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CORRECTION: In a story about graduation rates, (DN, Oct. 4) information about criminal justice majors was incorrect. The Criminal Justice department is administered through UNO, but degrees in the department can be earned through the UNL campus. The Daily Nebraskan regrets this error.

WEATHER:

Thursday, 30 percent chance of showers in the early morning, partly sunny and breezy later, high 65-70, winds northwest 15 to 25 miles per hour. Thursday night, clear and colder, low 40-45. Friday, sunny, high in low to mid-60s.

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ASUN forum looks at gangs, drug scene

By Jana Pedersen
 Senior Reporter

An ASUN forum on drugs and gangs in Lincoln ended Wednesday night before panelists could respond to all students' questions.

After almost two hours of discussion, Paul Miles, forum facilitator and University of Nebraska-Lincoln special assistant for minority affairs, stopped the question-answer period. He encouraged students to find other ways to get involved.

"There's a lot of activity going on around here," Miles said. "It's up to you to take the leadership. My motto is, 'The future is coming and it's up to you to decide where it's going.'"

Devi Bohling, first vice president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said she organized the forum to determine if there was a drug or gang problem in Lincoln and how it could be solved or prevented.

Allan Curtis, Lincoln police chief, said that although cocaine use is the biggest drug problem in Lincoln, he would let individuals decide for themselves if a gang problem exists here.

"We do have one group here that calls themselves a gang," Curtis said. "But we don't have the turf battles. At this point, we haven't had any inter-gang violence. We haven't had drive-by shootings. We haven't had people organizing strictly for selling narcotics from that gang."

After taking all those circumstances into consideration, he said, it's up to individuals to decide if gangs are a problem.

Curtis said the public's fear of gangs is a bigger problem than gangs forming because scares promote a "terrible form of racism."

People transfer that scared feeling onto others who aren't involved in gangs, Curtis said.

"They say, 'If I see a black man

and he's wearing red, then he must be a gang member,'" he said.

Ben Gray from KETV television station in Omaha, said a lack of public knowledge contributes to institutional racism which is the basic problem behind minorities' need to join gangs.

"Gang members, for the most part, don't want to be gang members," he said.

Gang members who are degraded in public schools or discriminated against during job interviews have nowhere else to turn, he said.

"They want to be treated with the same dignity and respect that the majority of the community is treated with," he said.

But because there are few other opportunities for inner-city blacks to earn money, he said, they may turn to selling drugs.

Although there are some "high rollers" who become rich from selling drugs, he said, not all gang members want to be involved with the drug trade as many people believe.

"The vast majority of gang members who sell drugs don't sell drugs because they want to be involved in the drug trade itself. It's a matter of survival," he said.

Another widely held rumor, that gang members slash women's ankles and then rape them as part of gang initiation, also is false, Gray said.

He said most gang members he knows wouldn't ruin their nice clothes by hiding under cars, waiting to rape a white woman when many white women already are attracted to them.

But improving public awareness about gangs is only a small step in combatting the bigger problem of institutional racism, Gray said.

He said he hopes Lincoln city officials take a more resourceful approach to combatting drugs and gangs than Omaha officials have.

See FORUM on 3

Over 200 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students gathered in the Panhandle region of Nebraska at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday for a planned rally designed to draw attention to university parking problems.

The rally, sponsored by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, lasted about 20 minutes before ASUN senior Patrick Wynn led about 50 students to the second floor of the Administration Building.

Wynn, Wynn spoke with Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance John Gombel, as some students vociferously cheered, "parking."

