

# Higher education problems discussed Panel: Minority emphasis needed

By Kara Wells  
Staff Reporter

Four members of a panel discussion on race relations agreed Thursday that universities need to attract and retain more minority students.

Joel Gajardo, executive director of the Lincoln Hispanic Community Center, said the fact that few minorities are enrolled in college is a good indication of the present race relations dilemma.

"Since higher education is so expensive, how can the poor, the oppressed and the minorities have access to the universities?" Gajardo asked.

Once the university has attracted a minority student, the institution needs

to be able to retain that student, said David Iaquina, an associate professor of sociology at Wesleyan.

"Crawling through that white tunnel is extremely isolating for a minority student," he said.

Gajardo said he also is concerned with providing minority students with a support system once they enter a university.

"Can we imagine the loneliness, the alienation of minority students who venture into the university?" he asked.

Gargi Roysircar Sodowsky, an assistant professor of educational psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, agreed that universities need to provide social support to

minority students and focus on multiculturalism.

Iaquina said universities need to open up to large communities to expose students to a variety of cultures.

"As a university, we have broad access and flexibility," he said. "We should be exploring the community, especially the families."

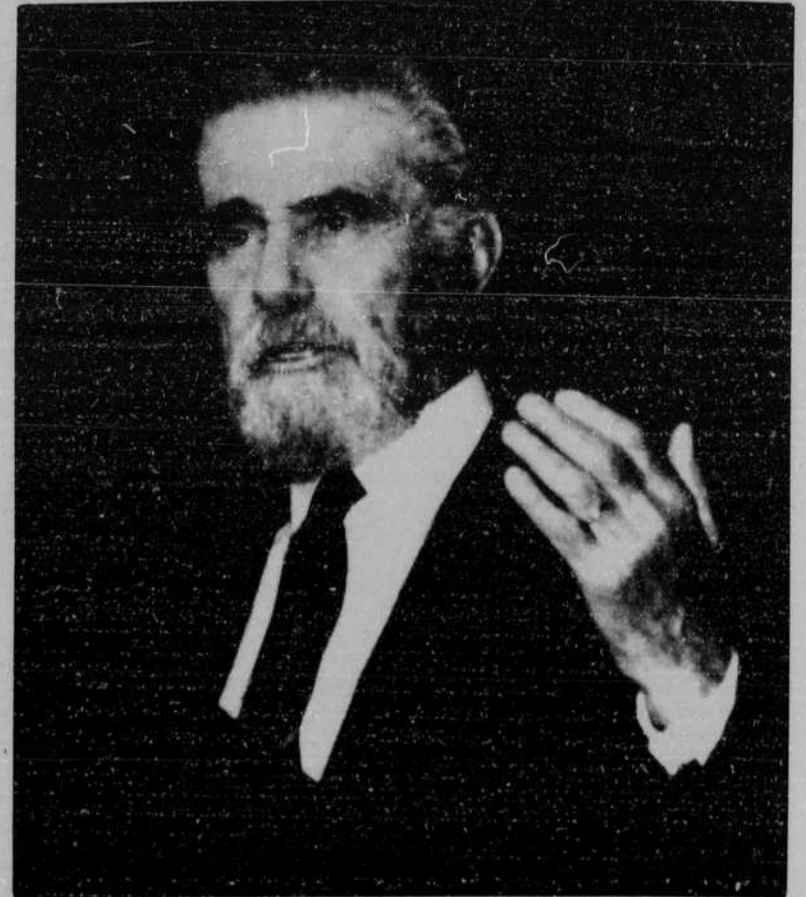
Beane agreed and said universities need to make institutions part of the community. Institutions make students separate from families, he said. This separation has "over-institutionalized" the school system, he said.

"This erodes the family system," Beane said.

The universities need to be put back together as a community, he said.

Syd Beane, president of the Indian Center, Inc., said that American Indians need to rebuild their school system. They need to create an American Indian university to help preserve their culture, he said, because federal schools acculturate American Indian students and destroy their sense of culture.

The panel was part of a three-day symposium on race relations sponsored by the Nebraska Wesleyan University chapter of Nebraskans for Peace.



Jeff Willett/Daily Nebraskan

Nicolas Salgo, former U.S. ambassador to Hungary, speaks about Eastern European capitalism at the Lied Center for Performing Arts on Thursday.

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9:11 a.m. — Camera taken, Agricultural Communications Building, \$200.

9:21 a.m. — Telephone taken, Bancroft Hall, \$60.

1:05 p.m. — Woman fell and broke her nose, reported late, taken to Lincoln General Hospital, parking lot south of Memorial Stadium.

1:39 p.m. — Man dropped weights on his leg, taken to the University Health Center, Activities Building.

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## Salgo

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moving toward capitalism, he said.

The masses of the Soviet Union still are controlled by the KGB and army, which put Gorbachev in power, he said.

After Germany, Czechoslovakia will be the next country to develop a capitalist system, Salgo said. Since France and Britain have a "bad conscience" because of events that occurred before and during World War II, he said, those countries are likely to help Czechoslovakia as it tries to adopt capitalism.

Salgo's native country, Hungary, always has been politically associated with the wrong people at the wrong time, he said. Hungary has been turning toward a market economy, but is saddled with a large foreign

debt, he said.

Salgo said that debt will "cost them their political lives."

The Soviet Union is withdrawing its army from Hungary, but slowly, he said.

Romania has a new leader, but he is just another version of the totalitarian regime that was deposed last year, Salgo said. The new government calls itself socialist instead of communist, but the differences are not great, he said.

Bulgaria is making progress toward capitalism, but needs time to develop it, he said.

East Germany needs "no time" to become a capitalist country because it is so close, and Czechoslovakia needs "not much time," Salgo said. The time needed increases as one goes down the list of Eastern European countries, he said.

## Regents

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UNL Academic Senate president.

Allen called for Massengale's withdrawal from consideration.

"Because of the political mess we've ended up with here, I feel Martin Massengale should withdraw as well," Allen said.

But Blank said the board's interview with Massengale was legitimate.

"We availed ourselves to talk with him as we did of the other candidates," Blank said. "We chose by consensus that we wanted to talk with him."

Bowen said it is not unusual for candidates to be considered "at any point in time in the process."

"(Massengale's) nomination came from a wide range of people in the state, not just the (NU Board of Regents)," Bowen said.

Allen said he thought politicking

by the UNL Athletic Department, the regents and Massengale himself had a lot to do with his consideration as a candidate.

"If the sports department and everyone on down is going to pull political strings, God only knows who is going to be running our university," he said.

Allen referred to conversations between Payne and members of the UNL Athletic Department, including Athletic Director Bob Devaney, football coach Tom Osborne and John Melton, a fund-raiser for the Athletic Department and a former assistant football coach.

Allen said all three had expressed their support of Massengale to Payne.

It would be wrong for Massengale to assume the presidency as a result of internal politicking, Allen said.

"He (Massengale) didn't get the votes he needed so he should've been graceful enough to step aside," Allen said.

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