

**WEATHER:** Monday, partly sunny and a little cooler. High in the mid to upper 70s. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Monday night, mostly clear. Low 45 to 50. Tuesday, mostly sunny with the high in the lower 80s.

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Black students struggle

*The curse of trying to fit in*

By Amy Edwards  
 Staff Reporter

Miriam Krebsbach came to UNL two years ago with an open mind about meeting new people. Krebsbach, a black woman raised by white parents, has strong ties to all her roots. She said she thought she would meet more people like herself in a larger school. Instead she found herself stereotyped and categorized.

James Morris, a freshman on the track team, came to UNL from what he calls a "different culture" in New York. At UNL he found himself paired with a white South African roommate. Morris said that when his roommate and other South Africans see how poorly black students are treated in a free country, they do not "turn their backs on apartheid."

Many black students at UNL find themselves ostracized by the majority culture because of their skin color and ignored by university officials.

Krebsbach is giving up the fight at UNL. She'll attend an all-black university in Oklahoma next year.

Morris will stay at UNL, where he has a scholarship.

The two took part in a survey conducted recently by the Afrikan Peoples Union designed to gauge the attitudes of black students at UNL.

The results were far from encouraging. Of 24 black students polled, 78 percent said they have experienced some sort of racism at UNL.

Tina Holley, a sophomore political science major, was a victim of discrimination in her residence hall.

"A girl accused me of stealing something. I didn't, but because I am black, she assumed it was me," Holley said. "She ran down the hall and called me a 'black nigger.' Then she called the

police. There was no evidence and the police laughed at the incident."

But racism isn't always so well-defined, Krebsbach said. It comes out in subtle ways.

"When a black person comes on this campus, they automatically get a negative attitude. They feel outnumbered," she said.

Tina Moore, a political science and communications major, said that sometimes being the only black student in a class of 100 can be an advantage.

"I am at an advantage because the professor knows me," Moore said. "He knows my name, where I live, knows who I am. It's a disadvantage because he notices me. Why should I know the 14th Amendment more than anyone else should? I think of it as an advantage, though, and try to get over it."

UNL black students are outnumbered. In 1986, 341 black undergraduates attended UNL, making up about 2.2 percent of the student population. That's about the same number that went to UNL in 1982 when national statistics showed black college enrollment at its peak.

Many black students become active in all-black student groups like the Afrikan Peoples Union, black fraternities and sororities and the University Program Council's Black Events committee. But many also become involved in general student activities.

Yet, in general, relationships between blacks and whites in such integrated organizations seem more professional than social, said Tanya Horn, president of the Afrikan Peoples Union.

"Seldom do I see them interact outside of school. Usually they walk by on the street without noticing each other. It's a bad situation. Sometimes I wonder how some that I pass really feel about me because I am black," Horn said.

Stevie Wilson, a junior at UNL who's involved in UPC, said that although interaction varies among students, "generally there is also a lack of understanding" between black students and white students.

Wilson attributed part of the problem to stereotyping.

"Nebraska perceives black people as Doug DuBose and Bill Cosby," Wilson said. "I want you to treat me as a person who happens to be black."

Krebsbach said that white students don't acknowledge blacks as people.

"They acknowledge you as a black student on their campus," she said.

The survey, not yet completed, is part of preliminary research for a project on the problems black students at UNL.

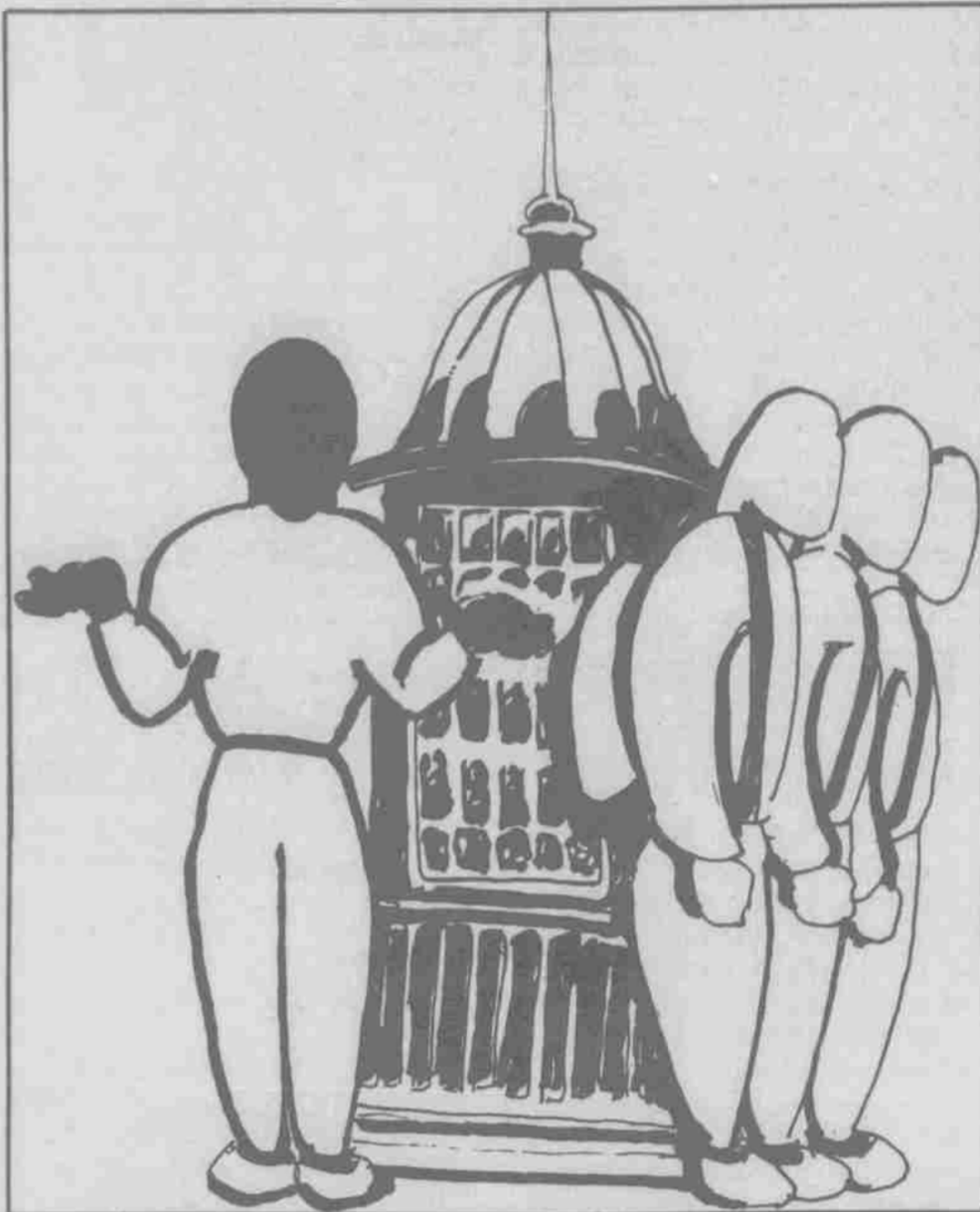
The project, coordinated by several black faculty members in conjunction with the Multi-Cultural Affairs Office, will be completed sometime at the beginning of next semester.

