

Youngsters do more than P.L.A.Y. at summer camp

By Becky Keasling
Staff Reporter

Each morning, up to 36 elementary-age children head to the F Street Recreation Center for a day full of fun and games.

The children are taking part in the P.L.A.Y. (Positive Learning Activities for Youth) program.

The program runs each weekday from June 12 to August 11 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

"Our camp targets children with special needs," Kevin Chavez, F Street Recreation supervisor, said.

"Some of these children would not function well at regular day camps."

The idea for the day camp emerged at Everett

Elementary School. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students Erica Schroeder-Seip and Chavez were practicum teaching there during the 1994-95 school year. They approached special needs teacher Jeannine Van Laningham with the idea for a special needs summer camp.

With a little help from Lincoln Parks and Recreation and the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department, the P.L.A.Y. program was formed.

The day camp is free for the children because many of them cannot afford to attend traditional camps.

The three paid staff members and several volunteers teach the children how to be productive in the community. The children learn to work together in a community-oriented environment.

"Without the support we give the children, they wouldn't be able to make it through many social situations."

KEVIN CHAVEZ

F Street Recreation Supervisor

"Our goals are socially oriented," Chavez said. "Without the support we give the children, they wouldn't be able to make it through many social situations."

A typical day at the P.L.A.Y. camp begins at 9 a.m. with an opening game or activity. Then, throughout the morning the children go through various learning centers. The centers focus on reading, writing, art and music. Other morning activities include singing songs and playing outdoor games.

The main goal of the centers is to get the children to express themselves, Chavez said.

After lunch, the children usually go on field trips for the remainder of the day. Field trips include going to movies, the children's museum, the zoo and swimming.

Also, the children are involved in the Everett Elementary School reading program. In return for the use of the library, the children often help clean up the area around the school.

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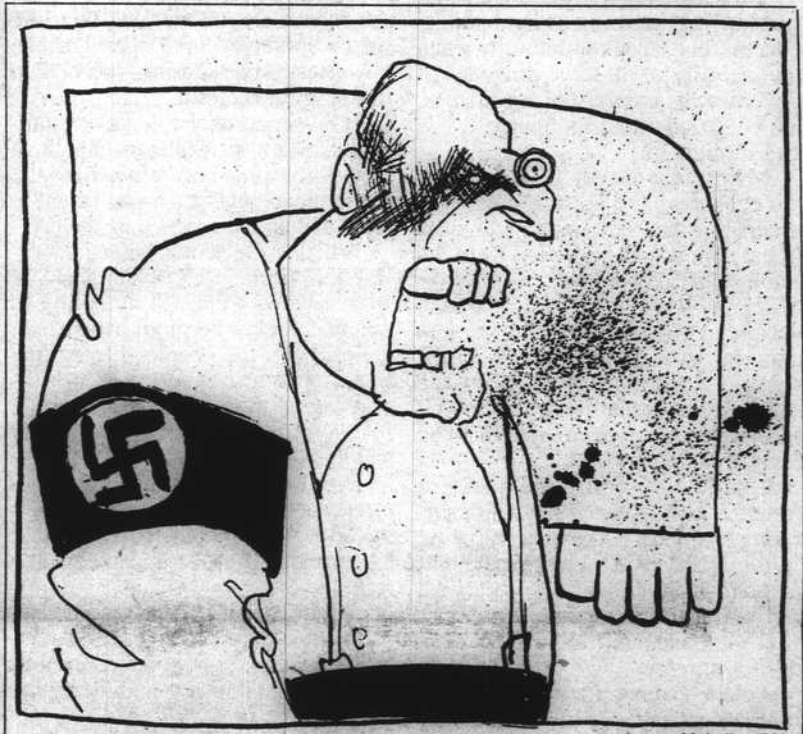
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Gov. Nelson tries to rid state of Nazi propaganda

By Erin Schulte
Staff Reporter

In the wake of twisted beliefs spread by neo-Nazi propagandists here in Lincoln, Gov. Ben Nelson has issued a proclamation disassociating the state of Nebraska from activities that support neo-Nazism and people who distribute Nazi or neo-Nazi propaganda.

Although his name is not specifically mentioned in the document, Gerhard "Gary" Lauck probably had a lot to do with the proclamation.

Lauck had distributed neo-Nazi propaganda out of his home in Lincoln since 1970, until this year when he was arrested in Denmark for his crimes.

Gov. Nelson said the proclamation was issued because of the people who had been using Nebraska as their base for Nazi operations.

He said he thought other countries may look down on Nebraska and associate Nazism with the state, and Nebraska's name should be cleared of any association with these types of people or organizations.

Dara Troutman, press secretary for Gov. Nelson, said although it may seem to some that this is an

infringement on free speech, the proclamation is not trying to change rights, it simply says that the government disagrees with the ideas of the Nazis.

Troutman said copies of the document were sent to the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., German media and the Nebraska Congressional delegation.

She said Gov. Nelson's office is waiting on a reply from the German offices and the consulate general.

A similar resolution was introduced in the legislature by Sen. LaVonne Crosby of Lincoln, Troutman said, but because of time constraints, it was never debated, although at least 35 senators gave support for the bill.

Some opposition came from Sen. Ernie Chambers, Troutman said, because he felt that if one group was targeted, soon any group's freedom of speech could be opposed.

Crosby approached Gov. Nelson about issuing a proclamation, which only the governor can do, after the bill was passed over by the state legislature.

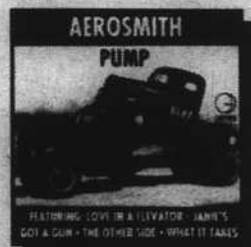
Although the proclamation has no legal reinforcement, "it makes a very strong political statement about Nebraska," Troutman said.



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