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Workshops address black issues

By Mona Koppelman

Eleven workshops were conducted Friday and Saturday as part of the 1983 Big Eight Conference on Black Student Government.

"Blacks and the Legal System" was directed by Lincoln Attorney John Robinson.

"Historically, lawyers were in almost all cases white," Robinson said. He said it was difficult for black lawyers to establish credibility," especially to blacks themselves."

Robinson described problems that face all lawyers. "You have to be completely emotionally removed from their (clients') problems," he said. "That becomes difficult."

Education and racism in America was the topic discussed at a workshop led by Matthew Stelly, a graduate student in the UNL sociology department.

Stelly said Nebraska is "the most racist and segregated state in the union."

"Ninety-five percent of the blacks in this state live in an 8 square-mile area," he said.



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Stelly said the median income for blacks in this state is \$7,000.

"For those of you who rely on white assistance, bleed them for everything you can," he said.

The Rev. John Wesley Brown presented "Black Spirituality," and the role of the black church.

"Most of our churches came out of Methodism." Brown said.

"The black church was born out of racism imprinted on them out of the Protestant movement," he said. The religious discipline was retained, but the black church "moved away in spiritual being."

"The black church feels it is part of the divine purpose to exist," Brown said. "It (the church) feels we are to be set apart."

Three professional women discussed problems and gave advice on working towards careers in "Black Professional Women - the Untapped Gold Mine."

Charlie Moore, cosmetology instructor at Omaha's Althouse School of Beauty, said contributions to her field made by blacks have gone unnoticed.

"The state board exam, up until two years ago, was geared toward straight hair," Moore said. She said her school has been working for many years to "make sure state boards are done fairly and that there is no discrimination."

Continued on Page 3

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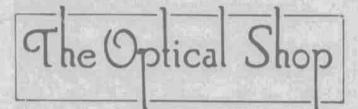
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Voter registration begins at unions

By Pat O'Leary

The Government Liaison Committee and the Nebraska State Student Association kick off their third voter registration drive today in the Nebraska and East unions.

"We feel it's our duty, as a non-partisan political group, to provide this service," Registration Drive Coordinator Andy Carothers said.

Mayor Helen Boosalis will highlight the opening day of registration with a short talk at 2:30 p.m. in the main lounge of the Nebraska Union, Carothers said.

Students who want to request registration in their home towns can do so from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., today through Wednesday. The League of Women Voters will register students in Lancaster County from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Carothers said.

Last semester, 1,237 students registered during the drive. The goal for this drive is 600 registered students.

"The reason so many registered last semester was the gubernatorial election," Carothers said. "We're trying to be realistic with a goal of 600. If we reach that, we'll be satisfied."

To change registration to Lancaster County, or if this is first-time registration, the student should bring identification, preferably a drivers license, Carothers said.

Other campus groups that will help run the booths are the ASUN Senate, the College Republicans and the Young Democrats, Carothers said.

"The trend is that more students are becoming politically concerned because of economic conditions, and the registration numbers prove it," he said. "I hope the high numbers continue."

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