

daily nebraskan



Photo by Dave Bentz

Dianne Lutzi sits back in the warm fall sunshine on the steps of Woods Hall near a sculpture.

Poles flee homeland for future

By Laura Garrison

On June 25, 1981, they left Poland. They left the apartment they owned. They left their family and friends. And they left behind the Communist government, which they believed they had no future with.

Dariusz and Ewa Musierowicz, both 27, and their 6-year-old son Marcin fled the country they had been born and reared in, in an attempt to make a free life for themselves.

The fact that the young family had nothing to eat and the constant fear of waking in the morning to find Russian tanks in the streets added to their decision to flee Poland.

The family lived in Loze, Poland, a textile center with a population of about 1 million. Dariusz said his family was financially secure by Polish standards, but said in Poland, wealth means nothing.

"There is a certain reality that the Poles face," Dariusz said. "There is no word in Polish that means 'to buy', you can arrange or you can fix but you can't buy anything. There is a total economic breakdown."

Dariusz, who has a masters degree in English, taught school for only one year. Then he became a businessman for a Polish fur trading company. Two years ago he made the mistake of expressing an opinion about terms of trade with the Soviet Union. He said the USSR was milking Polish trade dry. A few days after the comment he was asked by company management to resign. For 18 months he was unemployed, because every time he applied for a job, the employers would check his references from the previous job. Finally, he started his own textile workshop.

Ewa was a dental student at the time. Although in theory, education is free, Ewa had to pay back the government for three years of her studies after she graduated, Dariusz said.

Last April, the family decided to apply for a passport. Dariusz told officials that his family was taking a vacation to Greece. It can take up to two or three months for passports to be cleared in Poland and many times authorities will turn down the requests on grounds of social and moral reasons, he said. The reasons are never explained in detail, Dariusz said.

Dariusz had to bribe an officer to clear his passport. The family, in a small car with only summer luggage, crossed the Polish border and headed for Austria. The family was put in a refugee camp 20 miles outside of Vienna, Austria, where their passport was taken away and they were granted political asylum for the United States Embassy in Vienna. At the refugee camp, the family applied to the World Council of Churches for a sponsor. The WCC placed them with the Marvin Johnson family of Lincoln, who are members of Lincoln's First Presbyterian Church.

The WCC paid the Musierowicz's air fare from Vienna to New York and then to Lincoln.

"At the time we found out we were going to Lincoln, Nebraska, all we knew was that Nebraska was in the heart of the United States and that it had a lot of farmland," Dariusz said. "We were pleasantly disappointed in the U.S. at our first glance because in Poland we had heard that the U.S. was like stepping into the 21st century, but instead we were greeted by friendly generous people."

Dariusz said that even if the Polish Solidarity Union has won rights for Poles, the future does not look bright if one studies past experiences in Poland.

"There have been three attempts since World War II that Poland has tried to get freedom from the Soviet Union," Dariusz said. "In 1956, 1967 and 1970, each time it has ended with Russian tanks coming into Poland and bloodshed."

Continued on Page 6

Student association nets two awards

By Melinda Norris

The Nebraska State Student Association clinched two of the nine awards Saturday at the Ninth Annual National State Students Association Conference at UNL.

The NSSA was awarded a plaque for the Most Improved New SSA Category and Nette Nelson, member of the Board of Directors of the NSSA, received the Rookie of the Year Award.

"After working for a year organizing the SSA, it's good to get a pat on the back," said Rick Mockler, a member of the NSSA Board of Directors. "We're delighted to be recognized on the national level."

Nebraska received the awards in recognition for the creation and development of its state student association in nine months, Nelson said.

"They are a reflection of students in Nebraska and how we can put it all together," she said.

"(These awards) show the nation that Nebraska isn't conservative," Nelson said. "Some SSA's perceived the midwest as being conservative and not as aware of issues

as on the coasts.

"The students in Nebraska are together," Nelson said. "They support higher education and work in the system to do it."

Nelson was also appointed to the National Alliance of State Students Association Board of Directors this weekend.

As a member, Nelson will represent Nebraska in the student association network, improving and initiating communication between student associations across the country.

Unlike the United States Student Association, which concerns itself with social issues, the NSSA concentrates only on education and communication between the states, Nelson said.

The NSAA is not ready to join the USSA, which is the national lobbying organization, Nelson said, but is ready to organize a statewide network.

Nelson reflected on the USSA saying, "We must be aware of what's happening around us. We may not agree — but to ignore it is worse."

Dual-sex housing is family to some

By Roger Aden

UNL's co-educational residence halls are still relatively new, but students, residence hall directors and Director of Housing Doug Zatechka all say the living arrangement is working well.

Zatechka said the first co-educational residence hall, Schramm, was established at UNL in 1971. Since he came to the university, Zatechka said, he has not noticed any major problems in the co-educational halls — Abel, Schramm, Neihardt and Selleck.

"Since I've been here I haven't been aware of any increase in problems that might come from this (co-educational halls)," he said. "There are a few incidents here and there involving damage, but I haven't seen any major problems."

"There's probably less roughhousing and damage than an all-men's or all-women's hall has, but that's a great generalization and it's not always true," Zatechka said. "There is a little less vandalism each year, though."

Joe Jordano, in his first year as residence director of Abel North, echoed Zatechka's remarks.

"I think women tend to add a calming atmosphere to the place," Jordano said. "It's not like an all-male dorm where there's a locker-room atmosphere. The guys have their consciousness raised and watch what they say and do."

Promiscuity unchanged

"Part of the college experience is working on social skills and relationships. Women offer a totally different perspective than men do, which helps in this process."

Jordano said it has been his experience that there is no significant difference in terms of sexual promiscuity in a co-educational residence hall as compared to a single-sex dorm.

"Some people outside the university say there's more immorality, but I don't think we can take that inference," he said.

Ed Gritzfeld, an Abel South resident, said he is happy with the co-educational atmosphere.

"We've got two lounges, one with a TV in it and one without. That one is more of a study place where people can study together. It's kind of like a family," he said.

Study atmosphere good

Wendy Buettow, Neihardt residence director, said co-educational halls provide more of an opportunity for men and women to work together.

"When you have both sexes living together a pride starts to develop," she said. "Each sex has to work with the other and there's more of a chance for different views."

Buettow said there is also an opportunity for a good study atmosphere, an assessment that Selleck resident Terry Morgan agreed with.

"It's pretty good (the study atmosphere)," he said. "There aren't too many distractions. You just have to put yourself some place where you can study."

Joe Johnston, a Schramm resident, said the proximity to women is one of the benefits of a co-educational residence hall.

"That's one of the reasons I signed up for this place," he said. "It's a lot more interesting and varied than if it's exclusively a male dorm."

Another Schramm resident, Lisa Christensen, also said the social aspect of a co-educational hall is a plus.

"We interact more since there's guys above and below us," she said. "We get to know them better so it's like a big family."

However, Christensen has one minor complaint. "The guys are louder than the girls," she said.

inside tuesday

Food for Thought: Author Jack Nelson says threatening to withhold food is a weapon resulting from an erosion in U.S. military and economic power. Page 7

You Are What You Wear: Costume rental outlets in Lincoln indicate that Halloween costumes are going fast. Page 8

Paid the Price: Nebraska football Coach Tom Osborne said his team came out of its 49-3 win at Kansas State with a few injuries that could keep some players out of the Missouri game Page 10