

# Panel discusses blacks' role in academics, athletics

By Diane Anderson

The academic problems of black college athletes, black and white sexual relationships and the Bakke court decision were discussed Friday during "Black Men in Perspective," part of UNL's Black History Month.

A panel of four spoke on the position of black men in the past, present and future.

The panel included Donald Osborne, UNL assistant professor of ethnic studies; Walt Christian, a graduate student in educational psychology; Chuck Colding, who works for the Nebraska Educational Television Network; and Gene Crump, a Lincoln attorney.

Osborne said that until recently, discrimination made professions outside the black community unavailable for blacks.

"I think that whatever happens here at UNL is for the future," he said, because "the numbers of black students, faculty and administrators are in an extreme minority."

### Dissatisfaction

Osborne said that although student petitions could help create some new black-oriented programs, a UNL black student should resort to transferring if he or she is really dissatisfied.

Crump gave a history of the progress of black rights through major court cases such as Brown vs. the Board of Education. He

said blacks have gained minimal but not substantial rights.

Crump also said most colleges were designed for whites, except for the all-black Southern schools.

The black athletes usually choose professional athletic careers before an academic degree, Crump said, adding that he feels the athletes are wasting their time for a career that may only last five years.

"They don't have any reason to be here (UNL) after the first day except for that scholarship," he said of the black athletes.

Crump said black students concerned about academics should form their own study groups, since most of their parents can't help them deal with college anxieties that are outside their own experiences.

"If they (blacks) can realize what they're here for, more black people will have a history of education to fall back on," Crump said.

### Bakke decision

He also commented on the Bakke decision, which, he said, will cause employers to look farther for qualified minorities to fill affirmative action programs.

Colding said black men still are controlled by whites, although not by physical violence.

"Public television has a wonderful reputation, but there has never been a major production by a black man," he said.

Colding said that, economically and politically, "any sane black person in the United States has to feel restricted or he has no ambition at all."

He said broadcasting, theater and film-making are areas generally inaccessible to

blacks. Even though public television has a charter stating equality, real equality is nonexistent.

He said he feels a responsibility to the black community but he "thought they hid it when I got here (Lincoln)." Colding is from Detroit.

Walt Christian, who is working on his doctorate in psychology and is a former minor league baseball player, said he wants to get other black students to think about long-range plans and gain a sense of status and identity.

"I feel alienated because I'm a member of a minority and have no support base for my ideas," he said.

### Trend to athletics

"The trend of the country and educational budgets has swung from academic to athletic," Christian said. "The largest building on campus is the Sports Complex."

He also said blacks must be "three times as good" as whites to get into graduate schools.

Several members of the audience asked the panel members' opinions of blacks having sexual relationships with whites. Some expressed the opinion that dating whites could hurt a black's identity or cut down on the availability of blacks to go out with, especially when black men are "pressured" to take out white women.

But the panel members said race should not be a deciding factor in a relationship.

"It's a man and a woman the way I look at it," Crump said.

Colding said anyone who feels blacks and whites should not mix sexually, "is advocating racism."

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## Regent . . .

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Shubik, who is attending a conference in Nigeria, is being investigated for a possible conflict of interest concerning his involvement with outside agencies which make grants to the institute.

- deferred a proposal by Regent Kermit Hansen of Omaha that the board record the student regents' positions on all issues, though they won't count as a vote, for a one year trial period.
- discussed Regent Robert Prokop's proposal to let the regents limit themselves to six football tickets each. Prokop, of Wilbur, also suggested that businesses which regularly get large blocks of tickets limit themselves.
- voted to fill the vacancy created when UNL business Dean William Muse resigned to go to Texas A&M. Simmons unsuccessfully tried to talk the board into merging the UNO and UNL business schools.

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