Vaughn Robertson, a counselor for the Minority Assistance Program of Multi-Cultural Affairs, set up the team for the project, which includes Dr. Zelma Mosley, assistant professor of political science; Dr. Mario Kelly, assistant professor of educational psychology; and Jessie Myles, assistant professor of sociology.

Preliminary results show that many black students think that the university needs to take a stronger stand on minority issues.

Some programs are already in place to help black students adjust.

The Minority Assistance Program, a division of the Multi-Cultural Affairs department, offers counseling to help minority students adjust to college life, Robertson said. The program includes personal counseling, technical assistance, academic advising and training



Tom Lauder/Daily Nebraskan

sessions on tolerance for housing units.

Robertson also said that the NU Medical Center has training programs set up for minority students so they have a better chance.

The Culture Center, part of the union system, is set up primarily for racial minorities, but, Robertson said, it could use more funding than what is presently allocated from the CAP office.

Morris said that if there are no signs that the university is willing to help minority students, the students themselves can't do much.

"The only minority stand at UNL is the football team," Morris said. "Is that the only reason we're allowed here?"

Perhaps because of attitudes, perhaps because of policies, the number of blacks enrolled in colleges has dropped dramatically in the 1980s, according to national magazine reports. At UNL, the decline has been less than 1 percent, but the black student population has always been small, statistics show.

See **BLACKS** on 5

## Powwow celebrates future of race

By Lee Rood  
 Staff Reporter

More than 300 people, mostly Indians from U.S. and Canadian Indians, gathered Saturday in

### Minority leaders honored

Several UNL students and faculty members received awards Friday for their work this year with the University Program Council's American Minority Council.

Organizational awards went to Tonya Horn from the Afrikan People's Union, Wendy Walkey from the Vietnamese Students Organization, Dan Paez from the Mexican American Students Association and Lakota Harden from the Native American Student Association.

Jessie Myles, assistant professor of sociology, received special recognition from the Afrikan People's Union for his work as adviser of the group. Deborah McGriff, minority program coordinator, also received a special award for her service.

McGriff presented certificates of merit to the Culture Center staff. And American Minority Council President Lisa Bickert presented recognition awards to leaders of council organizations: Thuy Le, Asian American chairwoman; Stevie Wilson, Black Special Events chairman; Theresa Webb, Black Entertainment chairwoman; Dan Paez, Chicano Special Events chairman; and Lakota Harden, Native American Special Events chairwoman.

the UNL Coliseum for a powwow celebration.

Men, women and children from the Omaha Sioux and Winnebago tribes danced and competed traditional powwow songs and drums to celebrate future leaders of the Indian race.

Antonio Laravie, moderator of the Native American Student Association, called the powwow a spiritual and social event honoring this year's Native American graduates from American universities and high schools.

The powwow included competitions in traditional and fancy dancing. Laravie said the male traditional dancers try to tell a story of bravery in battle, in their dancing, while the women traditional dancers try to show the values of the Indian. The fancy dancing, Laravie said, is more flamboyant and a way of showing the dancers' agility and strength.

The dancers were judged by the elders of the tribes. To be judged as good dancers, Laravie said, they must try to dance in harmony or become "one" with the drums. Drums, he said, represent the people, and if the dancers become "one" with the drum, they are said to represent the heart of the people.

Laravie said there are more than 30 native American students at UNL. But some of them, he said, are afraid to claim their "Indianness" for fear of prejudice and discrimination.

He said it is not easy to be an educated American Indian today.

"To be an educated native American today means to have learned of the cultural genocide inflicted upon the Indian culture," he said.

Laravie said the powwow also was a "prayer for peace" between the Indian and the whiteman.

"It's a hope that one day we will all be able to be brothers and sisters," he said.



Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Dancers of all ages competed Saturday in a Native American Indian Pow Wow. The pow wow was in the Coliseum. The dancers competed for prizes and money.