

Faculty refocuses on King holiday question

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Other faculty members suggested UNL should incorporate a year-long effort to commemorate King's message of equality and diversity.

The proposal, which passed unanimously at Friday's meeting, is addressed to the Academic Senate, the NU Board of Regents and top administrators. It urges those officials to designate the third Monday of January as an official holiday "to honor the life, work and message of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr."

It also asks that the chancellor set aside money for activities, appoint a diversity committee to plan them and set aside the Lied Center for Performing Arts as a venue for some activities.

Regardless of the Academic Senate's final vote, many faculty members agreed to cancel their classes on the King holiday with the support of their students.

Representing the Academic Senate executive committee, Leo Sartori, professor of physics and astronomy, said his committee also had endorsed a different resolution to cancel class for the holiday.

He said the plan calls for universitywide programming to commemorate King and his ideas, but to use Saturday as a makeup day for classes affected by the holiday.

The reason for a makeup day is some instructors, especially those with classes or labs meeting only once a week, are worried about losing an academic day and falling behind.

Sartori's plan also urges administrators to make time available to staff who want to participate in the day's events; normally they would have to report to work.

Sartori said the resolution will go to the floor at the group's December meeting. However, Provost and Executive Vice President Lee Jones, who was out of town Friday and unavailable for comment, will be the one who makes the ultimate decision.

The second half of the town hall meeting established a "diversity watch," a group of faculty members to respond to discrimination or harassment against racial and ethnic minorities, or gays and lesbians.

Miguel Carranza, associate professor of sociology and ethnic stud-

“*It is an academic issue. It also is a teaching issue.*”

GARGI ROYSIRCAR SODOWSKY
associate professor of educational psychology

ies, said there is no set university plan to deal with issues like those that have drawn attention this year, including a cross burning during an fraternity initiation ceremony, anti-homosexual chalkings on the sidewalk during National Coming Out Week and a controversial advertisement in the Daily Nebraskan that disputed the Holocaust.

“Our university has not done a good job at self-reflection with issues of diversity,” he said. “We don’t have a plan to take action. ... We need the university to respond.”

“It’s time the university took a step forward in delivering a university plan.”

Robert Benford, associate professor of sociology, said he agreed with Carranza and cited results from a 1992 study by UNL’s Bureau of Sociological Research. He said the racial climate survey found there are really two campuses at UNL: a minority and a nonminority. The survey also stated that minorities felt there was racism on campus while the nonminorities disagreed.

“When this happens, the students then perceive this is not a friendly environment for minorities,” he said.

Nickoletti said he also supported the Diversity Watch because the university needed a group separate from the administrators.

“There’s this assumption that people are taking care of this, but that’s not necessarily true,” he said. “There has to be a better coordinated system. You cannot rely just on a small number of minorities of faculty, staff and students. We also need more support from the white mainstream population. That’s where the power is.”

RHA pledges donation to Salvation Army

From Staff Reports

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Residence Hall Association showed its holiday spirit Sunday night.

RHA passed a bill to give \$100 to the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program, and then Husker Hall Senator Larry Willis

gave another \$100 out of his own pocket toward the organization.


“I think it’s a great program, and I can’t imagine being a child and not getting any gifts on the holidays,” Willis said.

Smith Hall President Amber Bourek said with the \$200, RHA would be able to provide 10 children with gifts and 10 families with holiday meals.

RHA

RHA also allocated money to the Smith Hall Floor Three mocktail party. They also discussed options for their new logo.

RHA’s next meeting will be held on Dec. 7.



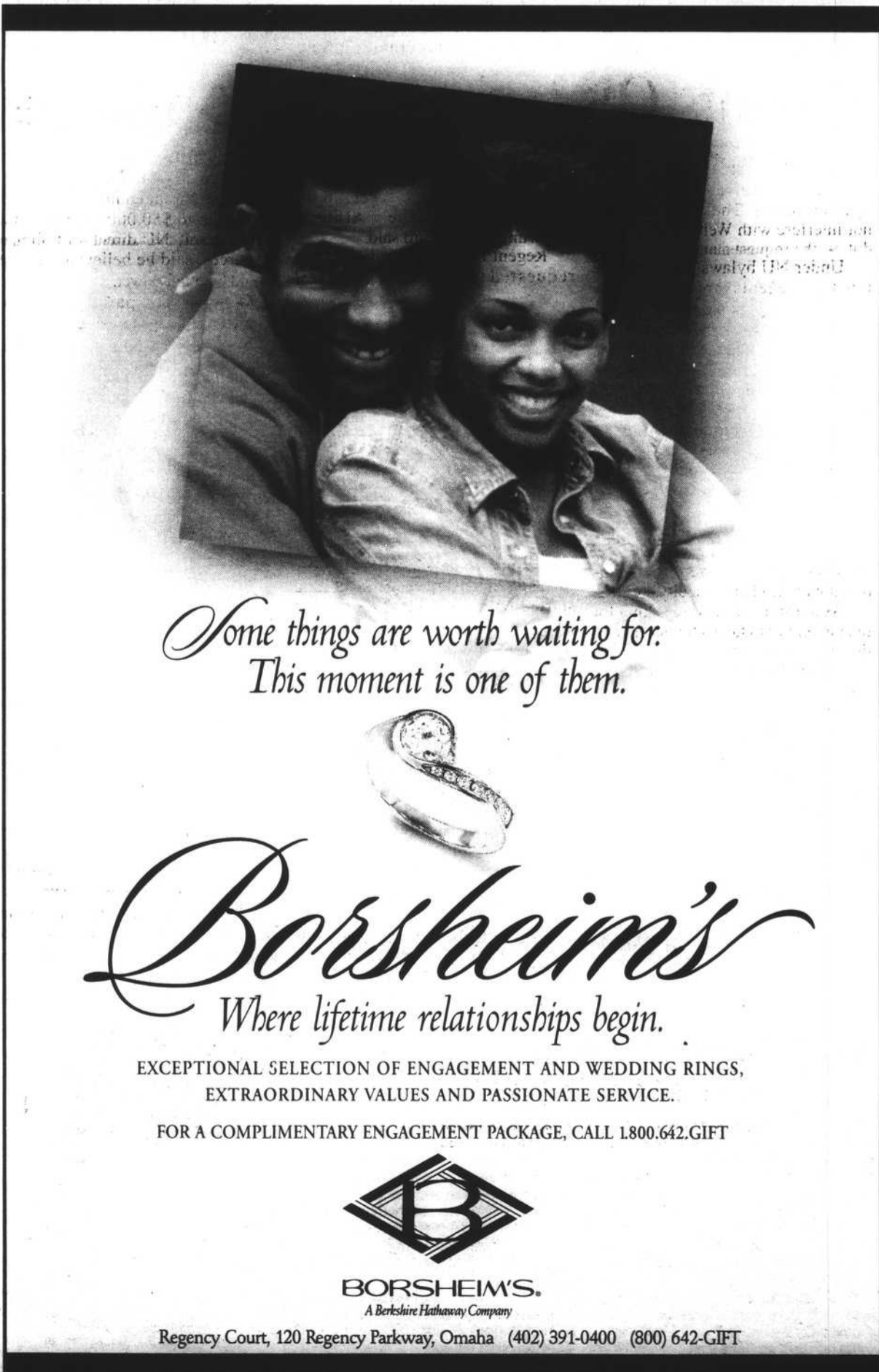
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