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Monday

WEATHER: Monday, mostly sunny, high around 60 with NW winds at 10-15 mph. Monday night, partly cloudy and breezy, low in the mid 30s. Tuesday, mostly sunny and breezy, high in the upper 50s.

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Speaker calls homophobia discriminating and painful

By Lisa Donovan
 Staff Reporter

Once people deal with their own homophobia, they can educate others to accept and understand homosexuality, said Judith Nelson and Terry Tafoya. Tafoya and Nelson spoke to about 40 people during the second annual 'RAP on Homophobia' at the East Campus Union Saturday.

Nelson, from Jefferson County Public Schools in Colorado, defined homophobia as "a form of oppression which discriminates against and causes great pain to gay men and lesbians and limits heterosexuals in the fullest expression of their humanness."

Everyone has homophobia, she said.

"No one knows what causes homo-

sexuality," Nelson said. "It's not a choice. It's a given."

The day-long event, sponsored by the Lincoln's chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Educational Psychology, featured discussions on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, religion and youth as well as presentations by Nelson and Tafoya.

In a speech about "Youth at Risk," Nelson said youths need to be educated about homosexuality so that it is acceptable for gay youths to 'come out of the closet.' Education also will allow gay youths to live in positive growing environments, she said.

According to Nelson, homosexual youths risk AIDS, bullying, drug-involvement, exploitation, loneli-

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Star Wars is wrong

Analyst says SDI holds up agreements

By David Holloway
 Senior Reporter

A spokesman from the Union of Concerned Scientists Voter Education Project spoke against President Reagan's proposed Strategic Defense Initiative on Friday.

Nebraskans for Peace sponsored Allan Krass, a senior arms analyst for the union, to speak in several University of Nebraska-Lincoln classrooms.

'We believe SDI is holding up major arms agreements which would cut nuclear arms by 50 percent.'

—Krass

"UCS's major focus is SDI," Krass said. "We believe SDI is holding up major arms agreements which would cut nuclear arms by 50 percent."

Krass said the concept of SDI, commonly known as Star Wars, is wrong. He said defending people against nuclear weapons is impos-

sible. No matter how many anti-nuclear weapons a country has, people still will be killed in the event of a nuclear war, he said.

President Reagan did not know what he was getting into when he announced his plans, he said.

Krass said the union, which is made up of concerned scientists nationwide, has focused on SDI since 1983. He said that before 1983, the groups put their main focus on the safety of nuclear power plants. Krass said SDI will continue to be its focus until the program folds.

"The president made the decision by himself with the help of a small group of scientists," Krass said. "The Pentagon keeps changing the plans for SDI as the public finds the flaws."

Krass said the United States needs fewer weapons and more arms control.

Krass said the science union does not endorse any presidential candidate. He said that if the people care about the arms issue, the president they choose will have to take voter concerns into consideration.

Krass, who travels around the country four to five times a year to educate the public about the SDI issue, said he does not know how effective the presentations are. He said his main purpose is to get the voters concerned with the issue.



Mary Siems, from Denver, Colo., and Jerry Newcomb of Omaha comfort each other during a candlelight vigil for AIDS victims at the Capitol Building Friday night. The two said they lost a mutual friend to the disease.

Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Vigil draws crowd, memories

By Victoria Ayotte
 Senior Reporter

A candlelight procession marched around the capitol Friday night in memory of AIDS victims, bringing back memories of those who had died because of the disease.

About 200 people attended the vigil. Some said they attended the event to remember friends who have AIDS and bring awareness to the problem.

"It's kind of a symbol of hope," John Fumple of Omaha said about the procession.

Fumple said he has several friends who have Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which he said gives him "a real concern" for AIDS victims.

Bill Norman of Lincoln said he also was stirred by the vigil.

"It's very moving to see this number of people and see that it's something that affects everyone—not just people like me," he said. "I have (known) someone who is HIV positive. I've given up trying to destroy myself for the virus."

Vicki Gardner of Lincoln said she attended the event to educate others of the problem. She said that good attendance at the event would alert the public to the problem.

"I think it's a matter of importance," Gardner said. "It's important people be educated about what's going on."

"It's got to stop," she said. "I hope that maybe others will see and want to learn more about it."

Mary Siems of Denver also said she attended the vigil to bring about awareness of AIDS.

"I think it's really important we raise consciousness of everybody, to be compassionate and loving to people with AIDS and see this is going to affect all of us," Siems said.

Missy Hasselbalch of Lincoln said the ignorance associated with AIDS is "sad."

"Awareness should be heightened," Hasselbalch said.

"We need to get it across to people," Jerry Newcomb of Omaha added.

Frankie Blankman of Omaha said she thought the vigil was

"good, but sad at the same time."

After marching around the capitol, those attending sat on the west steps of the capitol to hear several speakers.

Georgia Siskas of the Nebraska AIDS project said, "We have in our community a task of building caring, loving attitudes."

Joel Gajardo, the coordinator of the Hispanic Community Center Minority Education Task Force, said his organization helped sponsor the event to bring awareness to AIDS as a disease that "is affecting potentially everyone."

Gajardo led the group in a rendition of Kumbayah.

"We're going to sing 'someone is crying,' 'someone is hurting,' 'someone is dying,' but the one we're going to sing extra strong is 'someone is hoping,'" Gajardo said.

Afterward, Gajardo said he was pleased with the event's turnout.

"Look at them," he said of the many still huddled together after the event. "They don't want to leave."

Faculty disagree on importance of grammar



By Lynn Schwebach
 Staff Reporter

Grammar, some University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors say, is only a tool to polish writing, yet other UNL professors maintain that grammar is the essential element in learning how to write.

At the beginning of each semester, Frank Beasley, a teaching assistant in the English department, said he tells students in his fiction writing class not to worry about grammar in the first drafts of their papers.

Beasley said that grammar, a mechanical process, can get in the way of students' creativity. The main emphasis in the first draft, Beasley said, should be content and meaning.

"There is a large school of thought that says expression should be focused on the most, and grammar should be a supplement," Beasley said.

However, Beasley said he doesn't think grammar is unimportant. Grammar becomes a tool to polish the second and third drafts, Beasley said.

But R. Neale Cople, dean of the College of Journalism, has a different view.

"Grammar does not inhibit the creative process, but it helps to guide the student,"

Cople said.

Grammar, Cople said, provides a common vocabulary for both the teacher and student to use when analyzing the student's work.

For example, if a sentence does not make sense because the object does not agree with the subject, students need to know what those terms are in order to correct the sentence, Cople said.

Since students frequently do not know the basic parts of speech, they do not understand a professor's analysis of their writing, Cople said. This frustrates teachers in the College of Journalism, Cople said.

Cople said that in the business world, good writing skills are just as important as in journalism.

Good writing skills, Cople said, means composing a clear, understandable and grammatically correct sentence.

Robert Brooke, assistant professor of English, said teachers today need to study the research completed in the last 20 years to approach the grammar issue.

Brooke said research clearly demonstrates that the traditional approach to teaching grammar — drills, workbooks and "fill-in-the-blank" exercises — is not effective.

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