

Daily Nebraskan

Monday, September 19, 1983

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 83 No. 15

KAL incident tragic for student

By Robert McDonald and Teri Sperry

The world was shocked 2½ weeks ago when a South Korean airplane was shot down over Soviet territory, and 269 passengers were killed.

While most people overcame the shock and began to speculate about the causes and consequences, several thousand friends and relatives of the victims grieved. To them, it was more than an international political event; it was, and is, a personal tragedy.

Okon Hwan, a UNL student, is one of the grievors. Her former piano teacher died on Korean Air Lines Flight 007, she said.

The late Jung Ju Oh, professor of piano pedagogy at Korea University, was on her way to Seoul Sept. 1, after having completed a trip to the United States. She had traveled to this country to help her son move to an Ivy League university, Hwan said.

Hwan learned of her friend and teacher's death a few days after the incident, when her mother phoned her from South Korea, she said.

Hwan said she was very upset to hear the news, because she considered her relationship with Oh very special.

"She taught me to play the piano correctly. . . . Because of this, I was able to get into Seoul National University, the best music college in Korea," she said. Hwan, 28, said she owes her current position as a

first-year graduate student at UNL's School of Music, in large part, to Oh.

"She was a great instructor — very famous to musicians throughout my country," Hwan said.

Hwan said she had known Oh for about five years, and had studied with her for one year. In that time, Oh and Hwan's mother had become close friends, Hwan said. Hwan also knew Oh's two children.

Hwan saw Oh for the last time in Seoul at her piano teacher's home.

"I went to her home to thank her for all that she had done for me. It was she who wrote my recommendation to this university," she said.

Her memory of Oh, whom she believes to have been in her early 50s, is of "a really nice, warm and moreover, a very beautiful woman."

Hwan, a musicology major, said she doesn't know much about politics. She said she does not believe it is her place to discuss the Soviet Union's actions and their implications.

"I really don't want to think about that," she said. She did say, however, that she believes Korea should take harsher measures against the U.S.S.R. to make up for the suffering of so many people.

Hwan said she was sad because she knows nothing can ever make up for the death of Jung Ju Oh.

"I think she was the perfect woman. Her death is a great loss to my country and to myself," she said.



Photo by Robert McDonald
Okon Hwan

Workshop presents recreation, fitness programs for the disabled

By John Koopman

In recent years public and private institutions have placed great emphasis on making buildings more accessible to people with disabilities. Most physical fitness and recreation programs, however, have not yet been modified to include those people.

To help integrate disabled individuals into recreation programs, the League of Human Dignity and the Lincoln YWCA have developed a workshop to aid various health-care and fitness professionals in adapting existing programs to meet the needs of the disabled.

The culmination of a year's work and research, the first workshop was presented Thursday and Friday at Southeast Community College. Sixteen professionals attended the workshop which included a series of lectures, discussions and practical exercises.

the league, said the project began because of complaints voiced by disabled persons in the community who found it difficult to gain admittance to area fitness and recreation programs.

She said the league conducted a needs assessment in the community and sent letters to various disabled people to determine the types of programs they wanted.

Of the programs available to the disabled, she said, the needs assessment showed none open to all individuals, disabled or not. Most programs available to the disabled, she said, consisted of "one-time" special offers for groups of disabled people.

Rost said the league found the majority of disabled people responded that they would prefer to participate in programs with both non-disabled and disabled people.

Much of the discussion at the workshop centered on the importance of attitudes when working with disabled persons.

"People either make the assumption that we can do something that we can't, or that we can't do anything," said Skip McKeeman, league independent living adviser. McKeeman

is disabled.

Nancy Erickson, project coordinator for the league, explained the use and misuse of words and how they affect the attitudes of the disabled. She said words like cripple, victim, afflicted, suffers from, and vegetable should never be used.

"A lot of disabled persons' problems have to do with our attitudes toward each other," she said.

Erickson and McKeeman made their comments during a panel discussion Thursday dealing with disability information and accessibility and transportation problems.

After the panel discussion, the group divided into sections to practice disability simulation. Each person either was blindfolded, had cotton stuffed in his ears, or was confined to a wheelchair.

After being assigned a disability, the groups wandered the halls of the college and tried to perform certain social functions, such as going to the bathroom, getting a drink of water and asking a stranger for help.

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Staff photo by Dan Kuhns

All bets are on as racing action begins at Lincoln's race track.

First day at the races — big bets on fleet feet

By Jim Rasmussen

A sunny fall day greeted a crowd of 5,215 people Friday afternoon as the Lincoln Fairgrounds racetrack opened its fall horse racing season.

A total of \$508,436 was wagered on the 10 races, a spokesman for the Nebraska State Racing Commission said.

"Everything went great for opening day," Track Manager Henry Brandt said.

Anna Sieler of Monroe said she and her son traveled to Lincoln for the races "just because it's opening day."

"I love to watch the horses," she said. "And of course, it helps if you win money. It's no fun if you lose all the time."

Sieler said she doesn't have any special system for betting.

"I just take chances on 'em," she said.

Greg Edwards, a UNL junior majoring in engineering, said he enjoys the excitement of the races.

"You sit there and try to figure out which horse will win, and when your horse comes in first, it's exciting," he said.

Ruth Dorn, a Lincoln resident, said she goes to the races to get out of the house, to get away from work, and to win money.

Dorn said she attends the races every day, but wouldn't classify herself as a racing expert.

"Sometimes I know 'em, and sometimes I don't," she said.

Brandt said the horses will run Wednesdays through Sundays until Nov. 13, the last day of the season.

"We've got a lot of good horses this year, so I hope the people will come on out," Brandt said.

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