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Dawn Clark looks out from under her umbrella as the spring snow returns to Lincoln.

Photo by D. Eric Kircher

Club decides against action in leaflet dispute

The International Relations Club decided Wednesday not to take any action against Steve Grasz or the College Republicans for the alleged distribution of political literature during the European Tour Symposium March 30. "As it stands right now, I don't think we'll take any action," John Sunnnygard, president of the club, said. Sunnnygard referred to his club as a non-partisan organization, and said it cannot take action that would indicate that it was not non-partisan.

Sunnnygard said the club was founded to expose internationally related issues and present information about every aspect of issues, so participants may make their own decisions. Sunnnygard said the club decided the distribution of the materials was disruptive and inappropriate.

Steve Grasz, president of the College Republicans and alleged distributor of the leaflets, said he was glad the club decided not to take any action.

"I consider it a trivial incident not worth the UNL Student Court's time," Grasz said. "If the union decided it was not worth their time, obviously it was not that big of a deal."

The Nebraska Union decided Monday not to pursue action against Grasz for distributing leaflets inside the union, an action which violates a Nebraska Union rule.

Grasz said it was unfortunate that the incident happened, and that it was not intentional.

"I'll be more careful in the future to check out the rules," Grasz said.

Native American says culture restricts success

By Chris Hodges

Indians meet with failure and poverty in America because they allow their culture to hold them back, said Ben Reifel, speaker for the Nebraska Native American Student Congress.

Indian culture conflicts with values that allow white people to succeed, Reifel said. The concept of saving and working for the future had little importance to Indian tribes in the past, he said.

"You aren't going to get anywhere unless you pay attention to time, work and savings," he told the audience of about 70 people, most of whom were Native Americans, at Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery Thursday.

Reifel's speech is part of a five-day state conference for the NNASC, said Sepa

Carmona, vice president of the organization. The group has several hundred members of Native American college and high school students. Some came to the conference by bus from state Indian reservations.

Reifel talked about what it takes for an Indian to succeed in America. He recounted experiences of his own life, growing up on the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota. Reifel is the son of a Sioux Indian mother and a German father. He earned masters and doctorate degrees in public administration from Harvard University. He is a former U.S. Congressman, former Commissioner of Indian Affairs and former consultant for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The problem Indians have is they fail to plan for the future, Reifel said. Their culture is oriented to the present time.

"We exalt in the now," he said. "We don't grow up, as a Plains people, to save for the future."

The Indian languages cannot translate common English expressions, such as "time is money" and "time is of the essence," Reifel said. The Indian concept of time is based on the seasons, the solar and lunar cycles, he said. In contrast, the Western European concept of time is based on the future, he said.

Indians need to allow Western European concepts to show them the way to succeed in America, Reifel said.

"We must preserve that culture which is good, but incorporate other things," he said.

Young Native Americans should plan for future employment by going to high school, technical school or college, he said.

Indian employees need to be conscientious, punctual and reliable in relation to their jobs, he said. Indian men sometimes have trouble keeping steady jobs because their culture never prepared them for regular work, Reifel said.

"Our Indian men, historically, were hunters and warriors," he said. Their lives were characterized by freedom of movement and change in daily routine.

Indian women generally fare better than men in keeping steady jobs. Their historical role in Indian life include tedious daily tasks, such as tanning hides, Reifel said.

Reifel said Native Americans need to stop dwelling on the mistakes of the past.

"We can't get caught up and lost in the atrocities that have been committed on our people," he said. "The people with whom we live today aren't responsible for all that. We're brothers and sisters together."

U.S. government 'intent on provoking' Nicaragua

By Pat Higgins

The Reagan administration is either extremely naive or it is lying about the regime in Nicaragua, said William LeoGrande, director of Political Science at American University in Washington, D.C. LeoGrande, who was interviewed yesterday before his speech in the Nebraska Union, recently returned from Nicaragua.

"When the Reagan administration says that there is a totalitarian government in Nicaragua they don't know what they are talking about," LeoGrande said.

LeoGrande said the revolution against the old Anastasio Somoza government united the factions in Nicaragua, but political conflict continues. The pragmatic elements of the Sandinista government currently have more power than the leftists, LeoGrande said.

"The United States government should encourage and support the pragmatists in order to keep a mixed economy going and to prevent them from following a pro-Soviet foreign policy," LeoGrande said.

Conservative elements control much of the economy in Nicaragua today, LeoGrande said. He said the Sandinistas control the apparatus of the state and the army.

"The political conflict is not over, and each side is using its resources," LeoGrande said. "They are having a raging political debate now."

LeoGrande said there are hard-line elements of the Sandinistas that are Marxist-Leninist and want to follow the Cuban model. The U.S. foreign policy is encouraging these elements by making threats against Nicaragua.

"The Reagan administration's statements are giving ammunition to the hardliners. This administration seems intent on provoking them," LeoGrande said.

