### Ethnic symposium features speakers

There's something for everyone at this year's Center for Great Plains Studies Symposium at the Radisson Cornhusker Hotel.

The symposium is organized into several sessions each day. During each session, two or three noted anthropologists, sociologists, geographers, folklorists or linguists from all over the world will present

Students have been invited to attend any of these sessions free of charge.

Today, sessions on "Immigrants and Land Ownership" and "Ethnic Cohesion and Religion," will be presented at 8:45 a.m. At 10:45 a.m. sessions on "Ethnoreligious Diversity" and "Patterns of Ethnic Adaptation" will be offered.

Afternoon sessions include a choice between "Patterns of Migration" and "Ethnic Literature" at 1:15 and "The Transformation of Ethnic Culture" at 3:30.

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# Speaker finds humor in ethnicity

By Kathy McAuliffe

An authentic Irish brogue brought ethnicity to life during the keynote address of the Center for Great Plains Studies 1978 Symposium on "Ethnicity on the Great Plains.'

The Rev. Andrew Greeley, director of the Center for Study of American Pluralism at the University of Chicago, spoke Thursday morning to almost 300 persons at the Radisson Comhusker Hotel. Greeley is a theologian, educator and sociologist who has written many books and articles on ethnicity and religion.

Although the speech topic was serious - "New Models of Ethnic Plurarlism: From Moralism to Research" -Greeley kept his audience entertained with frequent ethnic and religious anecdotes.

Greeley challenged those who view ethnic diversity and revival as a threat to the United States.

"Ethnicity has always been an important part of American life," he said. "It didn't just happen." What did happen, he said, is that professionals recently have sanctioned ethnic studies.

Because many who oppose ethnic diversity have not based their fears on fact, he said, scholars and educators must use every available scientific tool to find facts and prove hypotheses.

One of his own studies compared drinking problems among the Italians, Irish, Jewish and Swedish ethnic groups. Greeley added jokingly that "there was no intention to slight Polish drinking problems."

In his study, Greeley concluded that the incidence of drinking problems is highest among the Irish, followed by the Swedish, Italian and Jewish groups. The types of drinking behavior found among thses ethnic groups are primarily learned from family and friends, he said.

Such studies are not done to pinpoint weaknesses of ethnic groups, Greeley said, but are used to aid counselors dealing with alcoholism.

Although the Irish, as a group have alcohol-related problems, he said, they are more able to deal with such concerns as death and dying. This idea prompted another quip from Greeley who repeated a friend's witticism: "you guys (Irish) are not very good at living, but you're pretty good at dying."

Greeley said his study also indicated that ethnic traits and behavior are passed on unself-consciously and unintentionally in the early childhood experience," and that the mother's drinking pattern is critical in determing her children's drinking habits. Even when an ethnic member marries outside his or her group, he said, that person and the children remain a firm part of their ethnic drinking subculture.

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