

# Ahhaitty: Education, hard work important

By Lauri Hopple

"I'm here talking to you because I'd like to save you from my mistakes," Glenda Ahhaitty, a Cherokee Indian, said during her lecture Wednesday in the Nebraska Union Rostrum. The lecture was sponsored by the Nebraska Native American Student Congress and the UPC Special Events Committee.

About 40 people attended the free lecture, most of whom were high school students attending NNASC's second annual spring conference for Native Americans.

Ahhaitty, now working for the Rockwell International Corp., said her mistake was not going to school.

Although she graduated from high school and took 55 college credit hours, Ahhaitty dropped out when her parents moved from California, where she had been attending college. Later, after marriage, four children and 15 years on an assembly line packing Dixie cups to support her family, Ahhaitty joined Rockwell.

Ahhaitty said her job with Rockwell International started as a fluke. She entered Rockwell as a file clerk. Through enthusiasm, hard work and her college credits, Ahhaitty said, she received promotions and raises that

enabled her to return to school.

"I will probably always be going to school," Ahhaitty said, "because there is just so much to learn."

Ahhaitty stressed hard work as one way to be successful.

"When I counsel young people (through her job with Rockwell), I tell them nobody will do it for you, you have to do it for yourself," she said.

Ahhaitty presented a slide show of successful Indian employees at Rockwell, again stressing hard work and education.

Robert Crippen was one of Ahhaitty's examples of a success. Crippen was an astronaut on the space shuttle Columbia's maiden voyage.

Ahhaitty said only 1 percent of Rockwell's 15,000 workers in her division are Native Americans. Sixty-five percent of the employees are engineers and only one is an Indian woman.

Along with a college education, Ahhaitty stressed vocational education (typing, shorthand and drafting, for example) to be used as a cushion for getting a job if a college degree is impossible.

"The main thing that's important is to build options

for yourself — do as much as you can now because when you are married and have a family a lot of those decisions aren't yours anymore," she said.

Ahhaitty encouraged the audience to look into Rockwell International's training programs for prospective engineers. She said experience gained through these summer programs could make the difference when applying for a job.

Ahhaitty said her division has developed special programs for Native Americans to help them with their education and employment. She works primarily with young people.

"I do tours, in-service training with parents and I work with school districts," she said.

She developed Rockwell International's vocational exposure program, which was funded as the first Summer Youth Employment Program to a private industry by Los Angeles County.

Ahhaitty has been with Rockwell International for 10 years.

"It's very exciting to be working where the future is being made," she said.

# CAP Director Boatman: It gets busy

By Lori Sullivan

How do you become involved in the multimillion-dollar nationwide campus activity program business? In Sara Boatman's case, it was "totally by accident."

During her first nine years of teaching, she was often involved with campus activity events, Boatman said. She became familiar with the organization and management needed for such events. Then one thing lead to the next, and she joined the Campus Activities and Programs office in 1974. She is now director of the office.

Boatman was elected this year's chairwoman of the National Association for Campus Activities in February. She explained that NACA is a national version of the CAP office here. The organization has members from 1,000 colleges and associate members in the professional promotion business.

Members exchange ideas and information, and NACA publishes a monthly magazine that explains how to co-

ordinate various types of events, she said. The organization has a lot of volunteers, she said, "probably because we work so much with student activity volunteers."

Locally, the CAP office helps more than 250 different student groups organize events from beginning to end.

The Journey concert, scheduled for Wednesday, was planned with the help of the CAP office. Many other concerts, film presentations, speakers and art displays are planned by the office as well, Boatman said.

Within a three-week period this year, Boatman said her office coordinated the Walpurgisnacht festival, the Nebraska Model United Nations program and the Big Eight Conference on Black Student Government.

"When one is doing programming for a community of 25,000 citizens, it gets busy," Boatman said, referring to the combined population of East and City campuses.

Student fee allocations are used for the CAP office budget and the non-profit events that the office coordinates.

