

Language barrier broken by NU dental students

By E. K. Casaccio

A large dose of patience and pantomime Thursday broke a language barrier at the NU College of Dentistry.

Four senior dental students and one dental hygienist treated members of the Cambodian Bouey Leang family without an interpreter's help.

The Leangs came to Lincoln from a refugee camp in Thailand. They lived there for nearly a year and a half after escaping from the Communist take-over of Cambodia.

They have been living in Lincoln for two months and speak little or no English, according to Jan Sorensen, a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

The church is sponsoring the Leangs' dental treatment under the guidance of another church member, Richard Bradley, dean of the College of Dentistry.

Jimi Ruse is treating two of the Leangs with the help of dental hygienist Leslee Groh.

Ruse said he had an "excellent patient" and communicates with him by sign language.

"They know we're having a hard time, so they mimic what we're doing," Ruse said.

Bill Hull, a senior dental student, said the Cambodians don't have many cavities because they eat few sweets. Hull was working on a 16-year-old girl who, he said, had never been to a dentist. A person in the same situation in this country "would have had a mouthful of cavities," he said.

Mark George said his 25-year-old patient is good-natured and it helps that the Cambodians don't have any fear of dentistry.

"You just wonder what they're thinking," George said. Instructor Dr. David Manary said the students' training in handling deaf patients gave them the "special patience and adaptability" required to handle non-English speaking persons.

Manary said the Leangs will continue treatment at the dental clinic for six months to a year.

Tapped out? Talk to Financial Aids

If after buying books, a football ticket and a parking permit you find you don't have enough money for tuition, the Financial Aids Office can help you find a job.

If your parents are farmers and made enough money last year that you didn't qualify for financial aid, but this year the crops failed, you can file a revised financial statement to get aid this year.

And through the guaranteed loan program you can borrow up to \$7,500 if you can find a bank that will process the loan.

To qualify for a government program of financial aid, the student's parents must file an application with the College Scholarship Service (CSS) in Washington, D.C. If eligible, they must submit a notice of eligibility to UNL by March 1.

Jack Ritchie, director of the Financial Aids Office, said that to meet this deadline, the financial aid form should be sent to CSS by the last week in January.

According to Ritchie, the standards for financial aid have not changed over recent years, but the number of students applying for aid has. This means that there are more students with greater needs applying and some students have lost their eligibility.

If a student is eligible according to financial need, he may receive a Basic Education Opportunity Grant (BEOG), a Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG), college work-study or a National Direct Student Loan (NDSL).

For a basic grant, a student must have financial need, academic eligibility and be enrolled on a halftime basis in a study program that lasts six months or more.

The supplemental grants are for students of exceptional financial need who would have to quit school without the extra money.

The National Direct Student Loan program enables students to borrow up to \$2,500 if they have finished less than two years of college. Students who have completed two years can borrow up to \$5,000 and graduate students can apply for up to \$10,000. Repayment begins nine months after the student leaves school and the payments can stretch over a 10-year period.

Ritchie said that although the size of the loans are generally larger, the actual number of grants and loans are about the same.

The guaranteed loan program enables the student to borrow directly from a bank. According to Ritchie, finding a bank that will process the loan often is difficult.

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