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Language resource bank seeks emergency translators

By Janet H. Chu

A foreign language resource bank is being developed in Lincoln primarily to help police, health and fire personnel communicate with victims in emergency situations.

Marcia Wohlers, 5218 High St., has started organizing a list of volunteer translators for the program.

She said that Kearney has a similar program in conjunction with the Red Cross already in progress. In Kearney, in case of an emergency, police call volunteers who contact the interpreters.

The Minnesota International Center in Minneapolis has "phrase sheets" in addition to their translators list, Wohlers said. They have translated what

they consider to be the three phrases most commonly needed in an emergency situation, into 35 different languages. Non-English speaking people in need of help point on the phrase sheet to indicate the language they speak. An interpreter for that language is then contacted.

The phrases are: "Do you need assistance or help?"; "Please wait, I will make arrangements for an interpreter"; and "Sorry, it will take a little longer."

Wohlers said the community bank is being developed in "response to a growing international population" in Lincoln. According to the UNL Bureau of Business Research, the number of foreign-born residents in Nebraska increased from 3,956 to 5,489 between 1970 and 1980, a 16 percent increase.

But Judy Wendorff, program coordinator for International Educational Services at UNL, said population statistics should not be an important factor in determining a need for a resource bank.

"It's not a numbers game," she said. "If you save one person, you justify having that list."

Seventy-five percent of the refugees settling in Lincoln are from Southeast Asia, said Maria Diaz, state refugee resettlement coordinator. Others are mostly from Afghanistan, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

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UNL atomic research rates high, experts say

By Jim Rasmussen

There is a lot of banging around going on in the sub-basement of Behlen Laboratory on the UNL campus.

No, the football team isn't using Behlen as an indoor practice field. The sub-basement of Behlen is the location of one of the finest atomic collision labs in the country.

Inside the lab, ion accelerators fire atomic and sub-particles at high speeds into collision chambers, where they collide with target atoms or simple molecules.

Eugene Rudd, UNL professor of physics, is one of the physicists working on the atomic collisions project. Rudd and his colleagues, professors Duane Jaecks and Donal Burns, have been working together for 15 years at UNL.

Their research has centered on the reactions that occur when atomic or sub-atomic particles collide with one another.

"Atomic collisions are probably the most common occurrence in the universe," Rudd said. "They occur in our atmosphere, inside stars like our sun, by the billions, and we need to know what happens during those collisions."

Rudd said atomic collisions research has several practical applications, one of which is the study of the "northern lights." These are caused by waves of high speed electrons colliding with molecules of nitrogen and oxygen in the earth's atmosphere.

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Photo by John Zoz

Gene Ray, from Columbus warms up for the freestyle event in Sunday's frisbee competition. Story on Page 6.

'Gamers' wage war at convention

World War II naval battles on the open sea and a Civil War Yankee-Confederate confrontation were waged in Selleck Quad, campus, over the weekend.

The battles, fought by "gamers" using miniature figures, were part of a few of the contests played during the Lin-Con V Games Convention.

Participants played more than 50 different miniature games, including games using miniature board games such as Pente and Star Fleet and role-playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons.

Mark Hayes, owner of Hobby Town and one of the convention's organizers, said more than 200 people attended the event, which began Friday and ended Sunday. Most came to play, he said, but others just watched the battles waged on their own and on video television screens. Video games shown included "Star Wars" and "Sands of Time."

Hayes said that attendance doubled over last year and that it has grown each year since the convention's 1979 beginning.

Almost all of the participants were male, he said. He described the activities as "very competitive, aggressive games," and said such games don't interest many females.

Game winners won more than \$600 in prizes. An overall winner received a trophy and a \$50 Hobby gift certificate.

