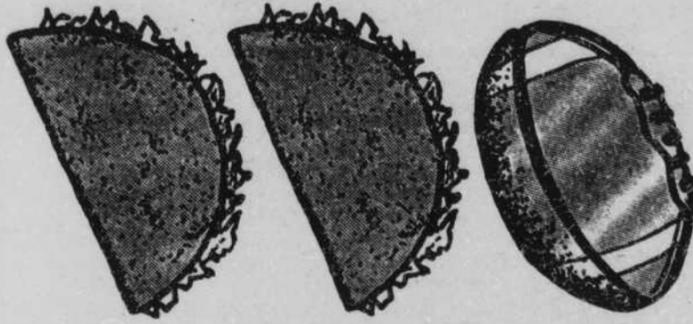


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Membership doubles Teachers College helps SEA grow

By Courtney Butherus
Staff Reporter

The Student Education Association at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has doubled its membership during the last year, said Pat Sim, SEA member and Teachers College adviser.

Sim attributed this growth to improved unity and public relations within the Teachers College, which she said have helped promote this organization of future teachers.

The establishment of the Student Service Center, which provides advising and services for students in the Teachers College, is one of the reasons for SEA's growth, Sim said.

"It's been a unifying force, giving the students a place to go and interact with others in their college," Sim said.

She said the center provides a central location for publicity and public relations services for groups like SEA.

Sim also said that recent SEA officers have contributed to the organization's growth.

"The officers we've had the past few years have been hard-working and dedicated to promoting and improving the opportunities provided by the organization," Sim said.

SEA President Marsha Vodehnal said the officers have worked to publicize benefits and opportunities of membership in SEA.

SEA is an affiliate of the Nebraska State Education Association and National Education Association, which are both organizations of practicing teachers, Vodehnal said.

Members receive the same benefits as teacher members, she said.

As president of both SEA and NSEA, Vodehnal said both groups have given her a number of opportunities.

"SEA has provided me with communication skills and enabled me to meet a lot of people in my field."

"It gives students a good starting point toward their future and helps them anticipate changes in their edu-

cational and occupational pursuits," she said.

Vodehnal said that through SEA she had the opportunity to attend the leadership conference in New Orleans where she was one of six selected out of 37,000 nationally to serve on a standing committee. Vodehnal is the second student ever from UNL to serve on the national standing committee.

SEA Adviser Pat Sim said that "because we have a strong organization, it provides opportunities for students which in turn reflect back on the organization and Teachers College."

"A study done through Northern Illinois three years ago rated UNL Teachers College student-teaching program best in the United States," Sim said.

"Teachers College is a strong college," she said. "And the emergence of SEA as a stronger organization, along with the consolidation of student services have brought more recognition to its strengths."

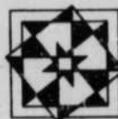
Education legislation included in task force's AIDS battle

By Shawn Schuldies
Staff Reporter

The Lincoln/Lancaster County AIDS Task Force uses education and legislation in its fight against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

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John Taylor, vice chairman of the task force, said stereotypes hinder AIDS education. Many people still think AIDS is just a gay disease, he said.

"People who think they can't get the disease because they are heterosexual are dead wrong," Taylor said.

The percentage of AIDS patients in the United States who are heterosexual has increased from 1 percent to 4 percent, Taylor said.

On the other hand, the percentage of AIDS patients who are gay or bisexual has decreased from 75 percent to 66 percent, he said.

The stereotype of AIDS being a gay disease goes back to when it was first discovered, he said. The disease was first called Gay Related Immuno Deficiency.

In order to break the stereotypes, education needs to be aimed at specific groups, he said. Two of the groups the task force tries to educate are drug abusers and minorities, he

said. The 15-member task force, which began more than a year ago, is made up of community volunteers that include gay and minority representatives. Task force members are available to speak to any group who asks for information, he said.

Another important aspect of education is repetition, Taylor said. People need to hear the message more than once before they fully understand it, he said.

All groups must understand that AIDS cannot be transmitted through casual contact, Taylor said. Because of a misunderstanding of the disease, AIDS has led to unnecessary fear and discrimination, he said.

Because a high proportion of gays and blacks have AIDS compared to the rest of the population, Taylor said, they have been discriminated against.

Although Taylor said he knows of no discrimination in the Lincoln area, he said, he has heard of discrimination against AIDS victims in other parts of the country.

Discrimination may not be as obvious here as in other places because the Lincoln area has a low minority population, Taylor said.

The task force also supports state legislation that ensures fair treatment of AIDS patients and ensures the public's safety, Taylor said.

The task force would like to see legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of AIDS test results. But legislation needs to be enforced if it's going to do any good, he said.

Taylor said he hopes state senators realize that spending money on AIDS education and passing appropriate legislation will save lives in the future.

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