

Affirmative action opponent to speak

By KIM SWEET
Staff writer

Affirmative action will meet a formidable foe tonight at the Nebraska Union.

Ward Connerly, an outspoken advocate of ending affirmative action policies, will explain his views on the subject during his speech, "Racial Preferences are Dead."

Campus proponents of affirmative action said the speech could lead to an important discussion.

Connerly is known for bringing national publicity to the issue of basing university admittance on race after being appointed to the California Board of Regents.

In 1995, Connerly served as Chairman of California's proposition 209, which made it illegal to use racial preferences in university admissions in California, said Ben Patton, vice president of UNL College Republicans.

The civil rights leader comes to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln at a time when it is necessary to present the other side of the debate over affirmative action, College Republican Secretary Josh Moenning said.

With much discussion and publicity given to UNL's diversity plan and other affirmative action items, Moenning said that much of the information students are given comes from a liberal viewpoint.

"I think Connerly will bring the other side," he said.

"I think it will definitely bring some division of thought," Moenning said.

And, Patton added, it will do so "in

"The conversation is one that has to be had. It has to be civil, and done in a way that moves people forward."

JOHN HARRIS
assistant to vice chancellor

a very pro-affirmative action campus."

John Harris, special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs, said he disagrees with Connerly's views, but thinks his speech is an important one.

"The conversation is one that has to be had," he said. "It has to be civil, and done in a way that moves people forward."

Since Connerly is African American, Harris said, his views against affirmative action should draw people to the event.

"It kind of makes it an oxymoron," he said. "So that is challenging to some people."

Connerly will speak at 8 p.m. in the Centennial Ballroom. His appearance in Lincoln is one of the first in the Midwest, Moenning said.

The event is sponsored by the UNL College Republicans, the Nebraska chapter of the National Association of Scholars and the Young America's Foundation.

Students at Princeton discuss binge drinking

Daily Princetonian
University of Princeton

Princeton, N.J. (U-Wire) - To prepare for their upcoming meeting with the Board of Trustees' subcommittee on alcohol abuse, student government recently discussed the nature of alcohol consumption on campus and potential policies to fight binge drinking.

"We have to think of it as if we're not doing battle with the trustees," senator Kelly Cross said. "I think we need to take a proactive perspective."

While the Undergraduate Life Committee discussed alcohol issues with the trustee subcommittee on alcohol abuse, student leaders will meet with the subcommittee Oct. 22.

The Board of Trustees convened the alcohol abuse subcommittee more than 18 months ago and will receive policy recommendations from various campus groups Dec. 1.

For most of this semester, the Undergraduate Life Committee will be discussing proposals to help mitigate alcohol abuse on campus, such as four-year residential colleges, a substance-free residence hall, an alcohol-free pledge signed by incoming freshmen and more Friday classes, committee chair Dana Berneman said.

Student government members disagreed about the focus of specific policies. Though some said alcohol consumption is inevitable and that student government and the university should concentrate on the consequences of alcohol abuse, others said policies should counteract a culture that fosters binge drinking.

"To me, the issue is the behavior that results from excessive drinking," said U-Councilor Teddy Nemeroff.

He said harming other students or university property should bring harsh penalties.

Senator Carlos Lazatin said examining the reasons a student decides to binge drink and the consequences to his or her body should precede a discussion on the communitywide consequences of abuse.

"We should look at how binge drinking affects the binge drinker," Lazatin said.

Though some student leaders made suggestions for nonalcoholic social events to counteract the possible culture of alcohol abuse, others took a more bottom-line, pragmatic approach to student drinking.

Asserting that undergraduates will consume alcohol regardless of proactive policies, U-Councilor Dok Harris suggested that McCosh Health Center offer saline drips for students who might become dehydrated after drinking too much alcohol.

Senator Jim Simmons questioned whether trustees are being consistent in addressing alcohol abuse.

"If you go to alumni events -- the reunions -- they are the biggest drinking events in America," he said, adding, "I'm surprised the trustees are approaching this in such a harsh way, considering so many of their brethren want to continue a culture of drinking."

The trustee subcommittee is not attempting to eliminate alcohol consumption, according to student government president David Ascher.

"I think it would be unfair to say the trustees are hoping for a crack-down before Dec. 1," he said, adding that student government will prepare a report on alcohol abuse for the trustees before that date.

Students push for gay studies major

The Pitt News
University of Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, Penn. (U-Wire) - Though most students pursue conventional majors, others are fighting for the opportunity to receive a degree in gay studies.

