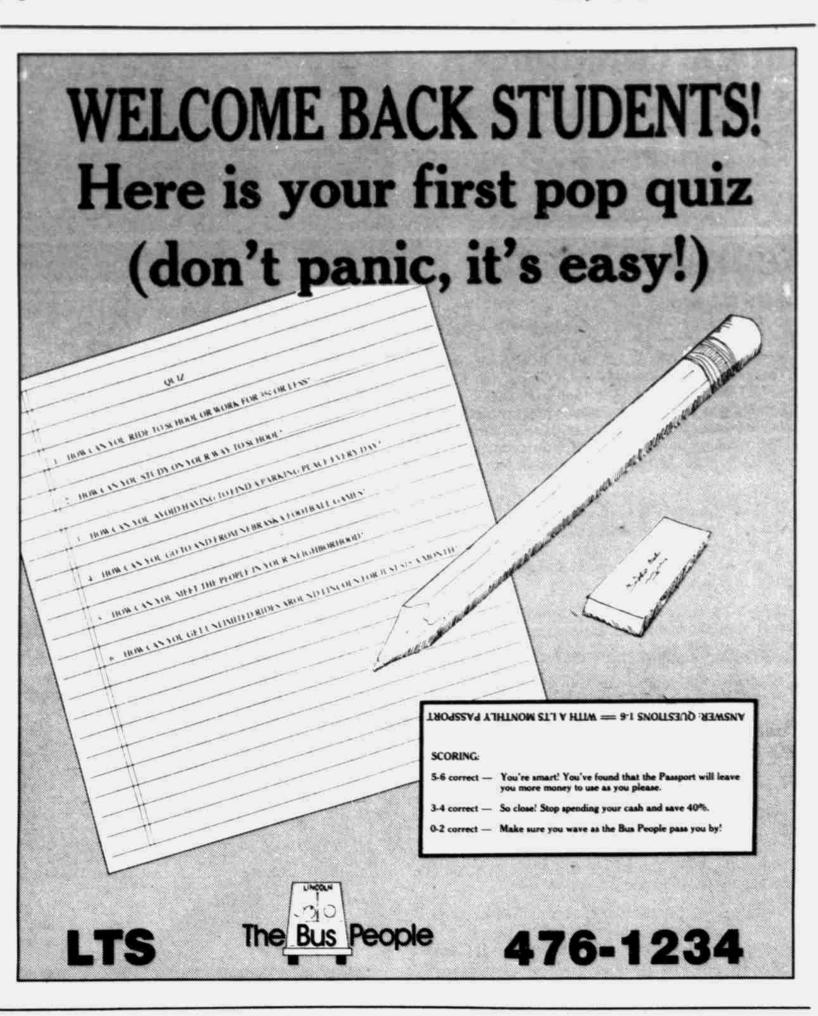
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Professor's work with handicapped gains recognition By Carol Harrah

A UNL professor has gained national recognition for her work in coordinating the handicapped services program at UNL.

As a member of the President's Committee for the Plight of the Handicapped for several years, Lois Schwab has promoted community involvement with the handicapped.

Schwab, a professor in the human development and the family department in the home economics college, teaches classes on working with the handicapped.

She also coordinates faculty and student research to provide more tools and services for disabled people.

"I saw that there was a definite need for, and interest in, training and research work with students for the handicapped," Schwab said. "Through the work being done here at UNL, we have been able to generate more statewide interest in the plight of the handicapped, as well as more tools and services for them."

One of Schwab's most highly recognized accomplishments is her work with UNL students Bill Rush and Mark Dahmke.

Rush, a journalism major who has cerebral palsy, communicates with a head stick on a word board and voice synthesizer that were designed by Dahmke, a computer science major.

Schwab's work with the two students is being made into a two-hour television movie, to be aired on CBS later this year.

"I have been pleased with the progress Bill has made," she said. "He is beginning to write a book about his life, which will be beneficial to all types of people. You don't get to read much about what the disabled person really feels, from their point of view, so the book ought to be interesting," Schwab said.

Began career at UNL

Schwab began her career at UNL. She taught classes in such subjects as consumer affairs and home management. When she retired from teaching to have children, she worked part time, teaching classes in UNL's adult education program.

Schwab said she began by teaching classes in home management. Later she conducted classes dealing with stroke and heart disease in women, areas that were new in research and growing in public interest.

From this research, Schwab started the handicapped services program. She started providing student training and research work for the handicapped.



Other universities began developing their own programs after seeing what was being done at UNL, she said. Schwab now teaches students in her program about understanding handicapped persons from the pre-school stage and beyond.

The handicapped services program has gained a reputation of quality work for, and with, the handicapped, Schwab said. There are now seven state agencies that provide outlets for UNL's research and training for the handicapped. With their help, UNL now has more time to develp research, to devote to student training and to make more tools and services available to the handicapped, she said.

National conference

In November, Schwab will attend the national conference for the National Women's Committee for the Plight of the Handicapped. Nancy Reagan serves as the group's honorary chairwoman.

"From the very beginning, I have promised the need for sensitivity to change, techniques and the process of working with people who have disabilities," Schwab said.

She said this is the one aspect of the program that UNL has developed more fully than other universities.

"You can always teach students what services there are for the handicapped, and how to use them, but that isn't enough," she said. "The student must also have a knowledge of the disabled person's attitude and learn how to deal with this.

"In order to help a person to grow and develop, you must know what they are thinking so as to better help them change in their attitudes and coming to an understanding of their disability."

Professor receives Radcliffe study grant

Helen A. Moore, assistant professor of sociology at UNL, is among nine scholars who have been awarded grants from the Radcliffe College Research Support Program.

Moore's grant, about \$1,500, will provide funds enabling her to use data bank facilities at Radcliffe in Cambridge, Mass. The data bank is available through the Henry A. Murray Research Center for the Study of Lives.

Moore's study will involve the segregation of women's work, looking at theories that jobs are defined differently for women than for men and that women have lower job expectations.

The data bank at Radcliffe will enable her to expand research already in progress, allowing her to compare data dealing with women in different occupational sectors with data on job satisfaction of women working in the home. She plans to visit Radcliffe in October to do her research.