

Quilt

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Then, Dr. Gregg Wright, speaking for Gov. Kay Orr, began reading the list of names of those who have died of AIDS. "Billy . . ."

During the reading, Danklesen and other volunteers, in groups of eight, circled a folded panel and held hands. Some stepped forward and unfolded the square. The volunteers lifted it above their heads and turned it to fit within the grey square of concrete between the walkways.

After the opening ceremonies, John Coe, the president of the Nebraska AIDS Project, said he was feeling "pretty shocked at the moment."

Coe said that although this was his third time involved in this type of project, it was "just as moving."

"They (the people on the panels) are all individuals and somebody spent a lot of time remembering these people," he said.

The sections are 24-by-24 feet and contain 32 panels that are 3-by-6 feet.

Some of the panels done by families or friends were a sheet with a name sprayed on them. Others, such as Danklesen's to her brother John, were more elaborate.

Two panels were made in honor of John, one by each side of the family, Danklesen said. From the mother's side is a panel with a deep purple background and 18 patches remembering John.

The one from his father's side is similar, but with fewer patches. It will be added to the main quilt. Danklesen is keeping the other panel for speeches she does on AIDS education throughout Nebraska.

"I haven't been able to part with it yet," she said. "Each time you look at a panel, it reminds you of something in his life. It brings back tears."

John, who lived in Lincoln for a while, was a model and singer. His talent took him to San Francisco, where he sang for the city's symphony choir. He then modeled in Paris for a year and finally came to New York where he found he had AIDS.

John returned to Nebraska for two

years before moving to Los Angeles. After two weeks in Los Angeles, John acquired pneumonia. He returned to Grand Island in September 1988.

Danklesen described her brother as "living on laughter."

The patches made by family members were diverse, showing individual pieces of John. One was a list of several quotes from letters John had written. One said "dying wouldn't be failing, but not fighting would be."

Danklesen said, "The main thing he gave to me was to stand up for what I believe."

On Sunday at 5 p.m., panels from Nebraska were added to the quilt. As each person's name was called, the makers presented the panel to England and to Dave Anderson, co-chairman of the quilt committee. Danklesen was among those presenting a panel.

"I didn't want to look up. I knew I'd see his friends and cry," Danklesen said.

"It was neat to have the whole family here," she said. "That was the gift. One of the positive things from John being sick was a closeness."

She said her family will return home and continue to get more involved with AIDS education.

Lincoln media chairwoman Amie DeFrain said 650 people viewed the quilt Saturday and she "wouldn't even want to estimate" how many came on Sunday.

"It was packed," Danklesen said. More people should live up to the challenge of reaching out and showing their love for friends and family, Danklesen said.

"Search your own heart for the truth," she said, "and then stand up for the truth."

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RHA stokes hunt for arsonist

By David Burchell
Staff Reporter

The Residence Hall Association Sunday upped the ante for arson information, bringing the prize for reporting the residence hall firebug to \$1,250.

RHA approved adding \$250 to the \$1,000 being offered by university housing officials for reporting arson.

The money will be drawn from RHA's contingency fund.

Andrew Galbraith, a senator from Harper Residence Hall, said he thought it was important for RHA to back up its intentions on the arson problem.

"The best way to back it up is with cash on the table," he said.

At least seven arson fires have been set in the residence halls in the

last three weeks, police reported.

Pound Residence Hall President Kris Foster said residence hall arson was an escalating problem, and something needed to be done before it became a greater one.

But not all present were hot for the measure.

Schramm Sen. Candace Taft said she didn't think the added reward money would make a difference.

Taft said RHA could work against the fires in other ways, such as passing a resolution denouncing the vandalism and educating residents about the fires' dangers.

Stu Burns, a senator from Selleck Residence Hall, said he is concerned about overtaxing RHA's contingency fund.

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