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# Event celebrates 'real Africa'

BY NICOLE HALL  
Staff writer

Students from 19 African countries came together Saturday night to promote the solidarity of the continent at the Afro Unity Festac.

"Tonight, empty your head of TV and movies," said Festac emcee Batsirai Kasu as the event began. "We are going to learn about the real Africa."

Saturday night's event, put on by the African Student Association, was a display of African entertainment and food.

Among activities were traditional dances performed by members, a fashion show that showed clothing from different the countries and a professional dance troop from the Benin Republic, which performed the final act.

ASA members also served ethnic food representing African countries.

This was the first Festac since the

event was discontinued three years ago, and ASA members began planning this year's event in December 1997.

A few months ago ASA had doubted if the plans would come to fruition, said Innocent Anaverberokhi, senior Management Information Systems major and organizer of the event.

Anaverberokhi said the purpose of the event was to bring African culture to UNL and the Lincoln community.

"The average student doesn't see Africa besides war and fighting," he said. "They don't see the things we deal with every day that make our life happy."

The guest speaker, C. James Peterson, UNL professor of Agricultural Economics, said he was trying to diminish the misconceptions about Africa.

Peterson said Africa's economy sometimes appears to be the worst in the world, but not by its own doing.

"The average student doesn't see Africa besides war and fighting."

INNOCENT ANAVERBEROKHI  
event organizer

"(This is all) promoted by the media," he said.

Peterson said that Africa is on the brink of economic growth and at the beginning of renewal. Africa has terrific potential although it has been slowed by a long difficult history and inappropriate policies. These are all correctable problems, he said.

## Organizations donate funds for field trip

From staff reports

The Panhellenic Association and the Interfraternity Council presented a check for \$300 to the sixth grade class at Elliot Elementary School on Friday.

The money will allow the students to take a field trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, where the class will visit the rainforest, which it has been studying in science class.

Julie Stewart, vice president of the Panhellenic Association, said the class wouldn't have had the chance to visit the zoo if it hadn't received some financial help.

The donation was suggested by UNL senior Angie Swanson, who works at the school.

The class plans to take the trip in a couple of weeks, Stewart said.

The Panhellenic Association and IFC decided to take advantage of the opportunity in order to help out the community.

"We've donated to other causes before," Stewart said. "But we thought this one would be a really special cause to donate to."

## Group injects humanities into pre-medicine studies

BY JAMI SCHIEVELBEIN  
Staff writer

A new student organization wants to get more pre-medicine students involved in the humanities.

The Humanities in Medicine program will provide a way for those students to learn more about areas they usually don't focus on, such as literature, art, history, anthropology, psychology and other cultures.

The idea for combining pre-medicine studies with the humanities in a student organization came from Alexis Haifley, a sophomore English major and pre-medicine student.

Haifley said if pre-medicine students are going to work with people, then they need to learn everything about them, such as their religions and musical tastes, in order to know how to fully heal a person.

She said pre-medicine students need a broad view of life so they can treat people with many different perspectives.

Humanities in Medicine will be open to all majors, though it will primarily focus on pre-medicine. Some activities the group may be involved in include attending musicals, orchestras or dance performances and visiting art galleries or cultural fairs.

"We have a lot of access to things, like the Sheldon Art Gallery," Haifley said. "Why should we overlook those things?"

Students from all majors often study art, plays and culture, Haifley

said, but they don't actually experience them. Her idea for the group is to go to museums instead of looking at pictures of what iOs in them and go to plays rather than read them.

She said she wants Humanities in Medicine to provide an opportunity for people who can't major in the humanities to be able to experience and be involved with them.

Haifley said the group might help students get the most out of their college education.

She said students sometimes go through college as if it were job training for one specific occupation, rather than an opportunity for a broad education.

The group's adviser and assistant professor of biological sciences, Lawrence Harshman, said some students feel there is not enough time to pursue other interests, so the organization would benefit them.

A significant number of students feel discouraged from taking classes not part of their major, Harshman said.

He said it is important for students to become well-rounded and appreciate ideas in other cultures, languages and the arts.

Studying humanities also will help pre-medicine students maintain a balance between their career and other areas of interest, as well as help students become more broadly informed, he said.

Haifley said she welcomed ideas for the new group.

"I don't really want to make this all mine," she said. "Really, this is just for fun."

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