The CAP office is a valuable resource to students, Boatman said. Students can learn how to contact performers, speakers or artists through directories and contacts the office can provide.

In addition to sponsoring events, the CAP office provides services to ethnic minority students, non-traditional students and new UNL students, along with many other programs.

Nearly every major college campus has an office that handles student activities, Boatman said. Some student groups may only need 15 minutes of CAP office assistance to plan an event, while other groups planning large events, like the Nebraska Model United Nations program, may need a year to plan the activity.

"The reason that this office has become so important is that we are now involved with events that take dozens of staff members, thousands of dollars and legal questions — it's becoming a very complicated business," Boatman said.

Boatman said the most complex event she remembers was a symposium called "Power and Conspiracy in America", which was presented in the late 1970s. The program involved more than 50 speakers and 30 small lectures.

She said that a more recent large event was the Big Eight Conference on Black Student Government in February. Coordination always becomes more difficult with events that go beyond the campus, she said.

The CAP office helped the students plan the event, write grant proposals and organize fund-raisers to meet the \$30,000 goal that they had set, she said.

Her work through the office is an extension of teaching, she said. The CAP office has a staff of 50 people, and 35 of them are students. Dozens of students who work in the office or in student organizations who have used the office to learn about managing activities use those skills to get jobs, she said.

"There are a lot of ways for a teacher to continue to teach besides being in a classroom," Boatman said.

For now, she is doing both. In addition to directing the CAP office, she teaches in the UNL Speech Communication Department.

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#### MARCH 31-THURSDAY

Workshop: Personal and Professional Relationships  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon  
Sponsored by MASA

Workshop: Career Development: How To Make Yourself Marketable  
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Presenters: John Holmes, Tony Cervantes  
Gary Pearson, Don Miles

#### APRIL 1-FRIDAY

Dancers: Zapatos Alegres (teaser) Main Lounge  
1:30 p.m.-1:50 p.m.  
Zapatos Alegres in Rostrum  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Movie: "Boulevard Nights" in Rostrum  
8:30 p.m.  
Admission: \$1.00

#### APRIL 2-SATURDAY

Recreation: Chicano Special Events "Fun Run"-Pioneer Park Pavillion  
8:00 a.m.  
Registration on site-\$2.00

Dance: Closing Ceremonies Dance-Lincoln Hilton @ 9th & P Streets  
9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.  
Band: Echo will perform  
Admission: \$2.00 for students  
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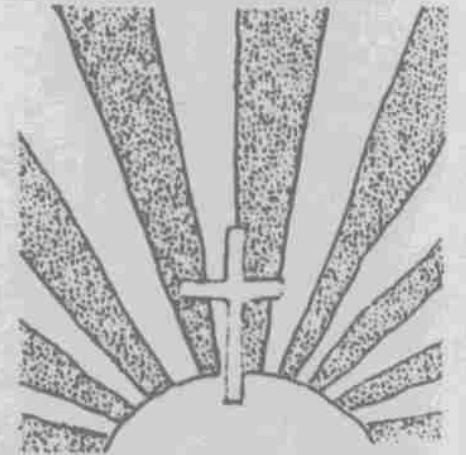
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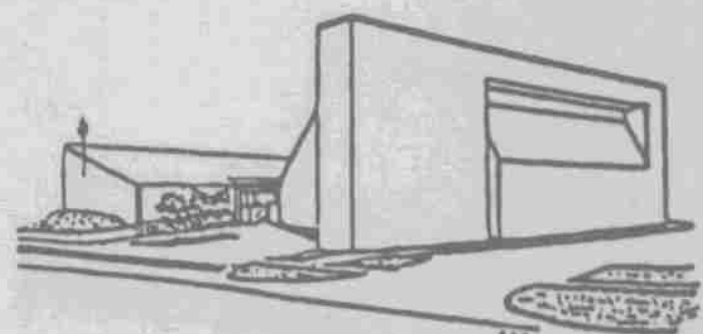
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