

# Speaker doesn't tire of touring

By AMANDA SCHINDLER  
Staff Reporter

After 350,000 miles on the road, most people would begin to tire.

Not George C. Fraser.

The speaker, author and entrepreneur doesn't let anything get in the way of delivering his message to college students across the country. He visits about 60 universities every year, speaking at nearly 200 events, he said.

"It's important to reach students, wherever they are," he said from Washington, D.C., in a phone interview Tuesday.

Fraser will visit the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on Friday as part of the Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government, and will give a presentation entitled "Rebuilding Extended Family; the Power and

Importance of Effective Networking."

He will stress "the moral and spiritual principles needed to be an effective networker, to build solid relationships with people for one's upward mobility," he said.

Fraser firmly believes in the necessity of a large extended "family" of support.

"One cannot succeed on his own, in a vacuum" he said. "It all depends on the kindness and forgiveness of people."

Fraser would know, having founded the multimillion dollar company SuccessSource nine years ago.

The company publishes SuccessGuide, a directory of business professionals and community leaders designed to help blacks achieve professional success.

He has written two books, one which was released just last month enti-

led "Race for Success; The Ten Best Business Opportunities for Blacks in America."

His first book, "Success Runs in Our Race; The Complete Guide to Effective Networking in the African American Community," was a best-seller. Fraser, a recipient of the United Negro Fund's National Volunteer of the Year Award, said his success was based on strong roots and good role models.

"I was fortunate enough to have good parents, a solid family and extended family," he said. "They provided me with opportunities to observe the many skills I would have to have to succeed in life."

Reynaldo Anderson, a graduate communication studies major and chairman of the speaker's committee for the conference, decided to have Fraser speak at the conference after reading one of his books.

"One thing a lot of undergrad students don't develop is networking skills," he said. "I thought it would be a valuable resource for (students) to use."

Along with speaking, Fraser will practice networking skills with students in a workshop at the conference.

Fraser will speak at noon on Friday in the Grand Ballroom of the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13th St.

Fraser was excited to visit the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a campus he has yet to see.

"I love meeting new people and visiting new places," he said.

He hopes the presentation will touch at least one participant, he said.

"I want to walk away with the sense that perhaps there may be one person in the audience that my words reached," he said.

"If it reaches more than one, it's the icing on the cake."

## Poet looks at relationship between humans and their surroundings

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior Reporter

If people treated the critters of the world better, maybe people would treat each other better.



**Giovanni** Poet Nikki Giovanni uses the example of the world's little critters to expand people's views and promote understanding. Giovanni, an internationally known poet and author, will address the Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government as part of the opening session tonight 8.

"I am fascinated by human beings," Giovanni said.

In her poetry Giovanni explores the human condition and its effects on the world.

"Humans can't look at themselves without looking at the effects (on the world)."

In her speech Giovanni will read some of her poetry and address how human beings fit into the world around them.

"I hope students will look at things closer (after my speech)," she said.

Giovanni uses her public appearances to see the country and gain a wider perspective, she said.

She tries to accept every invitation to speak that her schedule will allow.

When interviewed Tuesday Giovanni had just returned from California where she had won an NAACP Image Award for achievement

in her field. During the past 25 years Giovanni's work has brought her prominence and notoriety.

She is one of the most widely read living poets, Giovanni's agent, Flip Porter, said.

Giovanni emerged from the crowd with her poetry during the black arts movement of the 1960s.

She has inspired readers and critics alike with her heartfelt verses, found in her nearly 20 books. She has been named woman of the year in three different magazines, and she has received numerous awards for her work.

But throughout Giovanni's career two things have remained unchanged for her:

"Racism is still America's national shame, and I am still fiercely committed to fight for civil rights and equality in education."

## Leading scholar, professor stresses importance of race

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior Reporter

Race matters.

That's what Harvard Professor Cornel West, a featured speaker at the Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government said in one of his best-selling books.

West is a professor of religion and Afro-American Studies at Harvard University and a renowned speaker.

"Cornel is the best speaker alive today," West's agent, Flip Porter, said.

West will speak at the conference during a 5:30 p.m. dinner Saturday where he will address race, hope and the importance of family.

West has made great achievements since his blue-collar beginnings among the tumbleweeds of

Tulsa, Okla.

West was born in 1953, the second of four children, to a civilian Air Force administrator and an elementary school teacher.

When Cornel was 4 years old, the Wests moved to Sacramento, Calif., where he lived through high school.

He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1973 before attending Princeton University for his master's and doctoral degrees.

In the seven years between completing his doctorate and his return to Princeton to teach, West wrote many articles and books about race-related issues.

In 1987, West accepted a position at Princeton as a professor of religion and director of the Afro-American studies department.

He was instrumental in developing Princeton's Afro-American stud-

ies program before returning to Harvard as a professor of Afro-American studies and the philosophy of religion.

West is respected among his peers as one of the United States' leading scholars, Porter said.

West was just awarded an NAACP Image Award last week for his achievements.

As a speaker, West has visited many diverse organizations and made several television appearances.

In addition to his academic work, he is involved in community-based political action groups and has worked with many notable leaders such as American civil rights leaders Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton.

He also is part of the president's National Conversation on Race, and he was co-chairman of the National Parenting Association's Task Force on Parental Empowerment.

## Famed author promotes black empowerment

By ANNE HEITZ  
Staff Reporter

The Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government is designed to connect with black students, but Julianne Malveaux hopes all students will benefit from the experience.

The famed syndicated columnist is scheduled to address the conference at 8 a.m. Friday.

"I hope the students that attend this conference will walk away with a sense of empowerment and limitless possibilities," she said.

Through her speech, Malveaux will help students understand the economic struggles of blacks in America, she said.

"I think African Americans are facing more challenges now than any other time," Malveaux said. "The economy is expanding, but it is not necessarily including the African-American community."

Malveaux has written for publications including USA TODAY, Essence and Emerge. She also served as editor-in-chief of the book "Voices of Vision: African American Women on Issues."

Malveaux has never given a speech in Lincoln, but she chose to address the conference because blacks in the Midwest may feel isolated because of their relatively low numbers.

By attending this conference, students should realize they are not alone and should be aware of ways they can improve their campuses, Malveaux said.

Such experiences at conferences can provide critical elements of a well-rounded education.

"Education does not just come from the classroom, but also in the involvement of extra activities," she said. "You can really see the students connecting. They learn from the speakers and each other. When students learn from each other, it's very exciting."

Through her writing and public speaking, Malveaux advocates interests in public policy, poverty in America, and the labor market and its effect on women and minorities.

She has served as a Center of Policy and Alternatives board member, and is now president of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Malveaux is also the president and chief executive officer of Washington-based Last Word Productions. The company specializes in making documentaries.

