

South African: apartheid part of life

South Africa should not be compared to the United States just because the two countries have similar racial problems, according to Johan Botha, ambassador to the United States from the Republic of South Africa.

Botha appeared at two international relations classes at UNL Thursday. He also was made a member of the "Great Navy of Nebraska" at a luncheon given by the First National Bank.

Botha said he stopped in Lincoln while on a tour of the country "to see what it is really like."

The government of South Africa officially follows the practice of apartheid, the separation of blacks and whites.

"Differentiation between the races is a part of our lives," he said. History has determined the current patterns of government of South Africa, Botha said.

When whites began colonizing South Africa about 300 years ago, Botha said, they settled in the southwest which is rich in mineral resources. About the same time, Africans moved into the well-watered eastern part of the country, he said.

Still separate

The two races still reside in their original territories, according to Botha.

He said it is not South African policy to perpetuate racial discrimination. One of the African homelands in South Africa, the Transkrie, is scheduled to be emancipated next year, Botha said.

"For us to embark on integration would be folly," he said. The areas controlled by the two races are administered as separate, dual societies, he said.

The difference between the Black in South Africa and in the U.S. is that the Black in South Africa has never been a slave, according to Botha. The South African Black "is a proud carrier of his own culture," he said.

People flock

To begin integration would presume that the South African Black would want to be like a White, Botha said.

Africans have traditionally recognized authoritarian government and the majority vote method of government probably would not be acceptable to the people of South Africa, he said.

If South Africa is an oppressive country, then it is the only one in the world which "people flock to," according to Botha. He was referring to an influx of illegal Africans into South Africa.

Human potential conference

600 people are expected

An estimated 600 people from 12 to 15 states will be in Lincoln this weekend attending "Body/Mind/Spirit: Self Unity" a human potential conference presented by the University of Nebraska Extension Division.

The conference is being held at the Cornhusker Hotel tonight through Sunday.

Larry Hammer, superintendent of informal education for the extension division, and co-ordinator of the conference, said officials from the Esalen Institute for Theoretical Studies in California, a human potential study center, came to UNL in January with the idea of co-sponsoring such a conference.

"A representative from Esalen came to the campus and I took it for granted that we would hold the conference in April," Hammer said. "We heard nothing from them after that, and eventually we found out they had abandoned their plans for hosting this in Lincoln."

Hammer said the idea "was exciting" and rather than end the project, he asked Betty Bergquist, who has led human potentials classes and studied at Esalen, for help. Bergquist contacted Dr. William Schatz, who she met at Esalen Institute, and he compiled a list of experts for the conference.

Bergquist defined human potential as "a way to become more aware of your senses."

"Everyone has a 100 per cent potential to enjoy life," she said. "Most of us don't have this fully developed. The movement processes at this conference, which deal with the body, mind and spirit, help us to learn how to develop this potential and become more natural, as we were meant to be."

Eight nationally known leaders will conduct a general session and two smaller group sessions at the meeting. They are: Werner Erhard, founder of Erhard Seminar Training; Dr. William Schutz, author of "Body/Mind/Spirit: Self Unity"; Dr. Karl Pribram, head of the Neuropsychology Laboratories, Stanford University; Al Huang, Tai Chi Master and performing artist; George Leonard, co-director of the Esalen Institute; Ilana Rubinfeld, a professor at New York University; Dr. John Pierrakados, director of the Institute for the New Age of Man in New York; and Betty Fuller, co-founder of The Learning Center in San Francisco.

Although the conference begins tonight, it is still possible to register today from 3 to 8 p.m. at the hotel, Hammer said. Registration for students is \$50 and \$75 for non-students.

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