

# AACS to encourage minority enrollments

"We will address ourselves to the problems of black folks, here on campus and problems of the black community in Lincoln also."

That is Afro-American Collegiate Society (AACS) president Al Lewis's summation of his organization's goals for the future.

Beginning its third year on campus, the AACS intends to continue working for the enrollment of blacks at the University. It also intends, through its 150 members, to help alleviate the problems minorities face in a predominately white school while encouraging them to gain an education so they can help their home communities rate graduation.

Lewis says that the AACS will continue negotiations

begun this summer on three "concerns."

As a result of the summer's efforts, the university has already acted on one concern — creation of a deanship for minority groups. Lewis commends the administration for creating the position and reports that the search for a dean is under way.

Based on population ratio of minorities to whites in Nebraska, AACS wants 1200 minority students recruited over the next three years. University Coordinator of Special Programs, Haze Pope, estimates that 375 to 400 minority students are attending NU this semester. He believes that many who were planning to come did not make it and he is presently searching for their reasons.

Society members are con-

cerned that NU, which lost its only two black full faculty members during the summer, should become more dedicated to finding and keeping black teachers. The University does have black graduate assistants.

According to Lewis, AACS is also pushing for some scholarship and financial aids department funds to be specially earmarked for minority use. He said he feels this would improve recruitment

and lessen competition with whites who have received better secondary education.

He says the "main emphasis (on financial aid) should come from the University administration — not faculty and students" but he praises the faculty who gave part of their salary for minority recruiting.

Lewis, a junior, believes that racism on campus is "not so much overt as it is institutionalized. Whites are naively ignorant of the black situa-

tion," he said, "and what enhances the ignorance is they're not willing to learn."

He said that the University is now geared for whites and as long as it is not updated to include minority interests it will be guilty of "institutional racism."

AACS allows only full-time black students to be voting members, but gives associate memberships to all others willing to work with and in behalf of black students and black people.

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