Rainbow Alliance President Christie L. Hudson said she wants Queer Theory added to the course selection because many students are not properly educated about people with alternative lifestyles.

Hudson's idea was only one of the methods of educating Pittsburgh University students about having respect for people with different lifestyles and beliefs discussed at the Rainbow Alliance's first general body meeting last week.

Co-president Raymond Murphy said he feels the campus is insensitive to the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual

and transsexual students. Students sometimes lump all people with alternative lifestyles into one generalized group, he said.

"The needs of a gay white man are not the same as the needs of a queer black woman," Murphy said.

Murphy added that he intends to work with the Resident Student Association on having resident assistants trained in gay and lesbian sensitivity.

"I would like to get pink triangles placed on the residence hall doors of students who are supportive, saying, 'I am respectful of everyone regardless of race, ethnicity and sexual orientation,'" Murphy said.

He said the Rainbow Alliance chose this year's theme, "Claiming our 10 percent, acceptance through education, diversity and responsibility," because many people are not respectful of the needs of students

with alternative lifestyles.

"Where there is a predominance, people tend to be apathetic to other people's needs," Murphy said.

Rainbow Alliance Treasurer Joe Yew Loong Yan said he is working to develop an information center on campus that would try to eradicate misconceptions people have about gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals.

Public Relations Chairman Steve Fugge will assist Yan's efforts in trying to make the group well-known on campus by having weekly soap operas air in David Lawrence Hall on Thursday nights.

Murphy said such support efforts are vital to creating an atmosphere where gay students can feel comfortable.

"Being gay is baggage enough," Murphy said. "We don't need added pressure."

Some Web sites 'trapping' their users

WASHINGTON (AP) - Pity the soul who comes across a Web site run by Brett Wright.

His pages are like ocean riptides, pulling Internet surfers under and whisking them against their will to resurface elsewhere.

Three of Wright's Web sites use a high-tech, behind-the-scenes method to route visitors automatically to other commercial sites, which pay Wright for such "referrals."

When puzzled surfers try to close those browser windows - for sites they never even intended to visit - other browser windows open automatically. And those can spawn still more browser windows.

It can be a nearly endless, frustrating cycle to regain control of the computer.

"You fell into my trap," says Wright, who lives near Atlanta. "It bounces you all over the place, doesn't it?"

Wright's technique is becoming common among sexually oriented sites like the ones he operates, which boast 250,000 visits daily. But the online porn industry is renowned for

its innovation, first to use the Web's newest tools and techniques - from live video to payment schemes - that months or years later become mainstream for the rest of the Internet.

So, will mainstream Web sites hunting bigger audiences and elusive profits soon lure visitors into this loop?

"The whole goal is to move traffic like cattle, which sounds terrible, I know," explains Wright, whose sites use the "window.open" Javascript programming command. "But the easiest way to send traffic somewhere is to not give them the opportunity not to go there."

Critics say the notion of even briefly kidnapping visitors is antithetical to the Internet, where the allure is the ability to jump among sites without regard for boundaries, physical distance or software compatibility. On the Web, ideally, you just click and go.

"Once you put someone on a path where they can't get out, the natural inclination is to quit," says Jonah Seiger of Washington-based Mindshare Internet Campaigns.

Wright acknowledges the practice

outrages some visitors - especially those with less powerful computers, which can crash if too many windows are open.

Some experts doubt the technique ever will be embraced by mainstream sites, such as the most popular online bookstore.

"You won't see amazon.com use that. People wouldn't tolerate it," said Michael Willis, who co-wrote a book about the worst Internet sites.

"It's almost like if you went through the doors of a Wal-Mart store to buy some pants and walked into a 7-Eleven," Willis says. "You want pants, not a Slurpee. It would create ill will for both parties."

Donna Hoffman of Vanderbilt University, an expert on Internet businesses, agrees it is hard to imagine the model working on more traditional sites.

"People don't want to be sent places," she said. "They want to choose where to go."

Wright says pages with never-ending loops, while technically possible, are "frowned upon highly." Most sites eventually set visitors loose.

"Racial Preferences are Dead."

Ward Connerly



Tuesday, September 29th 8:00 p.m.,
Nebraska Union

• President of the American
Civil Rights Institution

• Chairman of California's
Proposition 209

FREE ADMISSION

Sponsored By:

• Young America's Foundation



• UNL College Republicans

• National Association Of Scholars-Nebraska Chapter

www.unl.edu/DailyNeb