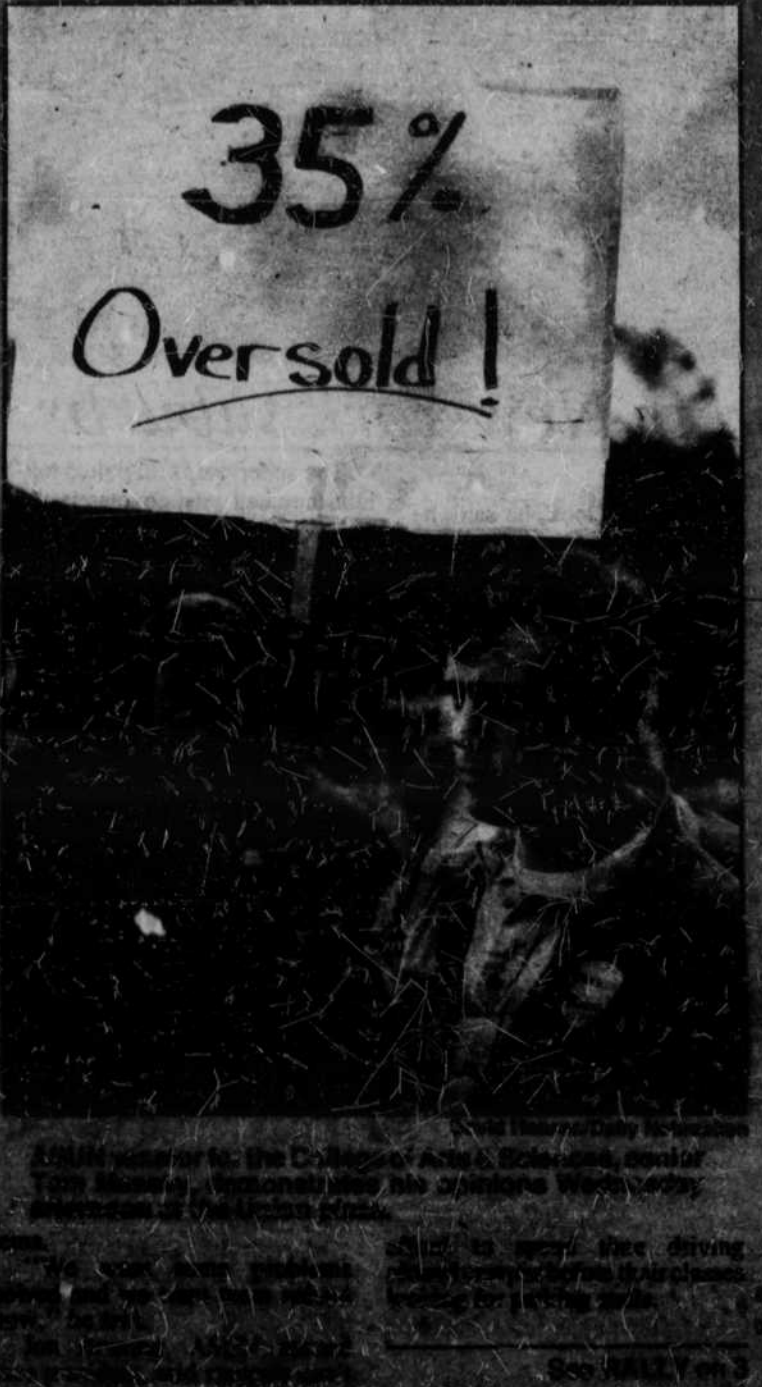
Wynn, a senator from the Young Men's Christian Association, said Gombel that he was in the office in front of his office as a sign of concern about parking problems.

Gombel said he was sorry that students had a legitimate concern. He said he would approach the problem for the students' interest.

By 11:30 a.m., ASUN president, Wynn, said that the rally was successful though he was disappointed that some students didn't show up.

"We had about 200 students," Wynn said. "Some students didn't show up because it was so hot. Some that were there didn't show up because of the heat."

Wynn said he thinks UNL parking problems will be addressed more quickly because of the rally.



UNL loses Hispanic students to Wyoming

By Cindy Wostrel
 Staff Reporter

Hispanic students in the Panhandle region of Nebraska may be going to the University of Wyoming rather than the University of Nebraska because of the stronger emphasis UW places on recruiting minorities.

This worries Hispanic students on the UNL campus, said Frank Sanchez, the president of the Mexican-American Student Association.

"We'd like to see more Hispanic students (at UNL)," Sanchez said.

He said the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is losing students from western Nebraska to UW, and that not enough is being done by UNL to recruit more Hispanic students.

"Hopefully..." Sanchez said, "they (UNL officials) will recruit better out in the western part of Nebraska."

Sanchez said MASA members went into high schools in western Nebraska last year on behalf of UNL. He said that this year they may visit high schools there again along with Affirmative Action, "particularly in Scottsbluff where there is a high percentage of Chicano students."

According to 1980 census statistics, there were 28,025 Hispanic Nebraskans out of a total state population of 1,569,825, which is 1.8 percent of the total. However, in the 11-county Panhandle region, Hispanic

Nebraskans totaled 6,430 or 6.55 percent of a total population of 98,244, according to 1980 census statistics.

