

# Native Americans say Thanksgiving an insult

By Kim Spurlock  
Staff Reporter

The Thanksgiving celebration in America is an insult to Native Americans, two speakers told a group of about 50 UNL students and faculty Thursday.

Linda Coombs, a member of the Wampanoag Nation and Cinnamon Nolley, a member of the Tuscarora Nation, both American Indian tribes, ended a month-long Women in Perspective series with a presentation of what Thanksgiving means to Native Americans.

The Women in Perspective series was sponsored by the Women's Resource Center.

Coombs and Nolley said they go into a "day of mourning" on the fourth Thursday of every November.

Nolley said Native Americans celebrate Thanksgiving differently than other American cultures.

"I celebrate Green Corn harvest," Nolley said. "I think harvest festivals are important to all cultures, but the symbols they (Americans) use are stereotypical of the Indians and misrepresent the Pilgrims."

When tourists visit the Plymouth Plantation Museum in Massachusetts and see the replica of the Mayflower, Coombs said, many ask where the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria are.

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Coombs  
member of the Wampanoag Nation

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Coombs said Americans "have their heads in the clouds" and don't understand the concept of Thanksgiving.

"They're celebrating something that was established over the graves of a whole people," Coombs said. "It's a myth."

Coombs said that because Christopher Columbus brought disease to America, more than 75 percent of the American Indian population died.

She said that before Columbus came to America, there were 70 to 120 million American Indians. After he arrived, the population dwindled to about 20 million.

Coombs said she does not support the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery, because he did not discover America.

"If he discovered America, what were these 70 million people doing?" Coombs said.

# Officials bid for compact site

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Senior Reporter

Headquartering the Midwest Higher Education Compact in Lincoln would be advantageous to Nebraska, according to University of Nebraska officials.

Martin Massengale, NU president, predicted that the compact, a group of seven states committed to higher education concerns in the Midwest, would grow in size and importance in the future.

"I think if Lincoln were selected as the headquarters, it would be important for Nebraska and for higher education," he said.

Nebraska joined the compact earlier this year. Other members are Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Ohio.

The compact would help higher education in Nebraska in many ways, Massengale said.

"It would be a ready resource for us here in terms of accessing information," he said.

One of the biggest advantages, Massengale said, could come from student-exchange programs between

schools in the compact.

For example, Nebraska students who wished to study optometry would be allowed to study at another school in the compact, he said. Such programs could cut back on college costs by allowing universities to send those who wished to study in areas that were unavailable at their own schools to institutions that did offer the programs.

Exchange programs would allow universities to use each other's area of expertise without having to pay for it themselves, he said.

Massengale said he looks forward to working with the compact's members.

"We are eager to participate with other states in seeing what we can do to be more effective and efficient with education," he said.

Representatives of the compact met with Gov. Ben Nelson and Nebraska higher education leaders Monday to discuss the possibility of locating the compact's headquarters in Lincoln. Three other cities — Cleveland, Chicago and Minneapolis — are being considered.

Several proposals were offered by state officials at the meeting to entice the compact representatives to base the compact in Lincoln.

Sandy Scofield, Nelson's chief-of-staff, said the state offered to finance housing the compact headquarters at the offices of Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The compact would be able to share facilities and research materials with the coordinating commission if the compact decided to locate in Lincoln, she said.

That was made possible by a pledge of financial support from higher education officials across the state, she said.

Scofield said that the other cities being considered are tough competition for Lincoln, but added that she thinks the compact officials have been impressed with the state's proposal.

"I think they went away with a very favorable impression of Nebraska," she said.

A final decision will be made by the compact's representatives Dec. 7.

# UNL graduate receives radiation therapy technology award

From Staff Reports

Diane Chadwell, a 1979 UNL alumna, has received the 1991 Varian Award for Achievement in Radiation Therapy Technology.

The national award was given Nov. 6 in Washington, D.C., at the 15th Radiation Therapy Conference, sponsored by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists in conjunction with the American Society of

Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology.

Chadwell received the eighth annual award for her contributions to the profession of radiation therapy technology.

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