

Women's Resource Center sponsors men's rap group

By Kate Gaul

The Women's Resource Center is sponsoring several rap groups to meet a need at UNL for open, honest discussion, according to one group leader.

A men's rap group has formed that is described by one of its three leaders, Chris McGrath, as "mainly a support group to discuss personal conflicts, common and uncommon experiences."

"The rap group will provide a safe environment for men to share feelings and emotions that men are traditionally taught to suppress," McGrath said.

"The atmosphere is intended to be humanist-feminist because one must realize that sexism limits both sexes," he said.

Participation in the men's group, as in women's rap groups, is open to students and non-students, heterosexuals and homosexuals. The women's groups are not yet organized.

A rap group designed for older students also is being formed at the Women's Resource Center, and a lesbian rap group has been meeting since last semester.

A men's rap group began last semester but met with only "moderate success," McGrath said.

The group began with about six members but dwindled to two by December. Members' conflicts with other activities hurt attendance, McGrath said.

This semester the men's group tentatively plans to meet at the Women's Resource Center every other

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The first meeting is planned for Jan. 25.

But the group will not immediately delve into heavy politics or the limitations of accepted social behavior, McGrath said. They will begin by talking about "who and what we are."

The uneasiness initially felt by a group of strangers can be eased by sensitivity training and activities designed to build trust, McGrath said.

A problem exists in acceptable behavior for males, McGrath said. The "fronts" and "images" men are taught to project, are "to please others and not themselves," he added.

These masculine roles, McGrath said, are as limiting to men as the traditional feminine roles are to women. Although the exact format of the discussions will be

determined by the men involved, McGrath and the other two group coordinators, Clark House and Brian Hunter, have made a list of possible topics.

Included are: sexism and language, human sexuality, men's role in the women's liberation movement, a comparison of sexism and racism, the taboo against men touching men, and the origins of the traditional male role in society.

Some of the films being considered are: *Men's Lives*, a documentary about masculinity in America, directed by Josh Hanig and Will Roberts; and *Masculinity*, a slide show about men and sexism, distributed by the Men's Resource Center in Portland, Oregon.

McGrath said men interested in joining the rap group should contact him at 475-8528, House at 435-8187, or Hunter at 432-8640.

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