

daily nebraskan

Black-white dating displeases panel

By Diane Andersen

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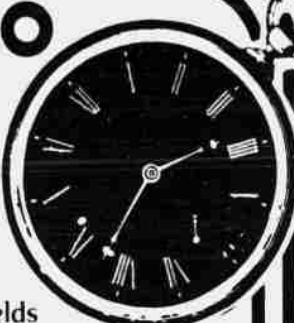
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"Black Women in Perspective", a panel discussion presented Thursday by the Culture Center, focused on the roles of black women at UNL, in the professional world and in personal life, especially black-white dating.

The panel members were Annette Hudson, counsellor in Multi-Cultural Affairs; Doris Wright, an educational psychology instructor at UNL; and Yvonne Method-Walker, a UNO counsellor and instructor for the Women's Services program.

A large chunk of time was spent answering audience concerns about dating between blacks and whites as a continuation from the "Black Men in Perspective" panel last week.

"I react when I see a black man and a white woman together," Wright said, adding that such feelings were racist but unavoidable because of her background.

Wright said although her brother is engaged to a white woman, it still is hard for her to accept because she thinks dating whites gave blacks a lowered sense of self-worth in the 1960s.

She said when she sees black men dancing with white women in a disco where many beautiful black women are sitting around, she still gets angry.

Hudson said she has had similar feelings but has "grown accustomed to seeing it."

"I guess I see it as a lethal kind of thing for the positive self-identity of black women."

Hudson said she thinks interracial dating affects black families and particularly children, and that black women who date white men don't gain the same level of social acceptance as do black men dating white women.

Hudson said her brother is married to a white woman and it is hard for her to accept, even though such relationships are the rule rather than the exception in Lincoln.

She said black women need to be more cohesive and remain unavailable when black men go out with whites and then come around to black women as a second choice.

Instead, she said, black women should "start checking out people that aren't at the forefront", to search for the support they need where they can get it.

Method-Walker said the process of living and growing is one of "constant risk taking" for black women.

She said being discriminated against because she is a woman or because she is a black is a "dual dilemma," and that hassles from employers should be brought out in the open.

"When you're in a professional situation it's important to find a mentor" to tell you who to trust, she said.

Wright said people have tried to direct her career and treated her unequally. She said she feels black women

must be open, direct and assertive to compete in the white world.

"If I can exist in this environment (Lincoln) that doesn't support me at all, I can make it anywhere," she said.

Hudson agreed that Lincoln has a very small black community but that students and professional blacks should try to stay involved and make contributions to blacks less fortunate than themselves.

She said blacks should get involved in campus-wide activities, but that black-oriented groups help new black students gain a sense of identity that may be lacking because of insecurities about their own skills and knowledge.

Wright said black males often show leadership in athletics and leisure-time activities, but there is no "cooperative effort between the skills of black men and women."

She also said black women must decide who they are and what they want, because even though many black women do develop a sense of self-respect, they have a hard time communicating it without support.

Wright said she thinks more young black mothers are becoming interested in being active in their children's education and in health care legislation.

"Women are the transmitters of culture, at least in America. If black women are interested in maintaining families, they have a hard struggle ahead of them" because the new upward mobility of blacks is putting them in a white cultural setting.

"I think you have to carefully examine where you've come from," Hudson said. "This is not a place that's going to give you everything you need. Something is missing in Lincoln, Nebraska."

calendar

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| 10:30 a.m.—Program Review, Room 216 | Association, CAP Committee Room |
| 11:30 a.m.—Union Main Lobby—"Black Women & Men in Perspective" | 7 p.m.—InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Sunflower Room |
| 12 noon—Program Review Luncheon, Room 243 | 7:30 p.m.—Navigators, Goldenrod & Columbus Room |
| 1 p.m.—Muslim Student Association, Room 202A | 7:30 p.m.—University Program Council-East—Comedy Film Festival, Great Plains Room |
| 6:30 p.m.—Muslim Student Association, Room 202A | UPC-East—Annie Lenney Art Exhibit, Loft. |
| Nebraska East Union | |
| 12 noon—LDS Student | |

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