

RHA dance to foster pride

BY IEVA AUGSTUMS
Assignment Reporter

Over 350 students from UNL's residence halls will form a community and dance the night away on Saturday, during the Residence Hall Association's fifth annual semiformal.

Taking place in the Historic Haymarket's Lincoln Station Great Hall, the \$6,000 event includes transportation to and from the residence halls by the Big Red Bus, a dinner, dining entertainment from a string quartet, pictures and a disc jockey dance, Rob Holburn, RHA social chairman said.

During dinner, Jan Leeper from Leadership Lincoln will speak on creating a residential community within the existing campus community, Angie Splittgerber, RHA entertainment chair-

RHA

woman, said. "We want to focus on the idea of creating a unified community in the residence halls, both on City and East campus," Splittgerber said.

Besides creating a "close-knit" community, Tag Herbek, a senior secondary education social science major and Pound Hall student assistant, said he hopes the event will successfully make students want to continue the five-year tradition.

Holburn said the original residence hall semiformal took place in Harper Hall in 1993.

Dave Williams, RHA programming chair, said every residence hall was given an open invitation to take part in this year's event. Each hall was allotted a certain number of tickets based on the

number of residents living in the hall and the amount of participation in last year's event, he said.

"We are amazed at the overwhelming response we have had this year," Williams said.

Shane Perkins, Neihardt Hall president, said he wasn't surprised when Neihardt Hall sold out in six hours.

Perkins said Neihardt's first student assistant to sell out of tickets sold out in six minutes.

Holburn said those attending the formal are encouraged to dress in appropriate attire.

"This isn't a black-tie affair," Hoburn said. "But it is very classy."

Tickets are still available at \$10 each and must be purchased by a student living in a residence hall. Students interested should contact their floor student assistant.

Conference to focus on the black family

BY LINDSAY YOUNG
Assignment Reporter

Members of Afrikan People's Union are expecting about 1,000 guests in less than a month.

APU is sponsoring the 21st Big XII Conference on Black Student Government Feb. 19-22.

The theme of the conference is "Black Love ... Restoring the Essence of the Black Family."

This is the third time the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has held the conference in its 21-year history. UNL also held the conference in 1984 and 1991.

APU has been responsible for assembling and mailing registration packets, taking reservations, raising money, organizing speakers, reserving the hotel, making plans to feed about 1,000 people, developing workshops and finding volunteers.

"Our students were able to put together the kind of planning perspective that has gotten them the award (of holding the conference)," said Jimmi Smith, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and an elder on the planning committee.

The conference will cost about \$200,000, organizers said.

Kim Stokes, APU sponsorship chair, said various groups such as the Chancellor's Office, Academic Affairs, University Foundations, Student Affairs and the University Program Council have donated money.

APU held a pancake feed and a dance in the fall. Organizers have

solicited Lincoln and Omaha corporate businesses for donations as well, said Lynda Todd, sponsorship organizer and assistant director of the Educational Talent Search program.

Much of the costs will be covered by registration fees, Stokes said. Students may register until the first day of the conference, Patton said.

Those interested in registering can call the conference hotline at (402) 472-5397 for more information.

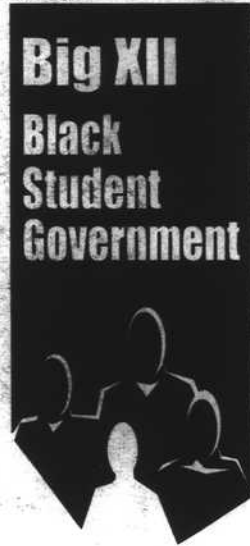
The money is paying for speakers, postage, advertising and the reservations at the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13th St., which is where most events will occur.

APU has invited high-profile speakers to the conference, such as Nikki Giovanni, a poet, author and editor; Cornel West, an author and Harvard University religion professor; and Julianne Malveaux, an economist, columnist and syndicated host.

Patton said volunteers are still needed to hand out programs, take tickets at events, introduce speakers, lead workshops, get people to proper locations and help with registration.

In exchange for volunteers' services, Patton said, organizers decided to waive the volunteers' registration fees.

APU hopes various university departments will participate in the career and graduate school fair, Patton said. APU members have talked to members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the NAACP Youth Council as well as both the Lincoln Public Schools and the Omaha Public Schools.



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