

Nebraska celebrates artistic diversity

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be recognized for what they do well in the arts," he said.

"We need to pat them on the back."

Fortunately, there is a whole crop of people who would rather not underscore the Cornhusker State's artistic diversity.

Kit Voorhees believes art is the key path to our common humanity.

As director of the Lied Center-associated program "Arts Are Basic," she spends a large portion of her time bringing a diverse mix of artists to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"The general make-up of the campus is European-Americans," Voorhees said. "We like to create opportunities for these kids to learn about other cultures and races."

Voorhees' voice lights up with feisty enthusiasm when speaking about artists and diversity: "Artists from all backgrounds are important because those people generate so much beauty and excitement."

One of her organization's main goals, Voorhees said, is to open the eyes of UNL's predominately white student body.

"We need to take the blinders off these All-American kids and show them there is more out there than country music," she said.

Voorhees said there are many people throughout the state promoting and creating a diverse field of art in this state.

UNL's Ron Bowlin is one of them.

Bowlin is the director of Artist Diversity Program, which he helped create in 1991.

He said the program's main goal is to destroy stereotypes about people who would qualify as minorities in Nebraska.

"I bet 90 percent of the students here come from backgrounds where, for instance, they don't know anything about Native Americans besides the awful stereotype of the drunken Indian," Bowlin said.

"When we present an extraordi-



JUAN RODRIGUEZ (right) is the coordinator of the children's dance troupe Sabor Mexicana. The group's next performance is 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 26 at Park Middle School.

MATT MILLER/DN

nary and successful Native American woman like Linda Anfuso, we can broaden their perception. That's the hoped-for result."

Anfuso, who gave a presentation to an advertising class last semester, makes American Indian jewelry and is a storyteller, poet and a member of the Mohawk nation.

She, in her virtuoso sense of artistry, is not unlike most of the performers Bowlin brings to campus.

Bowlin said the artist must be "interesting and a good communicator."

Storytelling has been a popular method in his diversity program of bridging the gap between cultures.

"The people we bring in have an ability to give real interesting insights on culture," Bowlin said. "Most of them, especially in University Foundations classes, encourage students to tell their own stories."

Bowlin said artists have a way of communicating perspectives on key issues that a "political science or history teacher may not be able to express."

"There are a lot more artists

doing what is called 'cultural art,'" he said.

Bowlin said that term defines an art form that "uses cultural fabrics or other objects to help artists express his or herself more" in direct connection with their indigenous cultures.

This type of presentation is really at the core of the Arts Diversity program, he said.

It all comes back to better understanding different cultures.

"Jeff Raz is a Jewish artist he brought in," Bowlin said. "He went to a literature class and told them how Shakespeare had no grounds portraying Jews because there were no Jews in England at the time."

Similarly, Rodriguez said he understands his dance group's role in a place like Nebraska.

"When the kids performed at halftime at the women's basketball game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center," Rodriguez said, "I'm sure that was the first time most of the people had seen our style of dancing."

"We feel good about those types of performances."

Alumni displays exhibit

JEWELRY from page 9

She said although Graff's work has changed considerably since he was a textiles student, some themes have remained.

"His work, even though it is very trend-conscious and marketable, still connects a reflection to textiles design. His jewelry uses a lot of weaving and textiles techniques," Trout said.

"He is very astute at analyzing current color trends and then putting the colors together in a very interesting way, still making them very marketable."

Graff said his work was more creative when he was a student, but he strives now to establish a handmade element in his line of mass-marketed jewelry.

For example, hair accessories in his line incorporate beads on wire, wrapped with fabric.

"It gives it a special, unique appearance," Graff said.

Pieces he currently designs can be found in stores such as Neiman Marcus, Macy's, Nordstrom and in international markets such as Paris, London and Toronto, Trout said.

His works have also been featured in Vogue and Elle and have appeared in movies such as "In & Out" and "Trading Places."

But Graff wasn't specifically commissioned for those films, he said.

The movies' stylists chose pieces of his jewelry from one of the stores or boutiques they are sold in, and he found out they were used only after the movies were released.

Ben Simon's, an apparel retailer in the city, is underwriting the exhibit and will be showing some of Graff's designs.

It isn't the first time Graff has been involved with the store. In the late '70s he won a contest it sponsored.

"It was when denim was really popular in fashion. They had a decorate-denim contest," he said.

Graff designed a denim jacket that was decorated with fur and leather with hand-tied suede pieces and beads. "It was sort of the hippie era," he said.

But although the jacket won't be featured in the show, there are plenty of other pieces to catch the eye.

A capella group makes stop to commemorate MLK Day

Martin Luther King Jr. encouraged people to raise their voices.

Friday, a St. Louis octet will be doing just that to celebrate the legacy of the assassinated civil rights leader.

Pieces of 8, an a cappella group famed for its range of sound, is bringing its talents and positive, peaceful message to the Nebraska Union Crib for a free concert.

The ensemble consists of pairs of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses combined in harmony to express their own vision of American music.

The dynamic group consists of four men and four women, from a medley of cultural and regional back-

Dropped Notes

The Facts

When: Friday
Where: The Crib, Nebraska Union
Price: Free
The Skinny: A capella group belts out positive message

grounds. The group will be spending the weekend in Lincoln, performing 7:30 p.m. concerts both Friday and Sunday nights at the First Plymouth Church, 20th and D streets.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

Newman Center
 The Student Parish on Campus
 16th & G

Sunday Mass Schedule
 10:00am, 11:30am, 5:30 pm
Daily Mass Schedule
 M-Thurs: 11:30am, 10:00pm
 Friday 11:30am, 5:00pm
 Saturday 8:00am, 12:00pm
Confession Schedule
 M-Thurs: 9:30pm
 Sat: 4-4:30pm; Sun: 5:00pm

Phone: 474-7914

Come Share the Spirit!

Lutheran Student Center And Chapel

Larry L. Meyer, Pastor
 535 N. 16th Street
 435-3697
 Sunday Worship:
 9:30 & 11 a.m.
 Wednesday Vespers:
 9:30

AND MORE, COME JOIN US!

Lincoln's Worship Directory

All Nations Church Of The Lord Jesus Christ

Pastor Edward C. Price
 Promoter of
The Highest Education "The Bible"

Wednesday Mission 7:30 p.m.
 Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship 12 noon

2625 North 27th Street 467-1339

Our Lady of the Sign Orthodox Church

1319 S. 11th St. between A St. & B St
 Sunday Liturgies: 10:00AM
 Telephone (402)476-2778

University Lutheran Chapel (LCMS)

Services: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sundays

Visit us for other Bible studies and activities throughout the week! We have quiet places to study and a relaxed Christian atmosphere. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." John 14:6
 1510 G Street 477-3997 bsteinbauer@hotmail.com
 Pastor Bill Steinbauer

St. Mark's on the Campus
 Episcopal (Anglican) 13th and R St.

Need some tools for your 2nd semester kit?
 Seminar on time and stress management from a Christian perspective.
 January 14th from 4pm to 5pm at St. Mark's lounge.

Worship opportunities each week:
 Sundays, 8:30, 10:30 and 5pm;
 Tuesdays at 12:30; Thursdays at 5:30pm

Xtreme Devotion

College & Career Group

Bible studies, social events, discipleship, Sunday services