

# Garcia says to 'live' diversity

By TASHA E. KELTER  
Staff Reporter



Ricardo Garcia, special assistant to the chancellor for affirmative action and diversity programs, gave ASUN senators suggestions Wednesday night on how they could promote diversity on campus.

Garcia said students should not graduate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with no knowledge of how to deal with members of other cultures or ethnic groups. As leaders of the student body, ASUN senators have a responsibility "to make sure our students are prepared to be leaders in the global village," he said.

Garcia said students could not become effective at dealing with diversity without experiencing it firsthand. "You have to live diversity," he said.

One of Garcia's ideas was to form a committee or subcommittee devoted to exploring racial and cultural issues on campus. He suggested that the Association of the Students of the Uni-

versity of Nebraska work more actively with minority organizations on campus.

He said minority organizations he spoke with said ASUN didn't seem interested in the groups' affairs.

Eric Marintzer, ASUN president, said all the student organizations on campus were aware of the student government's open-door policy. If a group thought it wasn't being given adequate attention, it should send some members in to discuss the problem with an ASUN member.

Human Rights Committee chairwoman Anna Harms said there is a definite lack of student interest in diversity-related committees. She said on many of these committees, there have been no applications from non-senators, even though ASUN has tried to publicize committee openings.

Garcia said he was not trying to accuse ASUN, but rather make senators question the attention they were giving to diversity issues.

# Speaker: U.S. should back World Bank

By KASEY KERBER  
Senior Reporter

The United States can benefit economically and morally from its support of the World Bank, an international trade specialist said at Wednesday's E.N. Thompson Forum.

Diane Willkens, president and founder of Development Finance International Inc., denounced criticism the World Bank has recently received from the U.S. Congress and American public.

Congress, Willkens said, has played a negative role by choosing not to finance the economic efforts

of developing countries like Bosnia.

She said Congress had recently declared they would "zero out" seven of the nine Bosnian economic projects coordinated by the World Bank — but it still insisted upon having a military leadership role in Bosnia.

Willkens attributed this "lack of vision" to a young Congress whose members lack international economic knowledge.

Willkens said that in 1995, the United States spent a "substantially low" 0.1 percent of its Gross National Product on foreign aid.

Yet the even the "low" \$1.5 billion U.S. contribution in 1994 was repaid by \$3.7 billion in revenue for American companies taking part in

World Bank projects, Willkens said.

Beyond lost or gained revenue, Willkens said the United States had a responsibility to support the World Bank because of what it provided for the international community.

Willkens said the bank loaned money to countries for the finance of education, agriculture, health, nutrition and other projects. In 1995 alone, Willkens said the World Bank funded 256 projects around the globe with \$21.4 billion in loans.

Criticism, Willkens said, should end and with a better education on the World Bank and its purposes, progress should now be made.

"We just started learning this game and we can't stop now," Willkens said.

# Speaker brings race lessons to UNL

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John F. Kennedy Jr. was "our leader," and King was "your" leader. "You aren't really citizens" was the message to black people everywhere, Elliot said.

"I was absolutely furious," Elliot said.

So the next day, when students asked her about the assassination, she decided to teach her third-grade students, who were all white, a lesson about racism.

She separated children in the class according to their eye color — blue or brown. Eye color was an appropriate trait because of its place in racism's history.

Adolf Hitler's Aryan nation was supposed to be a master race of people formed primarily on the basis of eye color, she said. Josef Mengele, known as the "Angel of Death," was a Nazi medical doctor at Auschwitz concentration camp. He conducted experiments on how to chemically or surgically change eye color, so if they found any brilliant Jews with brown eyes, they could be changed to blue and be part of the master race, Elliot said.

The eye color also was important because it was a characteristic the students had no control over and could not change.

"That's the anatomy of prejudice," she said. "I created racism in my classroom to see what happened."

For one day, Elliot told students that one eye color was inferior and ground proof of it into their heads by constantly putting down or ignoring students with the "inferior" eye color. The next day, the experiment was reversed so the other eye color was "inferior." Students with the "inferior" eye

color became withdrawn, self-conscious and did poorly on tests. Children with the "superior" eye color were vicious to the students who were "inferior." The "superior" students performed much better on tests and some dyslexic students even read with surprising ease.

