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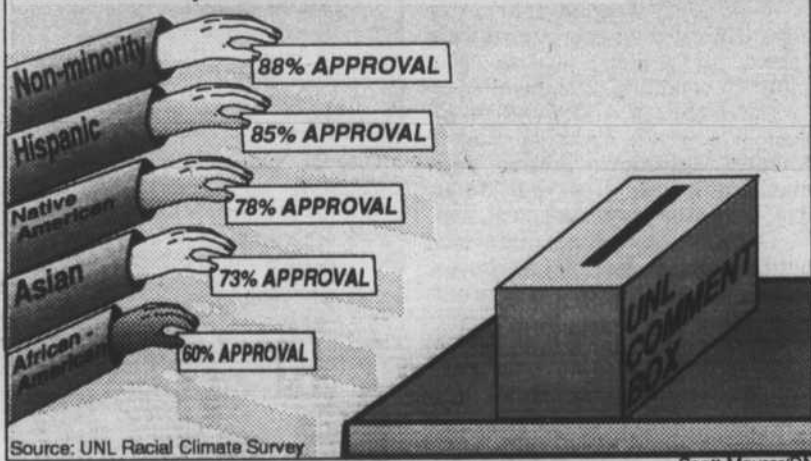
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Study indicates UNL's climate unpleasant

UNL Racial Climate Survey

A look at how five groups of students rated their experience with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Minority students find college life not satisfactory

By Chris Hopfensperger
Editor

Editor's note: This is the first of a four-part series on the findings of the UNL Racial Climate Survey.

African-American students are not as happy as other groups with their education and experiences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a survey released Friday indicated.

Results of the UNL Racial Climate

Survey, conducted last spring, indicate that "African-American students are significantly less satisfied than other students" with UNL, Wayne Osgood, co-director of the Bureau of Sociological Research, said.

"They aren't saying they absolutely hate this place," Osgood said. "They aren't saying they love it either."

During the survey, students were asked a series of questions to gather information in four areas: academic climate, social climate, perception of racial attitudes and satisfaction with the university. The answers then were reported in a series of scales, which combined responses to related questions.

Results were based on telephone interviews with 433 full-time undergraduate students. The group included

100 African-American students, 67 Hispanic students, 15 Native-American students and 201 non-minority students who were randomly selected from the university's registration lists.

For the most part, Osgood said, students expressed satisfaction with the university. Differences appeared when the results for the different groups were compared.

Eighty-eight percent of the non-minority students surveyed expressed general satisfaction with UNL. Only 60.2 percent of African-American students said they were satisfied with the university.

"That's a pretty substantial difference," Osgood said.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for

See RACISM on 3

Assistance fund created for missing UNL student

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

An assistance fund for the family of a missing University of Nebraska-Lincoln student has been established, while the investigation into her disappearance continues.

The fund, established by the Veterans Administration, will help the family of UNL freshman Candice Harms, who disappeared last Tuesday night. Harms' father works for the Veterans Administration.

Todd Sears, Harms' boyfriend, said the fund would be used to pay for newspaper and television advertisements, printing costs for fliers, fees for private investigators, if needed, and "anything else that might come up."

Sunday's Lincoln Journal-Star ran an announcement of the fund on page 2. The ad included a photo and description of Harms, an address and telephone number for donations and telephone numbers of the Lincoln Police Department and Lancaster County Sheriff's Office.

Sears said the Journal-Star ran the announcement free of charge.

Also, The Associated Press reported Sunday that Cornhusker Printing Co. planned to print at no cost several thousand fliers with Harms' photo and description.

Harms, 18, was last seen at about 11:40 p.m. Tuesday, leaving Sears' house at 332 N. 22nd St. Sears and Harms' father reported her missing at about 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Harms lives at 6100 Vine St. Harms' car was found shortly after 5 p.m. Wednesday in a milo field north of Lincoln.

Lincoln police Lt. David Beggs said Sunday that authorities had no new information on Harms' disappearance.

Lincoln police and Lancaster County Sheriff's deputies are investigating the case jointly.

Beggs said a description of Harms and the details of her disappearance were entered into the national crime information computer last Wednesday, which would give law officers throughout the country information concerning the case.

"Right now," Beggs said, "it's all just looking and more looking."



Julia Mikolajcik/DN

Keep the home fires burnin'

Mark Schoepp of Seward throws a third flaming torch to his 11-year-old daughter, Jeniea, during her juggling performance Saturday at the Farmers Market in the Haymarket. Isaac, 8, watches his sister perform. The family does a juggling show that includes stories and song.

Women 'get their say' at Big Eight meeting

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Changes made last week in the Big Eight Conference athletic governing structure have laid the foundation for increased gender equity in athletics, two UNL officials said.

Athletic and faculty representatives from Big Eight universities met in Kansas City, Mo., last Wednesday and Thursday to discuss, among other issues, how to narrow the gender gap in athletics.

James O'Hanlon, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's faculty representative to the Big Eight, said the most significant action taken at the conference was a change in the Big Eight's governing structure. That change will incorporate senior women administrators into conference decision-making.

He said the change, which was adopted after a vote by athletic and faculty representatives, would provide opportunities for women administrators to meet with athletic directors at future conferences to make recommendations and address prob-

Historic conference lays foundation for changes in athletic governing structure

lems. Big Eight representatives will meet again in December.

Although representatives did not discuss specific action to narrow the Big Eight's gender gap among athletes and coaches, O'Hanlon said, the change in the governing structure "opened the door" to solutions.

"Clearly, this is a good first step," he said.

Athletic administrators throughout the country are searching for ways to resolve gender inequity in college sports. An NCAA report released last March indicated that only 30.9 percent of Division I-A athletes are women.

At UNL, 25.7 percent of Cornhusker athletes are women.

O'Hanlon said senior women administrators were asked at last week's meeting to bring recommendations to December's conference on how to increase equity among student-ath-

letes. He said there was no discussion of the possible addition of women's varsity sports, such as soccer, to increase the number of women athletes.

"Right now, it's just too soon to tell what we might try to do," O'Hanlon said.

Barbara Hibner, Nebraska assistant athletic director in charge of women's athletics, called the change in Big Eight governing structure "historic."

"We've been wanting this for a long time," Hibner said. "It was a long struggle, but it was very fruitful. I know it was as hard for the men to do it as it was for the women to wait. But it's something that needed to be done."

"The Big Eight has not exactly been a leader in gender equity."

Hibner said she remembered sitting at NCAA conventions and being one of only two women in the Big

Eight party. Elaine Hieber, associate athletic director at Iowa State University in Ames, was the other woman.

Other conferences, she said, already have incorporated women into their governing structures.

"In other conferences, the women representatives would sit right alongside their athletic directors," Hibner said.

She said the change would not enhance gender equity, but would "afford more opportunity to work in conjunction with the men" to find solutions to inequity.

Hibner said she came away from last week's conference "feeling very good."

"Finally, the athletic directors are saying, 'We want to help, what can we do?'" she said. "Finally, they're asking us to present to them a list of programs for selection and solicitation of women administrators and coaches, and to make recommendations on how to solve the gender equity problems."

"Finally, they're giving us our say."