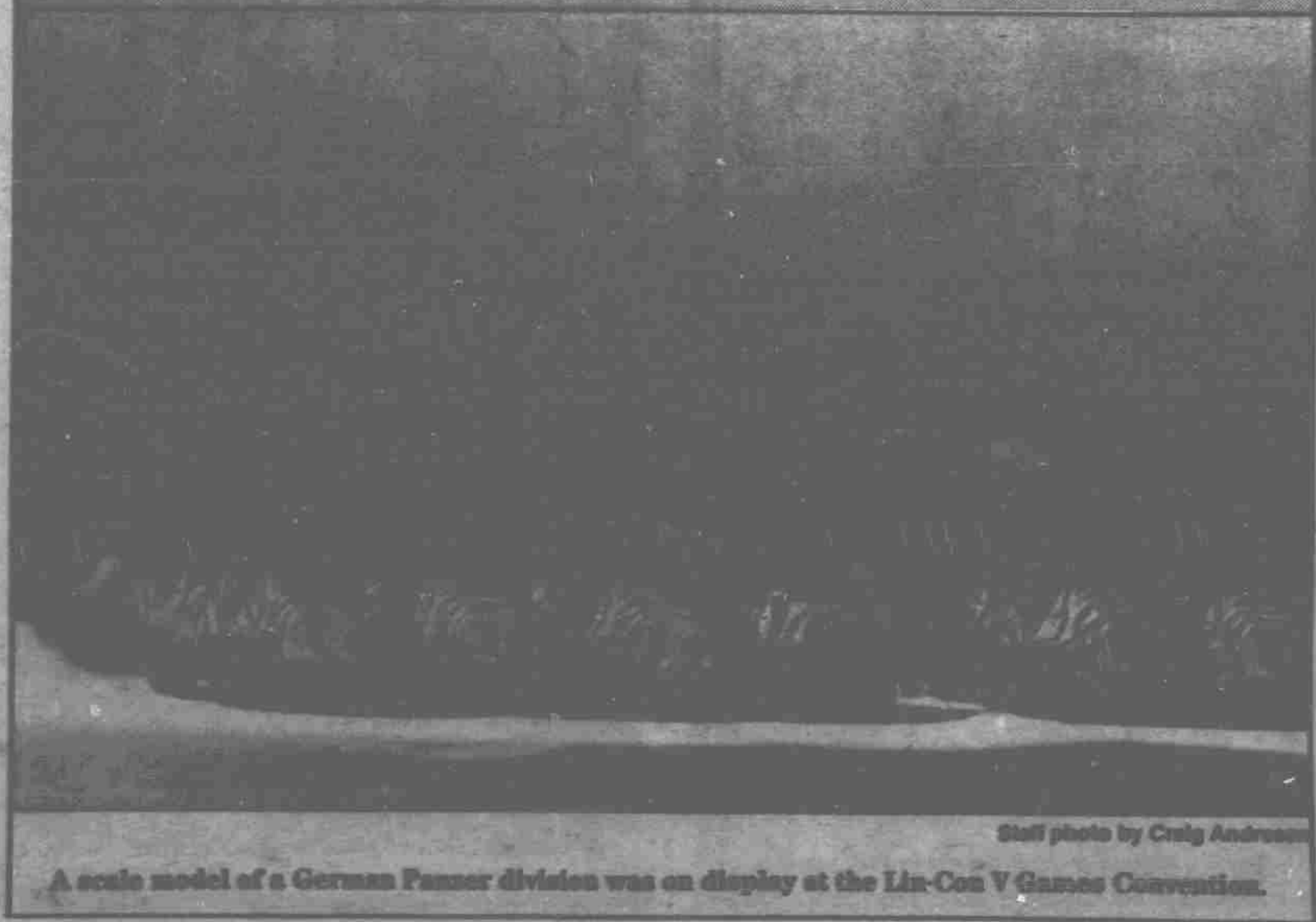
The youngest participants were 10 years old, Hayes said. Many of the other participants belong to the UNL Gamers and Dungeon and Dragons clubs. The convention also attracted participants from various Nebraska towns, and from Oklahoma and Missouri.

Robert Parkinson of Baraboo, Wis., displayed his scale model of a German Panzer Division of 1944.

Parkinson said he cannot play a game with his model division, which includes 13,726 men and 3,456 vehicles, because he does not have an enemy.

He said he hopes to someday find someone with a division large enough so they can "have a gigantic game on a gymnasium floor."

The UNL Gamers Club, the Lincoln Gamers Association and the Lincoln Hobby Town stores sponsored this year's convention.



Staff photo by Craig Anderson

A scale model of a German Panzer division was on display at the Lin-Con V Games Convention.

Monday

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