

# Reparations top faculty panel's talk

By Margaret Behm  
Staff writer

Reparation, minority-government relations and affirmative action were topics discussed by three University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors during a faculty panel Friday.

The panel took place at the Nebraska Union in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Reparation payments to blacks who have suffered damages from racism took up a large part of the discussion.

Usually when the subject of reparations is discussed it is by the people who want to receive it, Leon Caldwell said.

"Most of what we hear is from the side of the oppressed," said Caldwell, assistant professor of educational psychology. "We rarely hear from the oppressors."

Other ethnic groups have been paid for past abuses because the government needed them for an economic purpose, Caldwell said.

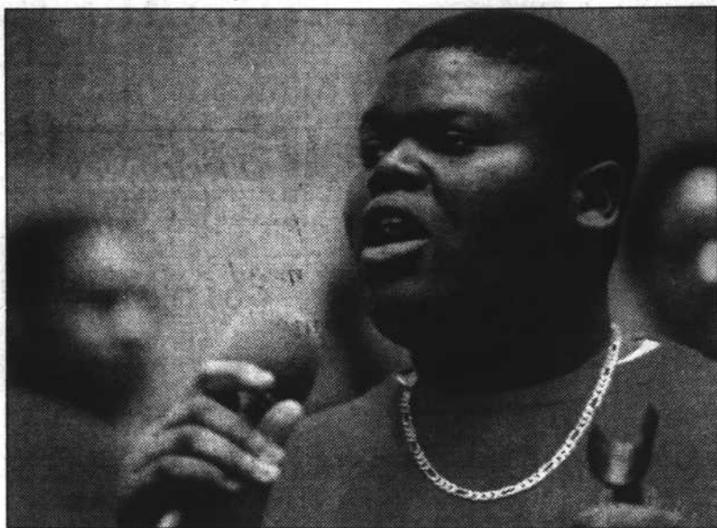
"I think that part of the larger system is that if you have something this country values," Caldwell said, "then you can discuss reparations."

The government has not paid blacks because it will not lose anything if it doesn't admit to past abuses, he said.

"To think that you can benefit off of someone and later not claim it is nuts," he said. "As a psychologist, I can diagnose you for that with some type of personality disorder."

A problem with financial reparations is that many questions come up as to who will pay and how much will be paid, Caldwell said.

"I say we go straight to South Carolina," Caldwell said, "and say that



Josh Wolfe/DN

**AS PART OF THE CLOSING** to a day of celebration and remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Voices of Destiny, the Lincoln High School Youth Choir, performed at the Union.

because you have the (Confederate) flag and are claiming our slavery, we are asking you for the money first."

Susan Miller discussed current issues between American Indians and the government.

"It's not about making amends with the indigenous nations," said Miller, assistant professor of history and ethnic studies. "It's about mending diplomatic relations between them and the U.S."

Miller brought up issues such as the Lakota tribe trying to get back all of the government-owned Black Hills in southwest South Dakota.

The Lakota tribe has refused to take money to settle the dispute, Miller said.

"The Lakotas are inclined to argue that you can't put a dollar amount on the Dakotas," Miller said.

An audience member brought up the topic of casinos, which support American Indians. Some white people are trying to banish them, Miller said.

"The American people have largely destroyed the economic bases of the Lakota people," she said. "Casinos are what tribes can now depend on, so white

people are trying to destroy that, too."

Although white people have taken American-Indian land and are trying to destroy American Indians economically, Miller said that she hasn't given up.

"I don't think we should write off the white people," Miller said. "They can still stand up and reclaim their ethics. I think they should do it today."

Another issue discussed during the forum was affirmative action, which would make institutions more diverse and would be a positive change, said Anna Shavers, associate professor of the College of Law.

"Recognizing that diversity is a goal we need to achieve would be beneficial to our schools and communities," Shavers said.

Miller said she did not think that white people would give up their power for affirmative action.

"The reality of living in a white supremacist environment like the U.S. where they not only hold the power," she said, "but they know the corruption it took to get the power, to ask them to relinquish that power is unrealistic."

# Youth at center of MLK Day rally

RALLY from page 1

"We cannot expect Dr. King's dream to become a reality around us," Cherng said, "until it becomes real within us."

Aquarius Hopkins, a senior elementary education major at UNL, offered many suggestions to help listeners in their fights against racism.

Knowing what's going on in the

world and getting involved in the community helps to fight injustice, Hopkins said.

"Become aware, because injustice works best when no one is watching," said Hopkins.

Hopkins also encouraged the younger members of the crowd to be involved because they did help the effort.

"Historically speaking, young

people were a very huge part of the civil rights movement," Hopkins said.

Jessie Myles, Lincoln's NAACP president, said he hopes Martin Luther King Jr. Day won't be the only day that people will make an effort towards equality.

"Hopefully this won't be a one-time event," said Myles, "but it will be an effort that you will continue to do."

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