

Panel: many elderly women classified as poor

By Sandy Mohr

Two-thirds of the elderly are women and five-eighths of these women are classified as poor or nearly poor, according to Anne Hopkins, counselor for the Lincoln Information Service for the Elderly.

Hopkins spoke Tuesday in a Women/Speak series panel discussion on "The Aging Woman." Other panel members were Lincoln elderly counselors Martha Kniffin and Barbara Harriott and retired teacher Esther Hamon.

All four women are members of the Gray Panthers, a national organization designed to bring youth and the aged

together to fight age discrimination.

The aging woman must be future-oriented, Kniffin said. Kniffin, 76, said women should learn early in life how to contend later with loss of social status and income.

Economic concerns are the most serious problems the aging woman has, according to Hamon, 72.

Most elderly women live on social security and 14 per cent have not worked long enough to qualify for it, Hamon said. She added that since many women are underpaid they receive very small social security payments and pensions.

Women who were married less than 20 years will not receive social security benefits at all, she said.

Hamon also said that the elderly "don't die off in a hurry anymore" and medical bills can be costly.

"Medicare is a farce and an illusion," she said. "Don't trust it for all your problems."

Because Medicare does not cover dental or vision problems and pays for 80 per cent of hospital bills, only 45 per cent of all medical bills actually are covered by Medicare, Hopkins said.

Hamon said that until Congress passes a

national health bill, the only way the elderly can plan for the future is to start investing money now.

In addition, many nursing homes charge "astronomical" prices, Harriott said. Harriott, who spoke on the "triple whammy" of being an elderly black woman, said elderly blacks receive even lower pensions and social security payments because of the low-paying or migratory jobs some have.

"The Alcoholic Woman" is the subject of next Tuesday's Women/Speak series at noon. Connie Clark of the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs will speak.

short stuff

Free Polka lessons are being offered by the Nebraska Free University at the Women's Physical Education Bldg. 123, tonight at 7.

Pre-registration counseling for minority and low-income students is scheduled from 1 to 10 p.m. today at the Educational Developmental Learning Skills Center in the basement of Selleck Quadrangle, Room 7005.

An informational meeting on the tropical agriculture study tour is planned for 5 p.m. today at Keim Hall 244. Everyone inter-

ested in learning about this trip to Colombia, South America, from Dec. 27 to Jan. 8 should attend this meeting. Final date to register is Friday, Oct. 31. Call 472-2201 for more information.

Student Veterans Club is scheduled to meet tonight at 6:45 p.m. at the Nebraska Union 232. A new president will be elected.

Anyone interested in a spring semester in Lund, Sweden at the International Swedish University may apply until Oct. 30. Courses are offered in sociology,

political science, fine arts education, ecology, industrial management and Swedish. Contact the Overseas Opportunities Center for more information.

The College of Business Administration Ethnic Minority Committee is sponsoring a study session for Accounting 103 and 104 tonight at 7 in CBA 330. Any minority business stu-

dent interested is welcome.

All business minority students are urged to attend the College of Business Administration's Minority Committee meeting Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in CBA 237.

The Women's Resource Center Advisory Board is meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

University Studies' Historical Theatre will perform Robert Lowell's *The Old Glory*, Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Henzlik Auditorium. Admission is free.

The Undergraduate Psychology Organization will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in Burnett Hall 35. A discussion on the psychology

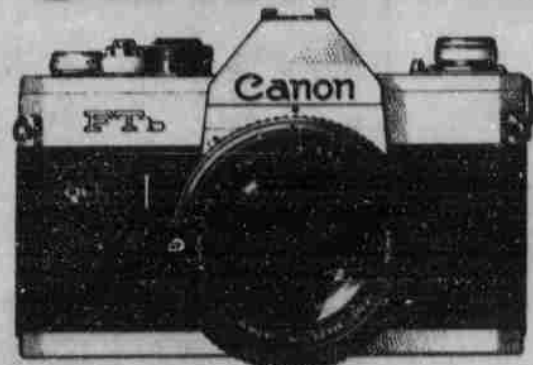
of men is scheduled.

An Agronomy Club meeting is planned for 7 p.m. Thursday in Keim Hall 244. Following the meeting there will be a tour of the soil testing lab and the weed science lab.

The monthly meeting of the African Student Association is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday.

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