Mexican-American Conrad Castaneda, a UNL junior from Scottsbluff, said that UW is "kicking our butts" when it comes to recruiting Hispanics and other minorities. He said that when he was in high school, UW had special counseling sessions in Scottsbluff for Hispanic students.

UW Admissions Counselor Becky Asplund said that UW makes one recruiting trip through Nebraska, but focuses recruiting on western Nebraska because it is geographically closer. Currently, 270 of UW's 10,660 students are from Nebraska, Asplund said.

UW's Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee compiles a list of minority students in the places recruiters visit, Asplund said.

The admissions office then sends those students a copy of a viewbook and a newsletter which comes out three times a year, she said. The newsletter includes information on projects that UW's Minority Affairs Office is working on, she said.

The Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee tries to ensure that Hispanic and other minority students receive the information they need to make a wise choice of higher education, Asplund said.

"Minority students don't have the same resources (as other students),"

Asplund said. "(Their) parents oftentimes don't have a college education."

The fact that they lack a college education is significant, she said, because college-educated parents can better help their children apply for colleges.

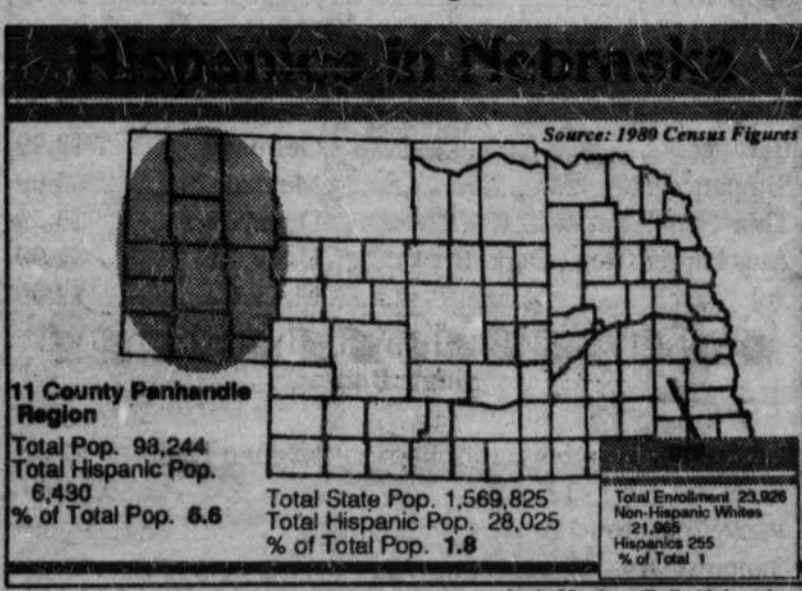
Two years ago the committee applied for and received money from the Hearst Foundation, she said. Since then they have applied for money each year to continue the committee's work.

Asplund said UW has established an endowment fund to provide scholarships to Hispanics and other minorities. The fund has about \$35,000 now, and Asplund said she hopes to raise the amount to \$100,000.

The UNL Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid does not have any records compiled of how much scholarship money has been awarded to Hispanics, according to director John Beacon. He said, however, that if UNL is to keep more Hispanics and other minorities, it must have more scholarship money.

"In general terms, if... our mission is in fact to keep and maintain minorities in the state of Nebraska or attract minorities to UNL... we need more scholarship funds -- money specifically designated for (minorities)," Beacon said.

Paul Miles, special assistant for minority affairs at UNL, said that over the past few years, UNL has given more minority scholarships to



attract top minority students.

He said there should be a more diverse atmosphere at UNL so that minority and majority students can teach each other and prepare for when they may have to deal with people from backgrounds other than their own.

Miles said the level of minority enrollment at UNL has remained stable over the past few years.

Lisa Schmidt, director of the UNL Office of High School and College Relations, said UNL doesn't recruit enough Hispanic and other minority students. But, she added, it also must

recruit more students from other groups including honors students and National Merit scholars.

Schmidt said the university did not emphasize recruiting until her office was established four years ago as the Office of Pre-Admissions Activities. In fact, she said, the admissions office was told not to recruit. Now, however, that has changed.

"I think the university does what it can in every arena," Schmidt said. "There is much to be done."

She said UNL must have more

See WYOMING on 3