

Black collegians address problems

By Beverly Y. Smith

The 1984 Big Eight Conference on Black Student Government will help UNL's Afrikan Peoples' Union to be active in government groups, said Cynthia Gooch, former co-chairwoman of the Big Eight Council.

Gooch said that without this conference, people probably would form a statewide conference. The conference is a cycle and it will function until the problems on predominantly white campuses are resolved, she said.

The conference will help UNL learn strategies for fighting apathy and ideas about programming, said Elizabeth Burden, president of the Afrikan Peoples' Union.

Seven to 10 percent of the UNL students who went to the conference were active members of APU, Burden said.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss problems that blacks face on predominantly white campuses, said APU Vice President Carla Johnson-Kimbrough. It also served as a support system for one another, Kimbrough said.

"The conference was a good experience for me to be around the 'cream of the crop,' meaning very intelligent and talented women," she said.

In the future, she said, blacks need a stronger system of communication and more lobbying on predominantly white campuses to recognize the needs of black students academically and socially.

Kim McArthur, an NU Medical Center student and former UNL student, said the conference helped him realize he is not the only student who had to cope with problems on predominantly white campuses.

Sherry Walker, a UNL sophomore, said the conference gave her new views on black pride.

"In the future, I hope to see more workshops on voting rights and privileges and more discussion in individual institutions on voting issues," she said.

Renee Jones, coordinator of the conference, said the way the conference was conducted, the participants and the dedication of Oklahoma State University students and faculty made the conference a success.

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