

Ramsey: financial squeeze plagues minority recruiting



Lack of funds . . . Leroy Ramsey says this is hurting minority recruitment.

by Ken Kirk

UNL is losing good black students to schools offering better financial incentives, according to Leroy Ramsey, coordinator of minority affairs.

Ramsey said he is interested in more selective minority recruitment. But he needs more funds so he can offer more aid to good black students, he said.

He said UNL loses a "helluva lot" of the best black students graduating from Nebraska high schools. He said there are about 75 to 100 top Nebraska black students a year, which includes National Merit semi finalists and students in the top 10 per cent of their high school class. Between 600 and 900 minority students graduate from Nebraska high schools every year, he said.

Ramsey said 150 minority students each received an average \$2,100 in financial aid. He wants to be able to offer top students \$3,200 in financial aid. This includes Office of Economic Opportunity grants, National Defense Educational Aid, work-study jobs and other grants.

He said Office of Minority Affairs needs \$250,000 to be properly funded. He said he hopes to get \$160,000 in federal funds and \$90,000 from the University and other sources for next year. The 1972-73 Office of Minority Affairs budget was around \$165,000, Ramsey said.

It's embarrassing to make a financial commitment to a minority student when the status of financial aid is uncertain, Ramsey said.

This is one reason no new recruitment effort for minority students has begun this semester, he said.

Ramsey said minority students can be hurt by federal cutbacks in financial aid. If the eligibility ceiling is raised on federal student aid, Ramsey said each student will get proportionately less aid. This will hurt minority students most because they need a large amount of aid, he said.

And if federally insured student loans are eliminated, minority students will have a difficult time getting bank loans, Ramsey said. Minority students are classified as poor risks because they don't have the needed collateral, he continued.

Also, if the financial aid policy is not clarified soon, minority students won't have enough time to get money, Ramsey said.

There are about 275 minority students at UNL. Ramsey said he wanted to recruit 150 minority students this year and so far has recruited 100 to 130.

He said he still is waiting for replies from high school students he has contacted. Ramsey estimated there would be 400 minority students on campus next fall.

Ramsey said he was planning to recruit outside of the state in the future.

'Of Mice and Men' confronts life's futility

Review by Larry Kubert

For anyone in theater, the name Guthrie Theatre is looked upon with awe and respect.

Currently at Kimball Recital Hall is the Guthrie's presentation of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Naturally, it's sold-out.

Set in southern California during the Depression, the production is good, but not perfect.

The biggest flaw is Peter Goetz's Lennie. As the powerful but simplistic Lennie, Goetz often succeeds, but occasionally slips. This is evident in the first scene of the play as Lennie and George (Richard Ramos) approach the Salinas River.

Both actors were reluctant to commit themselves to their characters. As a result, the interplay between the two was stiff and stilted. One could not gain any feeling of the hopelessness of the pair's situation from their acting.

Fortunately, both actors managed to emerge from this doldrum when they came in contact with other characters.

Goetz's Lennie seemed to be troubled by two problems—his almost-moronic mentality and his brawling personality. Both of which attempted to show what a "man-child" Lennie was.

With the exception of the first scene, Ramos, as George, executes a fine performance. His humane love for Lennie is evident throughout the play and graphically illustrated as he forces himself to kill Lennie.

Paul Ballantyne as Candy, the aged, one-armed swamper, delivers a sympathetic picture of an old man no longer with any place to go. Surprisingly effective is James J. Lawless as Slim, the ranch's mule-skinner. He exhibits a quiet, inner strength which places his role above the remaining characterizations of the play.

Of Mice and Men examines the futility of dreams and hopes. George and Lennie have a dream of being free, owning a farm where they can withdraw from society to be safe and secure. George will no longer have any responsibility and Lennie will be able to do what he most wants, to raise rabbits.

Candy dreams of having a place to die which he can call home without fear of being turned out. Curley's wife (Katherine Ferrand) dreams of leading a gaudy life as a movie starlet and black stablebuck Crooks (Fred Pinkard) dreams of being accepted as a man, without regard to his color.

All these dreams are shattered, leaving the characters in the same wretched morass that they started the play in. They have no means of escape from the frustration and loneliness the world has imposed upon them.

The Guthrie *Of Mice and Men* production has its flaws, which isn't to say that it's a bad show. It still offers some of the best theater to pass through Lincoln in some time.



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