

Professor speaks on Kosovo

Intervention called 'essentially humanitarian'

By **KIM SWEET**
Staff writer

For the first time since the Cold War, the United States is engaging in a full-fledged humanitarian mission by taking action in Kosovo, political science professor David Forsythe told an audience of more than 50 students and community members Monday night.

Speaking at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A St., for a lecture sponsored by Nebraskans for Peace, Forsythe talked about the history of U.S. noninvolvement in human rights issues beyond its own borders.

"The Kosovo crisis represents that rare situation in international relations in which a group of states risks things for human rights for others," Forsythe said.

While nations such as the United States often give a lot of lip service to the importance of human rights in other countries, they usually aren't willing to sacrifice much to back up their words, he said.

Forsythe cited numerous examples after the end of the Cold War in which the United States was unwilling to take action.

He cited the fall of former Yugoslavia, Somalia and Rwanda as examples of situations in which the United States did not intervene on behalf of human rights.

The actions NATO is taking in Kosovo on

behalf of the western nations constitutes the most principled use of force by the West since the Cold War, Forsythe said.

He said there were a variety of reasons NATO decided to take action in this particular situation.

With the large number of ethnic Albanians fleeing the country and becoming refugees, Forsythe said, the stability of neighboring countries was at stake.

The conflict in Kosovo is also an opportunity for NATO to prove itself, Forsythe said. If the organization fails, its future power will be questioned.

But NATO is also genuine when it says the primary reason for stepping into the situation in the Balkans is to protect ethnic Albanians, Forsythe said.

"If ever there were an essentially humanitarian intervention ... this is it," he said.

While NATO has had good intentions, that hasn't made the mission successful, he said. The air strikes have led to more repression of ethnic Albanians and to the death of thousands of civilians.

However, in order to stop the driving out of thousands of ethnic Albanians by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, Forsythe said he thought sending ground troops into the area would be necessary, just like it was to stop Adolf Hitler's attempted genocide during World War II.

"If one was going to stop genocide by the Third Reich, one would need to use force," Forsythe said.

"Does this look like it will be another Vietnam? That's a wonderful question, and I'll know the answer when it is over."

DAVID FORSYTHE
political science professor

Committing ground troops to the situation will not ultimately guarantee success and could cause the situation to turn even uglier than it has, Forsythe said.

"Does this look like it will be another Vietnam?" Forsythe said. "That's a wonderful question, and I'll know the answer when it is over."

UNL junior Elizabeth Goodbrake said Forsythe was very informative, but disagreed with his way of solving the problem.

"Violence will never solve anything, and that is why I am here."

Goodbrake said she favored the United States developing a peace plan and stopping the airstrikes against the Serbs as soon as possible.

"Let's stop bombing," Goodbrake said. "There are way more atrocities going on now than before."

Diversity proponent, professor retires

By **NICOLE HALL**
Staff writer

As a young boy in Texas, Vernon Williams was hired to hand out pamphlets for a local politician in a predominantly black neighborhood.

During the door-to-door canvassing of the neighborhood, Williams, UNL's retiring career counseling coordinator, learned to respect and celebrate all people.

It's a lesson he carried with him for the rest of his life.

While handing out pamphlets, he came to the door of a black woman's home. She responded to his offer of the pamphlet by saying: "There isn't no point in giving that to me; I can't vote because I didn't pay the poll tax."

Williams said he was struck by her response and its contradiction with democracy. It was the first time he saw inequality in the United States firsthand.

Since then, the professor of educa-

tional psychology has used this and other experiences to work for equality and diversity on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

Williams is retiring from his work after 35 years at UNL.

By profession, Williams was a career counselor in the Career Services Center. However, he went beyond counseling and touched many students by sharing his passion for diversity.

"What is so interesting about Vern is that he does it quietly," said Marty Ramirez, counseling psychologist at the Counseling and Psychological Services.

Williams' desire to educate people about ethnic differences has always been visible during his time at the university, those who know him said.

Since the annual Diversity Retreat began more than 10 years ago, Williams has assisted John Harris, recently retired special assistant to the vice chancellor for student affairs, with its planning.

At the Diversity Retreat about two years ago, retreat participants generated an idea to form a council composed of many campus organizations to bridge the gap between various groups.

From this idea grew what is now the Diversity Council. Williams served as the council's faculty adviser.

Williams said it was important for students to participate in activities that would allow them to interact with different cultures.

"Races are separated (in all places across the United States) greater today

than 10 years ago," Williams said.

"(Races) don't interact with each other - even more so (now) than at the time of the Martin Luther King assassination."

He explained that someone can't completely understand a person of a different race without effort.

"We are all a little reluctant to step outside our comfort zone," Williams said. "It becomes a self-perpetuating circle."

When a student came to Williams expressing the need for a gay men's discussion group on campus, he considered it an extension of his passion to counsel people and eliminate prejudices.

He was then asked to advise the student group, Allies Against Heterosexism and Homophobia.

Williams worked to increase diversity where he worked as well.

Ramirez began his career at the university working with Williams on joint projects between the career counseling center and a minority services counseling program, in which Ramirez was employed.

