

Barriers...

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But women can overcome the "blind-ers" and find success in non-traditional careers, Wesely said.

Another woman seeking success in a non-traditional career will graduate in June from SECC. Brenda Marquardt, 19, said she became interested in auto mechanics through her father, Donald, of McCook.

She would help her father fix the family's cars and ask questions, Marquardt said. But when she decided to study auto mechanics, he didn't approve, she said.

When she suggested what to fix on their cars, he "caught on," Marquardt said.

She said she likes fixing cars because the problems are never exactly the same. She would hate to sit behind a desk to work, she said.

"I'd rather have a tool in my hand than a typewriter under my fingers," Marquardt said.

More men in "women's" jobs

The number of men training for non-traditional careers has also increased over the years, according to administrators.

More men are going into nursing, tending to specialize in a particular area such as anesthesia, a St. Elizabeth Community Health Center spokesman said.

St. Elizabeth, Bryan Memorial and Lincoln General Hospitals employ a total of 17 male registered and licensed practical nurses. The 17 include two anesthetists, a cardio-pulmonary nurse, a director of nursing and a director of administration.

The Bryan Memorial School of Nursing has nine male students out of 262, student service coordinator Betty Hoffman said. Seven of the nine are freshmen, she said.

Alan Michels, 19, is a second-year student in the University of Nebraska Medical Center's nursing program. He said he would like to work a while after graduation, then he might work on a degree in anesthesiology.

Although most people accept his career choice, Michels said he has been teased about it.

"I haven't been rejected but I've caught some flack about it," he said.

He said teasing doesn't bother him because he has adjusted to it. And people are adjusting their attitudes, Michels said.



Photo by Jon Natvig

Jennifer Hays, pictured above, is a cable technician for Lincoln Cablevision. She is the only female cable technician working for Cablevision. Pictured left is Craig Wagner, a registered nurse at Lincoln General Hospital's Cardiopulmonary Services ward.

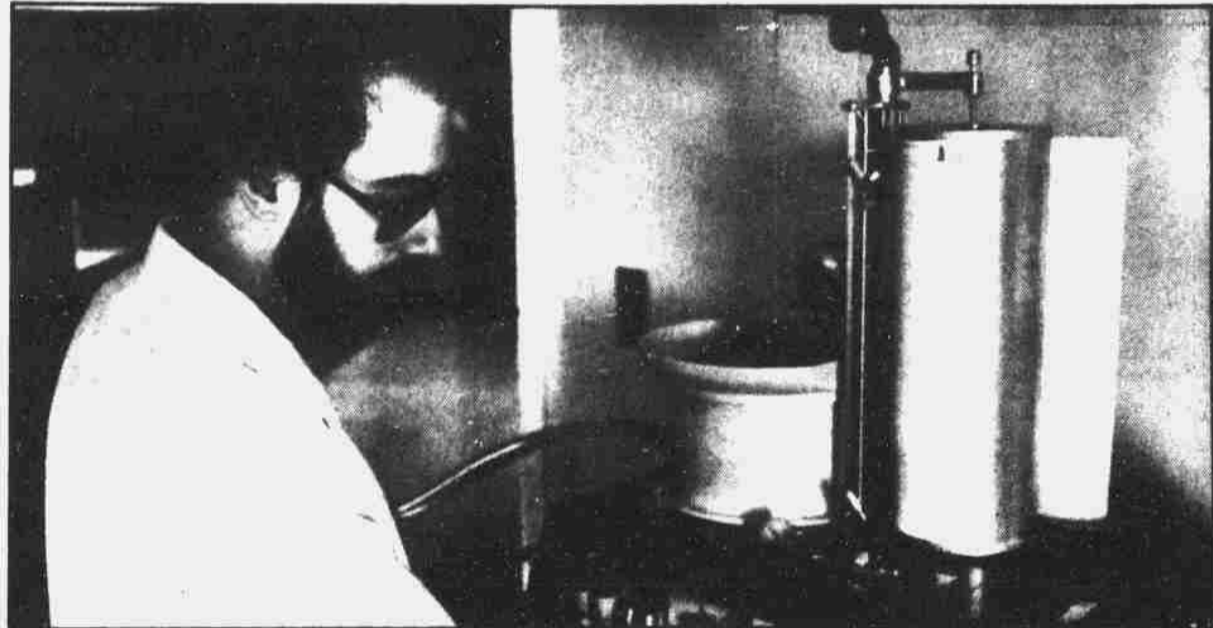


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