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Second Narrator: Conroy Bino (Acoma Pueblo)

Interviewer: <sup>Michael B.</sup> ~~Mike~~ Husband

Locale: UNM

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Minority issues  
Education

Relevance of Colleges + Universities on Indian Reservations

Beginning of Ethnic Studies Programs

Comments:

*includes*

Comments by Black-Americans + Mexican-Americans as well

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MISCELLANEOUS

UNM Conference on Minorities on Campus

Conroy Chino-Acoma Pueblo

December 11, 1969

Interviewer - Mike Husband

-PROBLEMS OF MINORITY GROUPS

-REVELANCE OF COLLEGES AND

UNIVERSITIES ON INDIAN

RESERVATIONS

-BEGINNING OF ETHNIC STUDIES

PROGRAMS

It seems to be the first task of the university is to hear the attitudes and to evaluate them and I think they are doing a good job of articulating the difficulties as you see them and then I think our response is to agree with you..... and what you say is obviously true and should be true and to move as rapidly as possible into adopting some of the solutions that you recommend and that others recommend as we move along. I think that I would hope that this is the basic stands of the university.... as Dr. Heady said in the beginning.... we have tried to do somethings and hopefully we can continue.....

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So in other words you feel that in response that the university administrative and faculty members, is one that should be one that is more or less revolutionary along the attitudes you think that this response should be willing to provide a change in the educational system?

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Yes, we do, as a matter of fact, Ed was pointing this out to me earlier... it seems to me that the University of New Mexico, particularly with respect to the Mexican-American and Indian and Spanish-American culture is an ideal

start for a revolutionary notions about educations.... I think there needs to be some stirring on the campus in this direction.... these things that are going on, not just for the Mexican-Americans, but not because of their large numbers.... it seems to be that it makes good sense and by the same token, the Indian culture can make so many tremendous contributions and I think that the University had an opportunity here to recognize what is going on and you point out the black community in the University of New Mexico is not really taking advantage or are in a position to take advantage of opportunities at the University to be extent they should, to this extent, I certainly think that we must..... I am an exception to revolutionary, or revolutionize, or some kind of a revolution.

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Dr. Lavender, thank you very much, but I think we better conclude this first half hour..... our guests on this edition of the educational process are Dr. Harold Lavender, vice president of student affairs at the University of New Mexico.... Barbara Brown, a member of the Black Student Union, Conroy Chino, of the Kiva Club of the university and Eddie Benavidez who is in student affairs and on the Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Council..... thank you very much for being with us, we hope that you will join us next week.....

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This is the part of the program where we will accept your telephone calls and your comments concerning the things that we have talked about the first half hour of this program and we hope you have some. Before we get to the telephone calls however, I would like to ask one general question and we can keep it brief... and general, depending upon the telephone calls..... this evening, I would like to ask all of you feel that your responsibilities are to your people. Now that you are all juniors and seniors.... now that you are just about to finish the university. What kind of responsibility does this carry with it..... Conroy?

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Well, I have often thought that there are two aspects to education, like one of them are you have got a responsibility to your people.... my particular tribe... that can be identified with like say, it is up to you..... the people, and the place after graduation, if I do.... I would like to go back and become intermediary between my people and the white society.... plus the fact that so, sort of become successful in technological way.....

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Barbara...?

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I think my responsibility to my people is the responsibility of any black student or any black person is more or less, when you go to the university, use your knowledge and skills

that you acquire there to go back into your communities and help improve your communities in any way possible and that is the main thing.... just going back into the community where you can acknowledge yourself and tell about things about improving the community there and working for the black people as a whole.....

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Eddie Benavidez----- Okay..... well I think the fact that we are here tonight and that we have been working in the university itself points to one thing that I think, we talked before of a revolution, a revolutionary process and I think this part of the revolutionary process.... I think that now, more than ever, we don't sit down and say, well I made it.... and if I made it everyone else can.... I think that now we want to help others come here, we have something, the Mexican-Americans, have something that very few other people have, we have something called La Raza..... and it, one thing that really bothers me when they publize La Raza and they put the words..... there is so much more that goes in there; the feeling that we are one and that we can help each other and in the past so many of us have finished or have graduated from high school and have forgotten that they can go back and help others get theirs. This is what we want to do today, our responsibility goes as far as bringing these people here, going down and talking to the kids,

telling them what we can help them in any that we can, many of them have left here brainwashed, they have forgotten their culture, they have kept their culture behind doors, because so many times they have been told that the culture is not accepted in public and now we say, well this is what we are and we will be accepted and there is more that we can make it to.....

