

# Quincentennial chance to heal, activist says

By Andy Raun  
Staff Reporter

## Huerta: Landing marks 500 years of suffering

The quincentennial anniversary of Christopher Columbus' landing in the New World should be made an opportunity for oppressed groups to heal, a union official and liberal activist said Thursday evening.

Dolores Huerta, a founding member and first vice president of the United Farm Workers of America, spoke in the Nebraska Union as part of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's observance of Chicano Awareness Week.

Huerta, active in the labor movement since 1962, spoke of both her

experiences and her hopes to a crowd of about 80 people.

Huerta said that Oct. 10, the date set aside to observe Columbus' landing on Hispaniola in 1492, should be marked at UNL by discussing the plight of Hispanics, Native Americans, African-Americans, Asian-Americans and others who have suffered under the influence of European culture brought to the Americas.

In addition, she said, people need to know about the atrocities Columbus and others inflicted on the indigenous groups they encountered.

"The reason (to discuss the atrocities) isn't that we want to dwell or reflect on these things; it's that people don't know about it," she said.

Huerta said that because European culture historically relegated women to be men's personal property, women had suffered along with minority ethnic and racial groups.

Women and minorities need to reach out and work to gain a larger voice in politics and society, she said.

Pointing to comparative levels of defense and social program spending, as well as treatment of farm

workers in California and other states, Huerta said many decisions made by state and national government were wrong.

Government will continue making wrong decisions, Huerta said, until women and minorities are represented in Congress in proportion to their percentage of the general population.

Huerta, whose union has led a boycott of California table grapes sprayed with toxic pesticides, said that in addition to abiding by the boycott, Americans must not tolerate racist or sexist jokes in their presence.

Huerta said she was involved with a group called Feminist Majority, which is working to get women on the ballot for political office in California, Washington, Arizona and possibly Colorado.

She decried the fact that only two percent of the seats in the U.S. Senate and about five percent in the U.S. House of Representatives were filled by women.

Huerta also is promoting a new political party to be made up of women, minorities and environmentalists.

America needs a new political party, she said, since both Republicans and Democrats are to blame for the woes and injustice now being suffered in the nation.

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### Parking

Continued from Page 1

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Oxley said the parking committee could have placed an announcement about the enforcement in the Daily Nebraskan to give students more notice.

"Sometimes (parking officials) just assume that if one student knows, the whole student body knows," she said.

Ray Coffey, UNL's business

manager, said the increase in ticketing was an effort to be fair to students who had bought night permits. Students with permits were being pushed out of their spots by those without such permits, he said.

Money generated from the permits and parking violations is used toward maintenance and improvements needed in the lots, Coffey said.

Students who do not help pay for such improvements should not benefit from them, he said.

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