Jake Kirkland Jr., who worked with Williams for 12 years, said he always tried to make things better.

"His practice is to take the human being where they are and try to make them better individuals," said Kirkland, assistant director of Career Services.

Ramirez said in the late 1970s the counseling center had a lack of diversity.

Former bar owner denied license

By **ERIC RINEER**
Staff writer

Despite listening to requests by businessmen for permission to purchase a liquor license to open a bar downtown, the Lincoln City Council voted unanimously Monday to deny the bar a permit.

The bar, which would be located in the basement of Gold's Galleria at 1033 O St., was originally scheduled to open in late July, said Don "Doc" Sanders, who would own and operate the establishment.

Council members denied Sanders' requests for a liquor permit after hearing reports by Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady about Sanders' past business practices several years ago.

Sanders, a former manager at Aftershock and Epicenter nightclubs, both previously located at 1330 P St.,

was cited for a number of violations between 1993 and 1994, Casady said.

Casady read down the list of violations committed by Sanders at Monday's public hearing.

Sanders' violations included two alcohol-related convictions. The convictions, both in 1994, included sale of alcohol without a license and providing alcohol to minors.

Sanders, CEO of a personal business, said he was disappointed at the motion to deny by council members.

"One event doesn't make a man's life," said Sanders, who said he planned to appeal to the state liquor commission.

Sanders said his prospective bar was in the best interest of Lincoln citizens because of its dynamic atmosphere.

The bar would include a dance area,

"One of the first things I noticed about (Williams) was that he was ahead of his time," he said. Williams made a decision to hire a black man in the early '70s, he said.

Williams became conscious of racial differences and inequalities gradually. He did not begin to seriously think about the issues that surrounded inequalities until the second semester of his senior year in college.

To finish his degree, which he received from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, in 1954, he had to complete an oral examination. The proctors of the exam asked a series of questions that included the question: "Do you think this country will ever become integrated?"

"Not until this point did I begin to think about these issues," Williams said.

Williams considers one of his greatest accomplishments to be his work in establishing the Teaching and Learning Center.

In 1968, Williams contacted staff on campus he thought would be interested in joining a task force to improve teaching at UNL.

Out of the task force came the idea for the center, which works to build programs and learning resources for teachers on campus.

Ramirez said Williams' commitment to UNL and diversity has never slowed since he first arrived on campus.

Kirkland agreed.

"He is truly concerned about human beings."

Legislative Notebook

Petition drive set to begin for state term limits

Within about a month, a campaign to gather about 110,000 Nebraskans' signatures to get a term-limit measure on the ballot will be set to begin.

A petition filed with the Secretary of State on Friday would limit state senators to two consecutive four-year terms.

Nebraskans for Limited Terms filed the petition, which would need around 110,000 valid signatures to be placed on the ballot. If all the valid signatures are gathered, the initiative becomes a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot.

The petition was turned in more than a year in advance of the signature deadline.

Under the proposed constitutional amendment, senators could serve more than the two consecutive four-year terms, but would have to wait four years before running for election again. The restriction would take effect in 2001.

Guy Curtis, a lawyer in Imperial, is one of the petition's sponsors.

Curtis said he supported term limits because he thought that as terms piled up, so did special-interest ties. Curtis believed the influence of lobbyists on senators may be linked to increased state spending.

"We distrust professional politicians," Curtis said. "It isn't the experience that hurts, it's the increased spending that's the problem."

Of the 49 state senators, 17 have been in office eight years or more. Nebraska voters approved term limits for state and federal posts in 1992 and 1994, but the Nebraska Supreme Court invalidated both of them.

Johanns' property tax plan amended

Gov. Mike Johanns' plan to reduce Nebraska's property tax bills got a boost and a facelift Monday thanks to an amendment offered by five senators.

Johanns is supporting the amendment to his direct property tax relief plan that he unveiled in January.

Under the original plan, LB881, Nebraskans would receive direct property tax relief through an 11 percent rebate on the amount of property taxes they paid.

Under the proposed amendment to LB881, Nebraskans would get a 10 percent rebate of each property tax bill in 2000 and 2001.

But in 2002 there would be no direct rebate plan, because relief would come in the form of the Legislature's planned reduction in the school levy from \$1.10 to \$1. After 2002, the direct rebate plan would kick back in.

Money for the rebate checks comes from excess tax revenues and spending restraint.

Under the amendment, relief payments for two years are estimated at \$152.5 million, while the Johanns plan would have used \$275 million for rebates.

LB881 has been stuck in the Revenue Committee since early March because it lacks the votes needed to advance it to the Legislature's floor.

The amendment was proposed by Lincoln Sen. David Landis, Grand Island Sen. Chris Peterson, Omaha Sen. Pam Redfield, Wahoo Sen. Curt Bromm and South Sioux City Sen. Pat Engel.

In a memo to the Revenue Committee, the senators said they would propose the amendment to the bill once it got to the floor.

Legislative notebook compiled by senior staff writer Jessica Fargen.

Daily Nebraskan

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