

# Turner: blacks attend college out of need, not capability

by Mike Barret  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Black students must attend establishment institutions to acquire skill and political direction that will serve the needs of their people, the director of Cornell University's Center for Afro-American studies said Tuesday.

Dr. James Turner told an audience of 75 people that "black students increasingly understand that going to college is not a question of what they want to do, but of what is needed."

The sudden increase in the number of black students is not due to the students' individual capabilities, he said. "Even though many brothers and sisters may think they have what is required by whites, the large increase is due to actions of blacks elsewhere and to reactions of some people in white society."

Turner said white control of blacks over long periods of time has led blacks to manifest "the colonial personality."

Because of this personality "blacks began to seek after things white, as the source of power, the source of improvement of their condition," he said. "They began to be very empty in their relationships to things that



Dr. James Turner, Cornell University's director of the Center for Afro-American Studies

were related to themselves."

He added that "this type of control has forced black people in this country into a great deal of misdirection."

"First it was thought that discrimination was an abnormal perversion, taking place in certain segments of society. All we needed to do was improve the moral fiber of the South and that would solve the American dilemma."

Then the problem was called stereotypes, Turner said, and if black people would dispel those stereotypes, a change would take place and an improvement in racial problems would be forthcoming. People thought that with sufficient educational programs, racial prejudice would end, he added.

Blacks set out to prove things white people thought about them were untrue, according to Turner. Panels of sociologists and doctors got together to prove that black "rhythm" was not genetic, Turner added. They said "blacks are no different than you. We are the same as whites."

"Blacks believed if they could somehow submerge, culturally and socially, into the dominant group, much of the kind of economic

Controlled Universities in the United States have traditionally been controlled by small groups of administrators and faculty members, he continued. There has been little or no input from students.

He said that students wanting a voice in their own lives have tried in recent years to use the "existing channels and levers" to effect change. "However, they found that the channels never really existed and that all the

# Palmer: Students should have role

by Bill Smitherman  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Students (a.) should (b.) should not have a role in University decision making. (Choose one)

Charles Palmer, president of the National Student Union, chooses answer (a.).

Speaking Monday evening in the Union Centennial Room, Palmer told a crowd of about 100 that people everywhere are beginning to demand more control over their own lives.

Students have been one of the most active groups in asking for a voice, Palmer added. They are asking for control in environmental and moral decisions of their Universities, he said.

"To call a University a democratic community is crap," Palmer continued. "If an American university is any kind of community, it would be called a monarchy."

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He said that students wanting a voice in their own lives have tried in recent years to use the "existing channels and levers" to effect change. "However, they found that the channels never really existed and that all the

levers were broken," Palmer continued.

He said that token student representation on university governing bodies has been one way that students have tried to make themselves heard.

However, this is ineffective because most decisions are made behind closed doors, Palmer added. "For Universities to have a real democratic decision-making process, the decisions must be made in public."

The past student body president of the University of California at Berkeley said that students should have a role in University decisions because they are the most directly influenced by them.

Palmer noted that students nationally have taken positions and won fights in areas of campus expansion, university building programs and academic areas.

"In many cases students are putting forward whole new concepts of education," he continued. "They are hiring teachers, and starting classes of their own in some cases."

Palmer said that the students are right to criticize what Universities are doing. "The University should be a part of the community and do good for the community in general," he continued.

By working together for a better university and community, students will begin to communicate and think, he said. More participatory

programs will mean more people involved and active, Palmer continued.

Not enough "However, student power is not enough," he said. "We can't just have the universities as islands of participation in a non-participating society."

He explained that when the university becomes a place where people have control over their own lives, it will naturally begin to challenge the social order as a whole.

"For this reason, it is necessary to relate what is going on at the university to the society," he said. "Some people away from campuses are already beginning to

challenge the way their decisions are made.

"If students can relate to people outside the University, then the blame for problems can be fixed where it belongs and not on the easy scapegoat of students."

Powerful force Palmer said that student governments can be a powerful force in effecting change. However, to become effective, the student government must be financially separate from the University, he continued.

He added that student corporations offering goods and services are one way of obtaining the money.



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