

# Psychologist: Redirect funds for disabled

By Kevin Field

The federal government spends \$22.5 billion dollars each year to support individuals with some type of disability, according to a College of Home Economics psychologist.

Lois Schwab said that when state and local expenditures are included, close to \$100 billion is spent each year on supporting handicapped persons.

That money, she says, could more effectively be spent on programs that teach the disabled to help themselves. Schwab, who has been working with the handicapped since 1954, said "We want to accent abilities and capabilities, not a person's disabilities."

UNL and the state of Nebraska are pioneers in the area of independent living for the handicapped, according to Schwab. The program began in 1968 when a grant was received to develop a lab where handicapped persons could find out what their capabilities were and the available aids.

Independent living involves training the individual in

everyday household chores necessary for survival. Food preparation, clothes washing, sewing and bathroom techniques are areas where training is often necessary, Schwab said. "If you take a group of severely handicapped persons and give them a quality program of independent living, you are also giving them skills needed to develop job skills," she said.

If a person can feed himself, then he would be able to handle many manipulative tasks such as assembly line work, she added.

In 1974, a grant was received to establish outreach stations across the entire state. This made stations more accessible to state residents.

"We are pioneers in the nation. We are the first and only state to establish a state-wide program," Schwab said.

However, last November, President Carter signed legislation for independent living, thus making grant money more competitive because "everybody wants to get into the act," she said.

In the lab, a person with a disability can discover if he can do something by himself or if additional help is needed.

A one dish preparation test has been devised that involves all aspects of working in a kitchen. If a person can do it, he shows he can live independently in the kitchen, she said.

Many handicapped persons can be trained to get back into the work force, she added. In a project that ended in 1978, 70 individuals severely disabled with cerebral palsy were put through an independent living program. After two years of work, 62 percent were in work employment and 40 percent were in paid employment, Schwab said. The idea, she said, is to take people out of custodial care and make them productive individuals.

There are 93,000 disabled working age adults in Nebraska. Most disabilities are the result of accidents or disease, she said. People are now living from many diseases that used to kill and the paramedic techniques developed in Vietnam are prevalent in the nation's highways. As a result, more people are surviving accidents, she said.

## Football shuttle offered

UNL will provide free shuttle bus service from the State Fairgrounds to Memorial Stadium this Saturday and every football Saturday throughout the season.

Capt. Kenneth Markle, parking administrator for UNL Campus Police, said parking stalls for up to 1,000 vehicles are available on the fairgrounds parking lot, which can be entered from North 14th Street.

Shuttle bus service from the parking lot to the stadium will begin at noon and will be available to return to the fairgrounds parking lot after the game.

## Capital additions on regents agenda

New programs and capital additions are on the NU Regents agenda, scheduled for 1 p.m. Friday.

A graduate business program between Kearney State College and NU will be discussed. The program would continue to be on Kearney's campus, but NU would supervise it. However, the cost would be shared between the schools.

A courtroom addition to the College of Law to be used for practical experience of law students will be considered. The \$1.3 million estimated cost of the addition would be donated by Ross McCollum of California.

John Strong, dean of the Law College, said that the addition is "expected to be accepted."

The proposed College of Veterinary Medicine is also on the agenda. In the program, students take first-year classes in their home-states and the final three years at NU.

Cooperating states would share the cost. Nebraska's cost would be \$7.1 million.

The Regents also will discuss a proposal to make the school of Journalism a separate college and the discontinuation of the teacher training option in industrial technology at the College of Engineering.

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