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Well great.... fine.... now let's go to the telephone calls. This is the educational process.... go ahead please....

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What are some of the educational and cultural opportunities that are now open to the blacks?

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Will you repeat your question please?

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She said, what are some of the educational and cultural opportunities now available to the blacks...? I guess so.... I think.....

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The educational and cultural opportunities that are open to the blacks right now like on paper and no, like they are just in the process of being written up.... and being discussed between black students and the administration now, starting next year we are hoping to get a program that would include a substantial amount of blacks from the community of Albuquerque and in the state of New

Mexico to the University of New Mexico and also these students would be funding.... we are now trying to find financial assistance.... and things like this and also free tutorial service and things like this..... Right now we are aiming in the direction of getting more blacks here and now when they get here and as far as the cultural aspect, the Afro-American Culture Center, that has been set up and will be dealing with programs, cultural programs... such as art, music and so forth..... deal with the black aspect of culture and this would involve people from the community..... and we are going to work with the people in the community and this would be accomplished through the black studies program and be for the black community in Albuquerque..... and.....

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Okay, fine, let's get back to the telephone... This is the educational process, go ahead.....

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Good evening, my name is William Martin, I am director of Popejoy Hall and I'd like to address....about 2000 questions to Barbara Brown..... first of all Barbara, have you ever been in Popejoy Hall? Have you been to the art museum or the recital hall in the fine arts center? And have you ever had the experience of cultural events on the university campus?

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Okay, do you want her to answer these individually? I really thought that were.... so Barbara, why don't you go ahead and answer.....

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First of all.... no, I have not been to any of the cultural events in Popejoy Hall, first of all because in order to get people to go to these events... you have to advertise.... and the type of advertisement that I have seen is for, as those events are concerned... didn't interest me in the least, there were, they showed no aspect of the type of cultural that I would go see.... either if you do have black culture included.... you didn't advertise it.....

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Well.... we have had in Popejoy Hall.... in the past three years... almost four hundred programs.... of all types in the art museum, there have been programs, the 12 showings a year, in the recital probably five or six hundred programs.... in the past three years.... among these programs we have brought in Marion Williams, in the Soul and Jazz... one of the great soul singers..... and in the audience there were no more than 11 negroes... or more than 11 blacks and you know, Louis Armstrong came and played on this campus... and Hallelujah Trail, and with the..... Majestic Choir... all the black programs had only a handful of blacks in the audience..... my feeling is that culture has no color..... is Shakespeare's Hamlet, whether balck or white? Does



Barbara Brown now want to see Hamlet, does it mean nothing to her, does it matter if Hamlet is black or white....  
 Bach, and Beethoven, Mozart and Faulkner.... is there a color barrier.... grow.... what is black music and white music and what is black art? What is black architecture? What is black culture? What do you want to hear Barbara? .... or see and why haven't you presented your wishes.... to this cultural program committee? At the present time, soul is contemporary music.... we have played it in Popejoy Hall and you didn't come, why not.... it is your type of music as you say, your type.... you want to hear? They have never recognized or given preference to color.... they are neither black or white, the color operates in a vacuum.

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 Okay, can I have her answering you....?

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 She can write a thesis....

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 Right

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 Thank you very much for your question.... Barbara....

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 First of all, as I said before, if those events have gone on, it is a very big surprise to black students here on campus, like they haven't been advertised..... like none of these we knew nothing about these events... five or six hundred events that he told us about.... first about I dis-

agree about the fact that music and art and culture has no color..... well as far as black people are concerned.... black music strains from a black situation.... it, first your inter-feelings through music.... arts and things of this nature..... and to say that I can express the type of, my music would more or less be expressed the same way as a whiteman's music can..... it is not true because we are from different situations.... if you express.... if your music and art is expressed through the situation that you arrive from, that is why they are different because black situation and a white situation is different, by situation I mean your environment, where you are in society.... how you relate to society and things like this. So like black music, it is blues and jazz and soul.... what do we mean by soul, it means that our music really gets down to the problems that most black people face in life, like you can compare black soul among teenagers... or white soul, or white rock and roll, you see their's is usually on the slip white world..... you know, like comic strips.... but black people's music goes deeper, they tell about problems.... and this is the difference. Now like I say..... anytime that you have cultural events I wish that you would advertise it because we would be very interested in seeing it and I know alot of the black people from the community would also be interested in seeing some of these things too so, I wish you would advertise more...

