

Expert studies war, children

Healing process involves listening, researcher says

By Steve Smith
Staff Reporter

Only people, not time, can cure the effects of trauma on children in war-ravaged countries, an international expert said Monday.

"There's a load of tension and anxiety stored in these children's memories that has left them bound and helpless," Magne Raundalen said.

"Only people can make the difference. Time does not heal these wounds."

Raundalen, a leading researcher on the response of children to life-threatening situations, spoke to about 50 people at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

Raundalen, who teaches at the

University of Bergen in Norway, reflected on his experiences with children in Uganda, Sudan, Mozambique, Israel's West Bank and Gaza Strip, Iraq and the former Yugoslavia.

His lecture was part of an all-day conference with international and local experts on "Children and War: U.S. Responsibilities at Home and Abroad."

The conference, sponsored by UNL's Center on Children, Families and the Law, featured films, lectures and discussions on the psychological effects of war on children, international law and the plight of refugee families in Lincoln.

Raundalen said the first step to helping children in war-torn countries regain a sense of normalcy was to simply listen.

"Being able to listen about the most severe atrocities that they may have experienced is the first step," he said. "And someone must understand it."

Raundalen said the key was to

form cohesion in life through expression.

"A traumatized life can be knitted together through expression of these events," he said. "It can form a bridge that will lead to eventual recovery."

As a UNICEF consultant, Raundalen has designed mental health and education programs for children in war zones in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

He told of a boy in Bosnia who had seen his family killed during a grenade attack. Raundalen said he spent several days with the boy as he recounted the horror.

"He told me at first he wished that he had died along with his parents," Raundalen said. "But now, he praises the doctors and nurses that saved his life. But he still has the terrible pictures in his head—he doesn't think he will live to adulthood."

"But he lives today, and he hopes to live tomorrow."

Burr installs agriculture news system

By Trish Spencer
Staff Reporter

Members of the Residence Hall Association voted Monday night to pay \$399 for a year's subscription to the Farm Dayta system that was installed in the lobby of Burr Residence Hall last month.

Douglas Olsen, vice president of the Burr/Fedde Residence Association, said the system transmitted agricultural news, weather forecasts and the futures markets to a monitor in the Burr lobby through a satellite on the roof. The futures markets include information from the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Students who take certain agricultural classes, such as Agricultural

Economics 211, or who sell livestock or grains, use the system the most, Olsen said.

Agriculture students must keep up on the weather and foreign trade markets because they affect the demand for grain and livestock, Olsen said. About 25 Burr residents used the system the first week, he said, and now 50 or 60 residents use it regularly.

Some of the programs the system offers, such as the weather, benefit students in non-agriculture majors, he said.

Olsen said the weather segment

broke the United States and Nebraska into sections and provided information three to five days or six to 10 days in advance.

"It's as good as a TV newscast," he said.

Students who do not live in Burr also are welcome to use the system, which is on 24 hours, Olsen said.

In other business, Chuck Rensink, RHA adviser, reminded students that live greenery, including Christmas trees, was not allowed in the residence halls.

Heath Kramer, Harper-Schramm-Smith Complex president, also announced that the complex was sponsoring a "Pre-Finals Blowout Dance" Thursday from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

UNL may introduce visitors' center

By Matt Woody
Staff Reporter

New students may have an easier time acquainting themselves with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the future if a visitors' center becomes a reality.

A visitors' center would make it easier for new students and parents to get information about the university before classes start, said John Benson, director of institutional research and planning.

Prospective students now attend New Student Enrollment or visit the

Office of High School and College Relations, located in the Administration Building.

Benson said a visitors' center would offer advantages over the current office, which is hard to find and not close enough to parking lots.

A visitors' center was proposed as part of a study about uses for the land at the southern edge of City Campus.

University planners are looking at ways to enhance the campus along R Street, from 10th to 17th streets. They are creating a long-range plan for development that will fit in with the

university's goals for the future, Benson said.

The staff also is looking at ways to create a transition zone between downtown Lincoln and UNL, and to provide more space for administrative offices, the theatre arts and dance department and international programs, Benson said.

Benson emphasized that there were no concrete plans for the land yet. But, he said, UNL wants to be ready so that "when there is an opportunity to build, then what we have is a location for our comprehensive plans."

Buddy

Continued from Page 1

Sandra Miller, a drug and alcohol counselor at the Lincoln/Lancaster County Drug Project and a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said one of the things she gained from her experience as an AIDS buddy was a sense of her own mortality.

Miller also realized the complexity of the disease. In Nebraska, AIDS still is seen as linked to gay men, she said, but it is not limited to them.

AIDS often affects people on lower socioeconomic levels with many problems besides the disease, Miller said.

"People think when they get involved it will be 'clean,'" she said. "They don't realize (the patients) are in crisis."

Miller said her training as a social worker and experience as a drug counselor had been helpful in the buddy program. For example, she said, she is able to see that a client with a substance abuse problem has little motivation to stop using drugs once diagnosed with AIDS, while other buddies may feel that is the first step a client should take.

The complexity of AIDS includes economic issues and grief, Miller said, as well as personal and social issues.

Despite their differences, the buddies share a certain idealism,

“That's where being a buddy . . . fills that gap where other people are not able to help.”

Schroeder legislative aide

and a sense that their efforts are worthwhile.

Hejdkuk described his new client as someone who was fairly well-set financially with a good social support system, whose only association with Hejdkuk right now was his illness. Consequently, the new client has preferred distance in the buddy partnership.

"Part of being a buddy is knowing when to lay off," Hejdkuk said. "When he's ready . . . and needs me to wash dishes or drive him to the doctor, that'll be fine."

Being a buddy to someone with AIDS demands patience, hard work and, Hejdkuk said, "doing some fairly unglamorous things."

Schanke explained her motivation for involvement in the buddy program: "These are people who need help. They're no different than the victims of Hurricane Andrew or in Bangladesh."

Miller mentioned the importance of a human element among the statistics surrounding deaths from AIDS. The AIDS vigil in October, in which one person stood apart

from the larger group to represent each person who had died from the disease, was meaningful to her, she said.

Hejdkuk's client died almost two years ago, but Hejdkuk has a strong reminder of him through the Names Project Quilt. Hejdkuk's client was instrumental in bringing parts of the quilt to the Midwest for viewing.

About 250 volunteers statewide work with the Nebraska AIDS project and provide services including the AIDS Buddy Program.

"Volunteers are the backbone of the project," Schoen said. "There's no way the staff could provide all the services needed by a person living with AIDS."

Schroeder said many people with HIV or even AIDS did not show any outward symptoms. Regardless of the condition of an individual with AIDS, however, one needs not be an AIDS buddy to help, he said.

"The most important thing you can do is be a friend to anyone you know with HIV/AIDS," Schroeder said. "Just be the best friend you can be."

All kinds of emotions are involved in the experience of a family dealing with AIDS, Schroeder said. Many families cannot deal with AIDS or, in some cases, the sexuality of the ill family member, he said, so they try to hide or deny it.

"That's where being a buddy . . . fills that gap where other people are not able to help," Schroeder said.

POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Saturday


9:11 a.m. — Missing person, Cather Residence Hall.

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