

## Diverse performers to present their stories

■ The event gives viewers Hispanic, black and Asian-American perspectives.

By Margaret Behm  
Staff writer

Your cravings for diversity could be fed tonight with "A Slice of Rice, Frijoles and Greens."

Three performers will present their cultural experiences in the United States through the presentation, which includes songs, comedy and acting.

The presenters will be Dan Kwong, a writer and visual artist; Michele Serros, a Chicana writer; and Chic Street Man, a singer, guitarist and songwriter.

Tom St. Germain, vice president of the University Program Council, said he enjoys presentations more when diversity speakers only tackle issues dealing with their own ethnicity.

"The overall message of diversity is great, but I think focusing on a specific culture makes it more interesting," said St. Germain, a junior computer science major.

The performances will be stronger because performers each will present separately, St. Germain said. Life in the United States will be shown from Asian-American, Hispanic and black perspectives.

"It's definitely a more unique show because there's three different views from three different cultures in one show, and I think that's cool," he said.

Nikki Fulker, minority student program chairwoman for UPC, said the performance will give students an opportunity to attend an entertaining diversity event.

"A lot of times here on campus, not a lot of students get to attend cultural events," said Fulker, a sophomore sociology major. "I think it would be a really good cultural experience for students."

The presentation is free for everyone. It begins at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

St. Germain recommended students go.

"If you're going to attend a diversity event this semester, then I'd say that this should be it," St. Germain said.

## Student leaders attend event focused on fighting campus hate

By Jill Zeman  
Staff writer

ASUN's president and president-elect had the chance to cultivate their leadership skills on the East Coast last week at a conference aimed at reducing hate on campus.

The "Combating Prejudice and Hate on Campus" conference was held Thursday and Friday at Northeastern University in Boston.

Andy Schuerman, Association of Students of the University of Nebraska president, Joel Schafer, ASUN president-elect, and Chuck van Rossum, assistant director of the UNL minority assistance program, were selected to attend the conference by James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Students and faculty members could attend topical workshops such as date rape; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues; and racial jokes and slurs, Schafer said.

The registration fee and part of the lodging costs were paid for by the U.S. Department of Education, and the Student Affairs office paid for the rest of it.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's participants discussed a variety of subjects at the conference.

Schafer attended a roundtable ses-

sion where he discussed UNL's campus racial climate with students from other colleges and universities.

"What concerns me more is the prejudice that goes on behind closed doors," he said.

Schafer said he learned about a Web site developed at the University of California-Berkeley that allowed students to obtain information about hate crimes and also report harassment or hate crimes.

Schafer said he hopes to start similar features on the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska's Web site while he is the ASUN president.

"I want to make the ASUN Web site more effective," he said.

Schuerman attended a workshop called "Addressing Degrading Language, Slurs and Jokes," led by Betsy Sweet and Stephen Wessler of the University of Southern Maine.

"The No. 1 thing is although there is a tremendous diversity of the levels of hate campuses experience, a lot of themes ring true," Schuerman said.

Schuerman also said he felt student-led efforts are the most effective way to combat hate on campus.

"It's not part of (the administration's) job descriptions to address these issues," he said.

Schafer also went a workshop enti-

tled "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered College Students in the New Millennium: What are colleges doing for them, and what remains to be done?"

The workshop was led by Lori Rosenberg of Suffolk University. Schafer said he thought the workshop was helpful, especially because Suffolk University recently implemented domestic partner benefits.

Schafer said he was able to talk to students representing schools that already have domestic partner benefits. He also got names and phone numbers of people he could contact for more information.

Schafer said the conference influenced some of the decisions he'll make as ASUN president next year.

"I realized how important it is to have a safe space for GLBT students on campus," he said. Schafer said he plans to introduce a bill that would make the ASUN office a safe place.

Schuerman passed a similar bill last year, but when new senators take over ASUN, all current bills die, Schafer said.

Both Schafer and Schuerman said they would have liked to attend more workshops.

"(The conference) was very helpful, but it could have gone one step further," Schafer said.

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### Teen-ager shoots at car

Two drivers' road rage on Saturday ended with shooting at about 11 p.m., police said.

At 31<sup>st</sup> and O streets, one car apparently cut off the car driven by Matthew J. Kurtzer, 18, 7130 Wedgewood Drive, Lincoln Police Ofc. Katherine Finnell said. Kurtzer began following the car east on O Street, said Finnell.

The car pulled into the Gateway Mall parking lot, 61<sup>st</sup> and O streets, and Kurtzer reportedly fired eight rounds from a .22 rifle at the car, Finnell said. One of the shots shattered the car's back window, Finnell said.

Police caught up with Kurtzer on

Monday at about 4 p.m. at Greyhound Bus Lines, 940 P St., and arrested him, Finnell said.

Kurtzer was charged with firing into an occupied vehicle and use of a weapon to commit a felony.

### Woman tries to run over boyfriend, police say

After a Monday morning argument, Candie Ruth, 29, tried to run over her boyfriend with her car at 8:43 p.m., Finnell said.

Ruth, 516 S. 24<sup>th</sup> St., reportedly saw her boyfriend walking on the sidewalk on 30<sup>th</sup> Street between P and Q streets while she was driving, Finnell said.



She then hopped the curb in her red 1980 Chevrolet Impala and hit him with her car, Finnell said. She tried to run him over again, but he had gotten out of the way already, Finnell said.

Ruth was arrested and charged with second degree assault and using a weapon to commit a felony.

Compiled by staff writer Derek Lippincott

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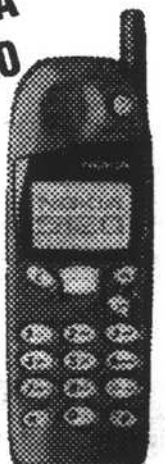
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