

Culture Center misnamed

guest opinion

Leroy Ramsey is UNL director of minority affairs.

The Department of Minority Affairs and the students who worked so hard to bring the Cultural Center into being react with shock and dismay that certain information was not readily available when the *Daily Nebraskan* reported on the Cultural Center. That bit of missing information caused the center to be labeled Black Center.

No one denies the fact that the interest and concern of Black students are focal points in the center. Likewise, no one denies the fact that the students are black who have supplied all of the work, interest and concern.

We do deny the idea that it is a black center. It is a cultural center.

The concept out of which the Culture Center grew was specifically designed to do away with those stereotyped concepts that have been historically linked to the word "black."

Since so many people have a reaction to the word "black," we'd like to know how many people have a similar reaction to the word "culture." To be sure, there are those people who will always swing from the rafters when anything black

appears in print. To those people, we say we're sorry that your views are so narrow.

We are more concerned about those people who can react to culture as something that is neither black nor white nor any shade in between. And that's the way the Culture Center sees it.

It is a cause for alarm and great concern when the efforts of a group of dedicated, intelligent, organized students from this University get together and plan an activity—only to have implied sabotaging and innuendoes torpedo it before it is launched simply because some information was missing.

The Culture Center, black notwithstanding, will help provide social necessities currently lacking in this institution.

This is not a place where a group of black revolutionaries would dedicate themselves to "hate Whitey" rhetoric that serves as political fodder for narrow-based politicians. This is, instead, an opportunity for a group of students at this University to contribute meaningfully to University life.

This contribution will be in the form of programs and activities designed to utilize student, University and community resources as a means of emphasizing our cultural heritage as well as modern-day activities.

Art supporters' efforts green Midwest culture

Daily Nebraskan fine arts writer Carolyn Hull is a sophomore majoring in Theatre.

"... to afford the inhabitants of this state the means of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the various branches of Literature, Science, and the Arts."

This is the mission of the University of Nebraska as stated in the Charter Act of the Legislature of Nebraska, Session of 1869. Over a hundred years ago that body had the courage to make the Arts an equal part of education, not only for students but for all the state's inhabitants.

The sad fact is that not until recently has there been a whole-hearted attempt to do so, to use the existing arts to the fullest both on campus and in making them available to the entire state.

This year has been a rebirth of the arts at the University with events increasing both in quantity and quality.

This fresh look at the arts has come about as a result of a few people not content to take just what is brought before them, who have gone out on a limb for everyone, in an effort to offer more of the arts (both visual and performing) to all Nebraskans.

Support they have received thus far has been encouraging. Response from events held last year, such as a visit by harpsichordist Igor Kipnis, has brought about a more concerted effort to contract more visiting artists.

Establishing the University as a known center for the arts will bring about more and more interest in the Midwest as a valuable experience for high caliber artists.

This is what President D.B. Varner and others are making long range plans for, while making a start by inviting artists for concerts and rap sessions and arranging residencies such as the recent Grant Johannesen series.

Varner has time and time again lent personal assistance and encouragement to those interested in the arts. In approving establishment of the new Cultural Affairs Committee he laid groundwork for a channel that future events can be planned through. His efforts brought about artists-in-residence of the

caliber of Zara Nelsova and Grant Johannesen.

Vaughn Jaenike's post as special assistant to the president for the arts was created through Varner's efforts.

The new Performing Arts series is a result of a trip he made to New York. And, with the idea of bringing art to the whole Midwest, he became formulator of the Mid-America Arts Council which includes Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska.

Another man quite active in the arts is Bill Wallis, president of the University Friends of the Arts (UFA). As a performer in his own right he has the lead role in the present university theatre production of *The Front Page* and has appeared in numerous plays and operas. As a Centennial College fellow he has study groups in music theatre and modern drama and will be directing *Fantastiks!*

staff suggestion box

This list of the contributions of just two men and there are others as active, only goes to show that if Nebraska is the 'cultural wasteland of nothing-to-do' as those on the coasts would have it, it is because they haven't received enough support and their limb has broken from underneath them. Their efforts can be only as successful as students decide to make an effort in return.

As the arts are a subjective experience, each person having his own reaction to an event, feedback is very important in determining what direction the arts will take on this campus, and hopefully in the state as resources expand.

This feedback can come in many forms. Simply letting the organizers know how an artist is received

by finding one and talking to them is a good way, and they are very open to student response. A few people one might speak to are Bill Wallis, Ron Bowlin and Nelson Potter of the University Friends of the Arts, Vaughn Jaenike and Mrs. Joann Kimball, 305 Administration and Peter Milstein of the Mid-American Arts Council in 308. Other suggestions would be a favorite professor or a department chairman, or the Nebraska Union Program Office.

Support by attendance at fine arts events is the most obvious means of support. Numerous events are scheduled regularly. School of Music professors are in recital almost every Tuesday night according to John Moran, director of the School of Music. Film fans have a better choice than ever with the Foreign Film Series, Weekend films, Special Films, and three new multiple theatres opening, in addition to existing ones. UFA and the Nebraska Union are sponsoring several guest artists, the new Performing Arts series and the Community Concert Association make fine arts available. An active chamber music following sponsors a fine series each year, with three top-rated groups in this year's season. Sheldon Art Gallery has some especially fine shows this fall and the art shop has exhibit-sales running continuously.

Once out of that room there are a number of events happening, now, and attending them will help cause more to happen.

Right now, the main problem in scheduling more events is, as with so many things, getting the money to sponsor the events so they can be made free or offered at reduced cost. Once again, support can be shown by rearranging priorities that indicate the fine arts are important to students by making personal sacrifices and letting those with money available know that the fine arts should have a higher priority as to where money is spent.

This is an exciting year for arts at the university, at a state-wide level and for the whole midwest. Efforts made now are crucial in determining the course of the arts, every bit of support that can be made at this time will be greatly appreciated by those working round-the-clock to bring the best of the fine arts into this area.

Fine Arts

