zones.

Environmentalists and scientists warn that if nothing is done, the Earth's ecosystem could be damaged. Some businesses worry that reductions could cost them millions; others see opportunities. Governments argue over who will bear the burdens of reducing emissions.

Moore sees little to worry about. He heralds a warmer climate as a place where agriculture would flourish and

planes would fly on time because of fewer snow delays. He predicts a warmer climate would save the lives of about 40,000 people a year in the United States.

"About what we kill on the highways — not a bad game," he declared.

The debate has attracted powerful captains of industry and zealous environmentalists, political leaders — like Vice President Al Gore — and grassroots campaigners, scientists and eccentrics.

Everyone is struggling to make their points. Greenpeace brews mocha in a solar-powered coffeemaker; skeptics guffaw as they criticize studies warning about environmental damage; atomic reactor companies set up huge displays with slogans like, "Let's turn their world green with nuclear energy."

"You have lots of room to be creative, because the fight is so fierce," said Kalee Kreider, director of Greenpeace's U.S. Climate Campaign.

The environmentalists have been the loudest in getting their message out. They have set up solar energy panels at a centuries-old temple, chained themselves briefly to pumps at a gas station and plan to build a giant dinosaur at the convention center.

Brockhagen's group, Climate Train, took a lengthy train ride from points in Western Europe to Tianjin, China. The group arrived in Japan by boat.

They estimate their journey produced one-eighth of the greenhouse gas emissions that a plane ride would create.

"It's not crazy — we had a lot of fun and we met a lot of people," Brockhagen said. "We arrived well-informed."

# Poll indicates youths favor race division

WASHINGTON (AP) — A growing percentage of American young people see nothing wrong with the races keeping to themselves as long as they are not discriminated against, according to a poll released Wednesday by MTV, the youth-oriented cable network.

The poll indicated that 54 percent of young people characterize race relations as "good," compared with 42 percent in 1991.

Young people seem increasingly accepting of the "separate but equal" concept for America.

In 1991, 41 percent of youth said it was "OK if the races are basically separate from one another in our country as long as everyone has equal opportunities." That figure rose to 68 percent in the 1997 survey.

The percentage of those who disagree with the separate but equal philosophy fell from 57 percent in 1991 to 31 percent today.

"What young people are saying in this poll, and what our audience tells us, is that there is still much work to be done," said Judy McGrath, MTV president. "This is no time for complacency."

The poll, conducted from Sept. 17-30 by GarinHartYang Research, sampled more than 750 people ages 15-24. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

**Daily Nebraskan**

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