Okay, now I don't think that we have any other comments on that, so why don't we move along. This is the education process, go ahead please....

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Mr. Martin asked part of it, but I am too interested in the entertainment.... like if Barbara Brown could tell us, can she mention one program.... can you tell us one program that you would like to have brought, come to the university.... what is an example of certain black culture entertainment, can you have here and I just wondered if you hadn't heard of Hallelujah Train or what your feeling was? It certainly was advertised a great deal.... and certainly the people, many of the people in the town knew about it.... and another thing that I would like to ask is, what about the white community off of the campus.... can there be a section for wish or do you have any suggestions as to what white people that are not on the campus... white community what to do to improve this situation, what communicate..... what kind of communication for the black students.... any suggestions that you can make.... why we would appreciate to improve the situation....between the white community and the rest of the campus....

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Okay, thank you very much.... Barbara.....

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Well first of all, like the white community in relationship

to the blacks on campus.... seems to me that the whites should be more or less be trying to relate with blacks in the community and they probably wouldn't have a problem of relating to us..... The blacks in the community and the whites, the black and white problem seems to me should be their top priority, to try to investigate housing problems or discriminating in housing and things like this.... the employment problem and things of this nature and if you dealt with the problems and tried to become helpful to the black community you are naturally going to the black students because we are concerned also with those same problems and so when you talk about us relating to the white community.... first, like people in the white community relate with people, the black people in the community and naturally you are relating to us.....

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 Why don't we go ahead and go on..... this is the education process.... go ahead please....

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 My question would be to Dr. Lavender.... about a year ago, President Heady said that he was going to do more in hiring minority professors, at the university.... try to find some black professors and some Indian professors... I would just like to know what progress has been made along these lines.....

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 Thank you very much..... Dr. Lavender...?  
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I am not totally aware of what professors have been hired... you know we have over six hundred of them and there are not very many blacks as we all know and as someone said earlier, not too many from the other groups represented here tonight. We have hired some administrative people who are black... in the last 12 months... at the present... the dean of men is a black man.... one of the problems is at this moment in history..... the market is sort of thin, because the demand for black professors throughout the country, and Spanish-American and Indian professors is so great that the competition is intolerable.... particularly if you are the salary, if you are limited by your budget.... in recent President Heady's efforts are still in progress.... I know that they are, academic divisions of the university are always eager to interview and hopefully employ professors from these areas.... because I think I would have to say that that is where we are at this moment..... certainly it is not the way that we would like to be.....

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We have a long distance phone call, so let's take that one, this is the education process, go ahead please....

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Good evening Tony, how are you..... we are in Durango, Colo. and Tony, I would like to address the question to Barbara Brown and also to Conroy Chino..... first of all and they can answer these questions after I hang up.... How does

Barbara feel about the Black Separatism as far as colleges are concerned and education is concerned as a whole...? Do they think that they are making more progress in this integration or improving in the racial process anyway. And then to Conroy.... about the colleges moving on to the reservations, ask him how he feels about that.... for example of the Navajo reservation is the Many Farms Navajo Community College.... which is in infancy but is beginning to spread its wings a little bit, how do you feel about that... I will hang up and let, the program is coming in just fine, I am enjoying it very much.....

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Thank you, I think that those are two very fine questions... Barbara, why don't we start with you.... ladies first....

