

# Fashion show allows students to strut stuff

## Event promotes campus diversity

BY JESSICA FARGEN  
Staff Reporter

### 1 involvement

Hip-hop music played in the background, and lights shone on the catwalk as 18 models took turns flashing smiles and attitude.

The models, mostly University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, walked the catwalk in the "Shades of Fashion" show Thursday night to raise money for the Afrikan People's Union and to give UNL students a diversity event.

The show, sponsored by APU, was held in the Great Plains Room at the Nebraska East Union, and was followed by a dance.

Eddie Brown, fashion show chairman, said APU decided to have the fashion show to encourage people to promote diversity at UNL and to provide a break from their regular routines before Finals Week.

"So many events are held on campus, and you just don't see cultural diversity. It saddens me," said Brown, a junior business major.

Nine women and nine men modeled clothing donated from Lincoln businesses such as The Ozone, 1411 O St.; Best Styles Formalwear, 200 S. 19th St.; and Gadzooks and The Buckle, both in Gateway Shopping Center. Employees from the College of Hair Design, 11th and M streets, and Oasis Barber Shop and Salon, 2712 Y St., styled the models' hair and helped with makeup.

The show had four scenes - retro, casual, business and normal. Between scenes, the gospel group Images performed.

Brown said 60 to 70 people tried out to be models in the show, which APU had been planning for about two months.

Models were chosen for the show by a panel of four faculty judges. Models were given a sweat shirt or coat to use when they tried out, and judges were instructed to choose models based on certain criteria.

These included how well a model worked with the audience,

how well a model walked with the music, facial expressions of the model, and his or her attitude. Brown said he did not even bring up race as a criterion.

Some of the models said the experience had allowed them to meet a variety of new people, and experience something they weren't used to.

Carrie Pierce, a model for the show and a junior advertising and public relations major, said the show allowed her to be someone different for a night.

Pierce was dressed in tight, denim bell bottoms with red stripes down the leg and a tight black T-shirt. She said she usually wore button-down shirts and khaki pants.

Rosie Walker, a model for the show and member of APU, said she had grown really close to the other models, even though they were all from different backgrounds.

"I probably would not have met a lot of these people if it were not for the show," said Walker, a freshman general studies major at UNL.

Walker also said she wanted to show her support for APU and for the Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government.

Some of the profits from the show will go to support the conference, which will be in Lincoln from Feb. 19-22. The conference alternates among Big 12 universities each year, and this year UNL is holding it.

Kenny Ford, coordinator of the conference, said about 1,100 students from Big 12 universities and black student government unions at those universities would attend the conference.

The conference, which has a theme of Black Love ... Restoring the Essence of the Black Family, will have workshops, speakers and a career fair to promote leadership among blacks in student government.



### Sorority helps food bank

Sigma Alpha Sorority is helping take the community by storm. The sorority is organizing a food

drive to help replenish area food banks depleted by October's big storm.

"We want to help fill the food banks before the holidays," organizer Stephanie McCaslin said.

Nonperishable items can be dropped off by the Christmas tree in the Nebraska East Union.

### Panel tackles racism

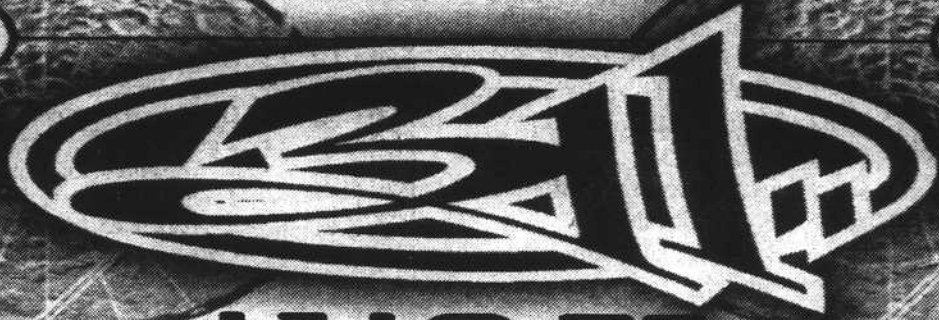
Discussing the nature of racism in the city of Lincoln is the topic of a forum to be held on Sunday.

"A Conversation on Race," sponsored by the Office of Affirmative Action and Diversity Programs, will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 50th and St. Paul St., at 1:30 p.m.

Herb Howe, psychology professor and assistant to the chancellor, said the goal of the forum is to recognize that there is racism in Lincoln.

"One goal is to develop a strategy on how to handle the challenge of racism," Howe said. "Lincoln is affected by racism."

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