

Suspected rapists sought by police

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Association of Students of the University of Nebraska wants to make students aware of the risks of sexual assault and how to prevent them, Kelly Hoffschneider, campus life chairwoman, said.

ASUN published fliers with the composite sketches to be distributed on campus.

There are a few simple steps students can take to help avoid becoming a victim, University Police Sgt.

Mylo Bushing said.

One of the most important things is not to walk alone after dark.

"Call ahead and pick up a friend at the residence halls to walk back with you or call the campus escort service," Bushing said.

If students ever feel uneasy or concerned, they should use the emergency phones, Bushing said.

Students can call for a campus escort at (402) 472-1167.



Suspect



Suspect

Diversity in History

Editor's note: Each day during Black History Month, the Daily Nebraskan will tell the story of a minority who made an important contribution in America's History.

Because, at age 19, he became the 1899 World Champion of cycling and went on to set several cycling world records;

Because he faced continuous bureaucratic and even physical opposition — he was once strangled to unconsciousness by a competitor after a race — but repeatedly triumphed with dignity;

Because He was the United States' second black world champion in sport and was later inducted into the cycling Hall of Fame;

Because he started small, working in a bicycle plant in Indianapolis, where the owner encouraged him to follow his cycling dreams;

Because he was the American sprint champion from 1900-1901 and in his 16-year career attained 117 victories in 190 races in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand;

Marshall W. "Major" Taylor, 1878-1932, is recognized as one of the most renowned professional cyclists ever, a man victorious not only in his chosen sport but in overcoming oppression of the black athlete.

Student sets example

MILLER from page 1

"I'm losing my culture; I'm losing my family," he said. "It's hard when I go back because I don't see myself as a part of the tribal members — I feel like an outcast."

Miller knows he's gaining a valuable education and said he knows he wouldn't even have graduated from high school had he stayed on the reservation. Of the 30 children he began kindergarten with, only three graduated from high school, he said.

Teen pregnancy is rampant on the reservation, he said, and many of his relatives and fellow students created families that limited their educations.

Miller said he hopes to break that trend and set an example for younger members of his family, as well as all American Indian youth.

"It definitely keeps me motivated knowing that by even going to college, I am setting a path hopefully for them to follow," he said.

Miller claims he wasn't always a trendsetter, though.

"I started fifth grade with no other children of color," he said. "I was very shy, very reserved. I didn't speak much at all."

Only after beginning high school at Lincoln Northeast did Miller finally break out of his shell.

"It was a total switch in my life," he said. "I decided I wasn't going to be a reserved, quiet person who never spoke. I thought I'd get involved, and I used involvement to build self-confidence and meet more people."

After 11 years of assimilation, Miller said, he still is experiencing culture shock.

"Every day, I walk across campus, and I see nobody like me," he said. "I am just a face in the crowd, but there's no comfort zone."

Miller credits his family members with providing him support to overcome difficulties at school, but he said they never fully understood his need to share his culture with others.

And other members of his tribe were less supportive, he said.

He described going back to the reservation for an internship one summer at a casino where nearly no one spoke to him. He attributed their harsh treatment of him to both jealousy and fear.

"They became jealous because I was able to leave ... to adjust," he said. "They didn't know how to approach me out of fear. I felt like I was in the fifth grade again."

Now Miller credits his attendance at the spring 1997 Nebraska Leadership Institute with changing his outlook.

"It allowed me to realize that I can make a difference not only on campus, but also in my life," he said. "It taught me to challenge what is, and look forward to what could be."

Miller's vision created from Leadership is to increase enrollment of American Indian students at UNL.

Junior finance economics major Matthew Eickman said he met Miller through the Leadership program and respects him for his hard work.

"The first word that comes to mind (when I think of Vernon) is integrity," Eickman said. "He acts morally and responsibly no matter what he does, whether it's in UNITE, as a Health Aide, or as a friend."

He said Miller is excellent proof that background does not determine success.

American Indian health bill proceeds

BY JOY LUDWIG
Staff Reporter

Legislature

Shah Roohi wants to help American Indians receive adequate preventive health care.

But Roohi, communication health educator at Carl T. Curtis Health Center in Omaha, can't.

There just isn't enough money. But on Thursday, the nearly 12,000 American Indians in the state came a little closer to getting better health care.

LB1324, which would provide \$500,000 from the general fund to establish certain programs beginning in fiscal year 1998-99, was advanced by the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee.

Some of the programs the bill would help pay for include prenatal care, education about proper diet and physical activity, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings and tests and education about sexually transmitted diseases.

Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, the bill's sponsor, said he knows American Indians need more help from the government, especially after he attended a recent public health conference where someone asked what was being done about American Indian health care.

"My response was 'We're not doing enough,'" Wesely said. "I made a commitment then to do something about it."

"We do have a state responsibility to do what we can."

Wesely said the mortality rate for Nebraska's Omaha and Ponca tribes is higher than other tribes and the general population. Also, American Indians have the highest diabetes rate in the world. They are 4.2 times as likely to develop diabetes, said Preston Thomas, a Lincoln commissioner who works with the Indian Affairs Commission.

People need to be educated about preventive health care, said Roohi.

He said most of the Omaha tribe population of 5,100 are young. Sixty percent are under 25, while only 3 percent are older than 65. If he could teach the young people about preventing diseases

"We do have a state responsibility to do what we can."

DON WESELY
state senator from Lincoln

like diabetes, eating healthier and exercising and could administer more tests, he said, he thinks the people would live longer.

"If you want to stop diabetes, then you have to get the weight down," Roohi said. "If you want to stop heart diseases, you have to get them to eat right."

Nebraska ranks third in the nation for death caused by diabetes.

Eleanor Baxter of the Macy tribe is an example of how the education she gained from Roohi and the clinic helped. She — along with her father, mother and siblings — is a diabetic.

"Today with the education that I have learned from him and the support groups I now know, I can take care of myself and pass on the word to my people," she said.

Another concern addressed in the hearing was current government funding.

Although federal agencies such as the Indian Health Services do provide funding for basic health care, they do not provide money for preventive care, said Sherriann Moore, health administrator at the Ponca Health and Wellness Center in Omaha.

Moore said American Indians also couldn't receive help through Medicaid until the late 1980s because the state wouldn't be reimbursed. Now, she said, the people can use Medicaid, which in turn generates a third party revenue to be put back into the health center, which opened Jan. 26.

"We're starting to look at (the center) as an economic development for the tribe."

"He's worked hard to get where he is," he said. "People really respect him."

Miller's hard work paid off with acceptance into an internship program in Washington, D.C., last summer. Only 20 students from across the nation were accepted.

"Up to that point I had never known what issues were affecting Indian people," Miller said. "At D.C. I was finally able to be around other Indians and know what they wanted to change. I finally found people like myself with the same goals and the same interests."

Overall, Miller said, he is happy his mother decided to move his family off the reservation 11 years ago to pursue a new, although different, life.

"I'm not comfortable with the fact that I don't know my tradition," he said. "But I'm glad she had the courage to move away."

After graduation, Miller hopes to teach and to serve as a role model for other Indian students.

"I want to show them that life doesn't end in high school — that there are other things outside the reservation," he said.

He's not finished contributing to UNL, however, and said he can see himself doing so much more.

"I want students on campus to know that a Native American student can be a leader — that there are those out there willing and able to be involved, and that they can make a difference."

Daily Nebraskan

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.

Subscriptions are \$55 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

American Killers

The three leading causes of death:

Cardiovascular diseases:
**954,138

Cancer:
530,870

Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases:
101,090

1993 Provisional Mortality
** Includes all diseases of the heart and blood vessels

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