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I understood the question.... how do I feel about Black Separatism? Now there are two types of black separatism; one type is total separatism, allowing no interaction between the races and that is the kind of black separatism that I don't go along with and I do not condone this type of black separatism.... I wouldn't grant and talk against it but although I wouldn't want to follow this type of pattern... but as far as, if you mean separatism as far as wanting to more or less control their own programs on campus, or more or less stick together and unify and do things as a group, but yet at the same time interact with the others

white community, or like this black studies program....  
 have a black studies program that is run by blacks, controlled by blacks.... at the same time allow white people, students and people to come into the program, like I think this is fine, as long as there is some kind of interaction .... when you say black separatism... to me, we are labeled as separatists.... it becomes harder to get together as a black group and determine things, but I don't think that you should call this separatism, because we are not going to separate ourselves from the total white society.... We are trying to get together and bring about some kind of effective change for the blacks that are concerned and we want black people to do this.... it is like unity.... it is not separatism, because we don't want to separate from the total white society.... we want some interaction but at a different level from that which is going on today.....

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 Okay, Conroy, the second part of that question was directed at you..... about colleges moving to reservations....

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 I think that it is good.... I don't know too much about the college at Many Farms... and the curriculum set up or ..... how it is.... especially what I do feel.... is that college doesn't become relevant to the Indian students that, there should be something set up where it would be,

where the Indian student could identify to that fact, like the curriculum, the administrators.... instructors..... that, because that is situated on the reservation, that Indian people are oriented in that fashion... that.... like I said... make some good relevant courses that, say, courses where they could be warranted back on the reservation, such as unemployment and poverty.... and these things and not from what I have seen in most institutions where they have... get into the Indian.... I have noticed, like vocational training.... and the only thing that Indians get is leather-crafts and this kind of think.... it shouldn't be this way, that alot of the girls are given a typewriter to learn by or something like that... and because I have seen it and that is the problem.... what I feel about this college right here.....

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Alright, we have another long distance call.... let's take it, for those of you who have been holding, we are getting to you, so please hang on.... thank you.... This is educational process..... go ahead please...

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Oh, I am calling from Santa Fe..... as a woman, a WASP, I might say..... I want to congratulate Barbara Brown for the intelligent and patient, may I say... with which she dealt with the gentleman who identified himself as director of Popejoy Hall.... and it seems that she exhibited some of



the arrogance, superiority that creates the atmosphere, of which Mr. Benavidez, Conroy, and Miss Brown all see... Now.... I wonder of what possibility there is for the funding of a black cultural center.... and the possibilities of an Indian cultural center.... for some of the things that Mr. Benavidez asked.... what possibilities do you suppose there are..... in some of these things for.... there, that they are interested in...?

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Thank you very much for your call.... if I could, I would like to have a relatively brief answer to this one and I am going to ask you, Dr. Lavender, if you could speak of that point... rapidly if you would.....

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I certainly will, obviously the money is a big problem and you never have a conversation when you don't get around to it when you are talking about instituting new programs in the university, particularly in New Mexico when our funds.... our state does a great job of, effort-wise, the amount of money available for all of our programs is only too limited.... I think that we have made a beginning for Indian-American.... Mexican-American... and we are committed I think towards this aspect of the programs that the students are recommending and studies program is another matter that has to be determined and approved.... and set ultimately by the

faculties.... they are more expensive than providing a place, which they can identify.... and we are moving in this direction and I certainly hope that we can get it done faster than it looks like is happening... and that wasn't very fast.....

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Alright, this is the educational process.... go ahead, please.... Thank you very much..... I would like to comment, or make and emplyfy some of the things that Barbara has said... I feel that for black people.... point one, black people must have pride within themselves.... and be proud as black people.... too many times I, a fellow colleagues who have been accepted in the social light... the black area... maybe they left because they wanted to develop in their type of income.... and failed to come back and they have the technical assistance too, for black people in these communities... and this is the problem, and this is something which I say, we must emphasize.... because black people must come back..... so that they can develop and see the relationship limit with these type of people... these like I say, is something that easy for a black man.... to move in an all white neighborhood..... and you can feel all the particular types of things that happen to him.... and his family in that particular neighborhood.... it is very easy for him to

