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Survey uncovers doubts in administration

Minority students report diversity as unrecognized

By Chris Hopfensperger
Editor

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

Judging by the results of a recent survey, an official said minority students at the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln were not impressed with the administration's efforts to address their concerns.

Vaughn Robertson, assistant director of student opportunities and services, said the results of the UNL Racial Climate Survey revealed a lack of faith in the administration from minority students.

"Racial minority students are not convinced that UNL's leadership is sincere about inclusiveness," Robertson said.

Robertson was a member of a small group Friday that examined the results of the survey regarding administrative and policy concerns.

The survey, conducted last spring,

asked questions of 433 randomly selected, full-time undergraduate students: 100 African-Americans, 50 Asian-Americans, 67 Hispanics, 15 Native Americans and 201 non-minorities.

Nearly 68 percent of the African-American students said they did not believe the administration and faculty recognized the diversity of UNL students, compared with 8.7 percent of the non-minority students surveyed.

Minority students also said the university must address the lack of minority administrators and faculty. Almost 74 percent of the African-

See SURVEY on 3

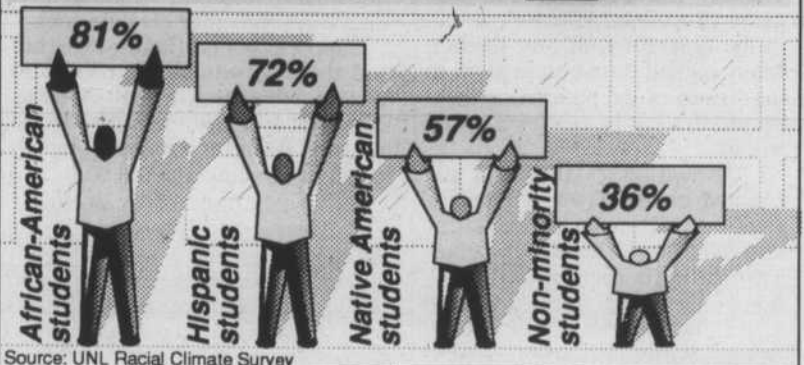
Come together



UNL Racial Climate Survey

A look at what percentage of students said yes to the following question:

Should UNL have scholarship programs to attract minority students?



Robin Trimarchi/DN

N. Scott Momaday, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and member of the Kiowa tribe, answers questions Wednesday afternoon before addressing a full house at Kimball Recital Hall. Momaday's speech was part of the Healing the Hoop Native American conference.

Power of myth

Native American novelist says stories define a people

By Mindy Leiter
Staff Reporter

N. Scott Momaday is a storyteller. As his bass voice boomed through Kimball Hall Thursday night, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist reinforced the power of myth as the defining trait of Native American people. "Belief is an essential part of the Native American world," he said. "In fact, belief informs the very definition of Native American."

It is important for people to define themselves, Momaday said. Momaday is a member of the Kiowa tribe and an English professor at the University of Arizona at Tucson.

Momaday's speech was the opening address of Healing the Hoop, a conference on the history, religion, spirituality, ceremony and celebration of Native Americans.

He said the origins of Native Americans who crossed the Bering Strait long ago were shrouded with speculation and controversy.

"The shelter and clothing and weapons

have not survived the elements," he said. "However, some of the manufacture of the early Native Americans was impressive — achievements that verged on great art."

This art is evidence of his ancestors' ascension into an infinite and eternal world, he said, an ascension that required an act of the imagination.

"I would like to think of that isolated little figure on the land bridge, imagine that he's trudging along, and ask, 'Who is he?'"

"He is human. He has the instincts and skills and indispensable tools for survival. He is a nomad and a hunter, he's small and vulnerable in the vast landscape, he lives in terror day after day. He is in possession of fire — and language."

He said that his ancestor, being in possession of language, had thoughts to himself.

"He was a storyteller."

He credited stories, particularly those passed along in the Native American oral tradition, with the transmission of valuable wisdom from generation to generation.

He said storytelling was the way people coped with the awesome natural world.

"Years ago, my ancestors saw something after the great migration that must have made them gasp," he said. "In the Earth rising out of the hills was the Devil's Tower . . . standing like the stump of a gigantic tree."

He said the Kiowa tribe explained Devil's Tower with a story of eight children who were playing alongside a stump. The brother changed into a bear, and the seven girls hid on the stump, which grew taller to save them. The bear, angered, raked the sides of the stump with his claws, and the sisters ascended into the heavens to become the seven stars of the Big Dipper.

From that moment, Devil's Tower has belonged to the Kiowa people, he said. Storytelling is how people explain an experience that is alien, he said.

"The storytellers take something at a distance and make themselves at home in the world," he said.

Construction on 10th Street cuts student, staff parking

By Jeff Zeleny
Staff Reporter

About 75 student and staff parking spaces will be lost beginning today for a five-part construction project on 10th Street, a parking official said.

The area 10 and 20 parking lot north of Memorial Stadium will be closed during the project, which is scheduled to be completed by September 1993, said Mike Cacak, University of Nebraska-Lincoln interim parking administrator.



The remote lot by the Bob Devaney Sports Center and the area 1, 2 and 20 lot at 22nd and Vine streets provide the best alternate parking spaces, Cacak said.

Parking citations will not be given to students and staff who park in those lots, provided they have a UNL permit, he said.

See PARKING on 2

Senate opposes higher admission recommendations

By Angie Brunkow
Staff Reporter

Additional foreign language requirements for incoming students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are unnecessary, student senators said at the ASUN meeting Wednesday.

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska voted 10-9 to withhold support for the tightened admissions standards proposed by the UNL Admissions Policy Advisory Committee.

The proposal would require incoming students to have two more years of both a foreign language and math, and one more year each of natural science and social science in high school.

Right now, foreign language classes are not required for admission.

Ryan Swanson, architecture senator, said students would not have time in their schedules to satisfy the additional foreign language requirements if they hadn't fulfilled them before starting college.

"I don't know any architecture major that has the time," he said.

Bryant Knoerzer, agriculture senator, agreed. He said most students did not need a foreign

See ASUN on 3