The Sandinista government's official policy prohibits arms shipments to El Salvador although there may be covert exceptions to that policy, LeoGrande said. U.S. arms shipments to Honduras raise some questions because they do not have an internal guerrilla threat, LeoGrande said. He said that a war could develop from the Panama Canal to the Mexican border. The Sandinista government wants to avoid any war, but it has the military strength to defeat any Central American country, LeoGrande said.

La Prensa, the opposition daily newspaper, has been shut down several times by the Sandinistas since the revolution. LeoGrande said newspapers in Nicaragua have traditionally been partisan.

"*La Prensa* gets a lot of good press in the United States but it is really close to the National Enquirer. While I was there they did a week of stories about the sweating statue of the Virgin Mary. She was supposed to be sweating in anxiety about the Sandinistas," LeoGrande said.

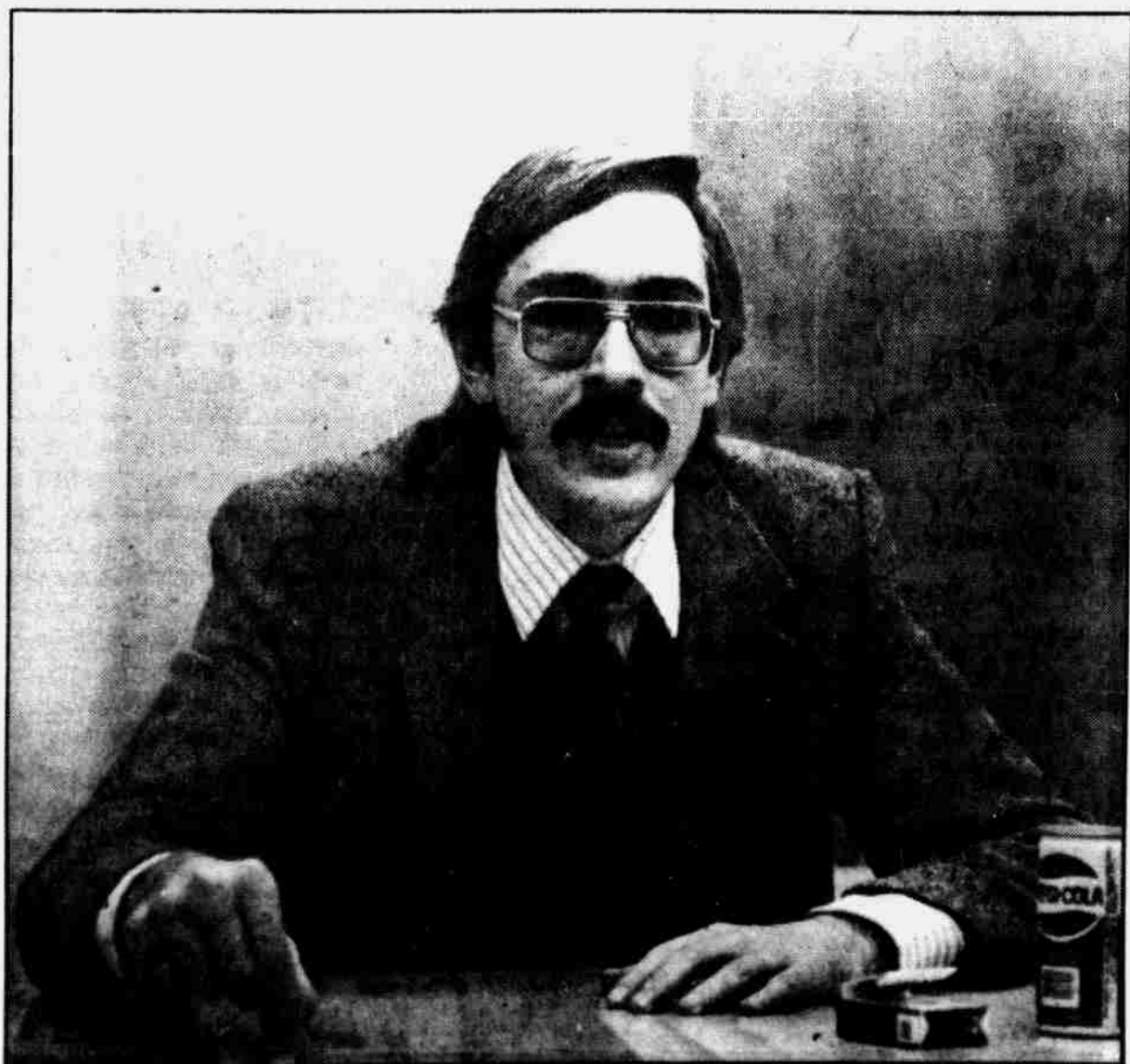


Photo by Dave Bentz

William LeoGrande, director of Political Science at American University, spoke to UNL students Thursday about the situation in El Salvador.