do this..... he can just say, well I am going to accept this and move into this area... but number one, it is very very hard for a white person to move into a black person's area..... he won't receive this type of abuse, ..... I am moving in... but you see, this is the problem today, I have been involved in the poverty program and I have seen these types of things work and I might say to the panel that is there tonight, I think that they are doing a wonderful job and I must, I just can't get over saying, that the black people, must have pride within themselves.... whether they live in a black neighborhood, or mixed neighborhood..... If they live in the black neighborhood, let it be one of the best black neighborhoods that there is.... because they can have pride within themselves... not because when they move into.... I ma getting out, man, it is rough over there, because this is not the answer here, we must develop our own selves... in particular.... we have an area in Albuquerque, I am sure that you have been acquainted with it, if you go to the university.... Golf course.... this is in the big predominantly black neighborhood, but what I am saying for example, people like Ira Harge, people that are accepted into the University of New Mexico have done very little for an area like this where they say, pull up people... we have successful doctors... black doctors that have lent very little support in an area

like this. What I am saying is... that is it.... we cannot forget these people, and let's think about this, because if we are ever going to have pride in this country, it is time to do it nowadays..... and also the white people must be acquainted with... what they done in the past, and not just cover up the windows... for example, when you put lights on a Christmas tree, you have all kinds of bulbs... you have some blue some red, and different colors... well that is almost what they are doing with colored people today...we are covering up the door, we can't have that... we have to let basic qualifications..... seek and get them in, and the same way with the Spanish people..... I know for example in some areas of the city.... black people or Spanish people move next to whites and they move out, because they don't want the Spanish people there and the same thing with the Indians.... for example... let's look at this very deeply..... I don't think there is a very large audience tonight... who will look at this and say, well if a black man is in a nice area..... let them move into that area..... show unity.... I don't want to hold you too long, thank you very much.....

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Thank you very much.... that was a very relavent conversation.... This is the educational process, go ahead, please.....

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This is that arrogant director of Popejoy Hall again....

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Welcome back.....

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And again, I would like to address a couple of questions to Barbara Brown, which she was not able to answer or didn't answer.....

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Let me say, we have about three minutes left.....

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It won't be long.... you will take more time than I will we do have advertising, Barbara, we advertise in all the papers in town, including the LOBO, one of the biggest advertises in the LOBO, which has been giving us very good coverage.... if you don't read the newspapers, you will not get our message..... and we also try to get it on radio and television, but you know, one way or another, the word will go out that we are doing programs... you say you have never been to Popejoy Hall.... I repeat that we have done well over 300 programs in music, theaters, ballet and everything... and you have not seen one of these.... you automatically dismiss all of the wonderful music of the world.... Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, all the great theaters of the world..... and this applies to you..... we would like to know we sincerely would like to know, what does apply to you and the blacks,

you tell us, we will bring it here if it is available...

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Fine, thank you very much and can you make it very brief.... because we are flat out of time....

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Okay.... first of all, you contradicted yourself.... because you said that these types of things didn't have color so if that is true, I should enjoy anything that you do put over in Popejoy Hall..... second of all, yes I do know how to read, I am a senior in college and I do read the LOBO because I think the LOBO is a very good paper.... and other papers and evidently I am not the only black that didn't see your advertising because if so you would have had a bigger black turnout..... you would have interviewed all the black students on campus, you would find that 99% of them are in the dark about your programs, the same way that I am.... and if you want to continue this discussion further... you can reach me at the Afro-American culture center, I would be glad to come in and see you....

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Thank you very much and the director is going frantic.....

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Faculties, students and members of the administration of UNM, I am currently involved in a number of efforts to appropriate, academic and service programs.... to meet

these needs the problems that face members of minority groups, are not peculiarly and exclusively related... to university life... they are part of the larger aspect of society itself. Minority related programs at the university level.... important though they are, cannot solve all the problems of a minority.... they are only a part of what should be a total society effort.

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Thank you, Dr. Heady.... our guest on this program... is Dr. Harold Lavender, vice-president for student affairs..... at the University of New Mexico.... and it is good that you can be with us..... Miss Barbara Brown, who is a member of the Black Student Union at the University of New Mexico and Mr. Conroy Chino of the Kiva Club at the University of New Mexico..... and Eddie Benavidez who is on the President's Advisory Council for Arts and Sciences, Dean's Advisory Council and student affairs..... Gentlemen and Maam I am very pleased to have you all here, and I would like to pick up where Dr. Heady stopped and start by asking you some of the problems of your ethnic group, and that might be solved and have been solved partially or totally, by the university..... Eddie, I would like.....

END OF INTERVIEW