When a student with brown eyes asked her why she, an inferior blue-eyed being, was teaching the class, Elliot was aghast.

"I thought, well, that little shit! It wasn't supposed to happen to me!"

"I was shocked at how much they knew about being a racist," Elliot said. "They knew every negative stereotype ever heard about blacks."

She told them, as she tells people today, "It's time to unlearn your racism."

When she told colleagues in the teacher's lounge about children's reactions to the experiment and the assassination, one teacher had a reply that today could get her fired, but then brought nods of acknowledgement: "I thought it was about time somebody shot that son-of-a-bitch."

The shockwaves created by Elliot's experiment soon went much further than the teacher's lounge.

Johnny Carson got his hands on a copy of the local newspaper, which ran the story of her classroom tactics, and brought her on TV. Ever since then, she has been making appearances on talk shows and news shows.

But it's not necessarily the way she wants it to be. She has paid a price for her notoriety, she said.

"If I had known that my four offspring would be spit on, their belongings destroyed, physically and verbally abused because they had a nigger-lover for a mother, I wouldn't have done the exercise," Elliot said. She noted that

she used the term "nigger-lover," because that was exactly the term used to describe her.

And it all started with a prayer. It's the same prayer she is saying today: "Oh Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace."

"Be very, very careful about what you pray for," Elliot said.

Elliot said the first solution to calm racial tension in the United States is to recognize color differences — don't ever say "When I look at you, I don't see you as black."

"In effect, white people are saying 'In order for me to be comfortable around you, we have to get rid of this unfortunate problem of your skin color,'" Elliot said.

"There is nothing wrong with seeing (people as they are). We don't need a color-blind society."

It's what she calls the "Hilex syndrome": there's something wrong with being something other than white. The second solution, she said, is to throw out the idea that the U.S. is a melting pot.

"That means we can mix everybody together, stir and come up with the 'ideal' American: a white male," Elliot said.

A better comparison, she said, would be a stir fry — all parts separate, different, maintaining their identities and values.

"You see differences as a positive, not as a negative," Elliot said. "I don't want to be tolerated, I want to be appreciated."

And most of all, people should realize what race is: not black, white or red — human.

"You are all members of the same race," she said. "You are all brothers and sisters, whether you like it or not."

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# Smokeout hopes to help extinguish habit

By ERIN GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

Snuff out those cigarettes, put down the hip cigars and spit out the chew; today is the Great American Smokeout.

For 24 hours, smokers are encouraged to quit all tobacco products and start down the road to better health, said Kris Waline, public relations intern at the University Health Center.

Jamie Fassnacht, development specialist for the American Cancer

Society, which sponsors the event, said trash barrels are scattered over Lincoln public school and college campuses today for students to dispose of their tobacco. All tobacco collected will be burned at Lincoln General Hospital at 3 p.m. today, she said.

Waline said smokers who need support can find help from more than 100 health aides in campus housing units, who will "take smokers under their wings for the day."

Balloons, gum and information on the effects of tobacco and quitting will be available along with

"survival kits" from a health center booth in the union, she said.

Those who do not smoke can also join the effort by adopting a smoker for the day, she said. Official adoption papers will also be available at the union booth.

Fassnacht said the American Cancer Society reports a falling smoking rate among American adults, but a lot of young people starting. The society estimates that 177,000 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed during 1996, and that another 158,700 Americans will die from lung cancer by the end of this year.

# Mass grave experts to address Anthropology Club

By JOSH FUNK  
Staff Reporter

Two forensic anthropologists who have spent their careers examining mass graves around the world will speak to the UNL Anthropology Club Friday.

Melissa Conner and Doug Scott will talk about their experiences ex-

huming bodies from mass graves in Rwanda, El Salvador and the former Yugoslavia at 5 p.m. in Bessey Hall Auditorium.

Conner and Scott examine dead bodies to determine the cause of death and gather information about the lives of the deceased prior to their death. Most recently, they have been working with Physicians for Human Rights to complete mass-grave exhumations

in the former Yugoslavia. Their findings are being used in United Nations Tribunals to prosecute war crimes committed during the recent Balkan war.

The two will discuss how forensic anthropology is used, using examples from their work in the former Yugoslavia.

The presentation is free and open to the public. A short reception will follow.