

# Crisis service provides volunteers for listening

By Joi Patterson

The Lincoln Personal Crisis Service has provided Lincoln citizens with a 24-hour crisis line for almost 11 years.

The service, funded by the United Way, is operated by volunteers, according to Estella Lutes, president of the service.

The volunteers take an 11-week training course that the Crisis Service directs in the fall and spring. Through the training program, volunteers learn how to be a good listener and how to handle crisis calls.

"The volunteers are not counselors," Lutes said. "The purpose of the hotline is not to provide medical, psychological, legal, or religious counseling, but it is to help people to help themselves."

The volunteers do, however, have a list of places to refer someone whose problem needs more attention, she said.

The crisis hot line is strictly a "listening service," Lutes said.

"Since the calls are anonymous, the caller feels that he or she can talk to the volunteer," Lutes said.

An answering service refers crisis line callers to the home of the volunteer on duty. Duty shifts for the volunteers run from four to six hours and volunteers are expected to sign up for a time slot once a week.

Lutes said the service often receives calls from people who are apologetic because they are not sure their problem is a crisis. "We get every kind of call you could imagine," Lutes said. Typical problems include loneliness, depression, anxiety, suicide thoughts, sexual problems, terminal illness, grief, alcohol and drugs and marital problems.

The crisis service does evaluations so volunteers realize what the prominent problems are at the time. Financial

problems are prominent now, Lutes said, "probably due to the state of the economy."

The crisis service started in November, 1970. Lutes said the source began when area mental health professionals realized one was needed. The Lincoln Mental Health Association and Psychology Department of UNL formed the service.

Crisis service has about 70 volunteers from the Lincoln area, and last year handled over 3,000 calls. Lutes has been with the program almost from the start.

"I know the service is helpful and is needed, that's why I'm still involved," Lutes said.

Lutes said a training program started Monday but anyone interested can still register for the class by contacting training coordinator Pat Glasier, 472-3881, Estella Lutes, 466-6953, or by calling Personal Crisis, 475-5171. The classes are Mondays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Bethany Christian Church, 1645 Cotner Blvd.

## Departments gain additional space from relocation

The UNL Department of Criminal Justice and Physics have both gained space in the recent move of the Criminal Justice Department from Brace Laboratory to Neihardt 1100.

James Perkins, a criminal justice instructor, said both departments needed more space.

Perkins said the university was cooperative in relocating the Criminal Justice Department in the former Centennial College space.

Centennial College ceased to exist last semester because of funding cuts. Since then that space had been unoccupied.

The Physics Department now has more lab space in Brace Lab and the Criminal Justice Department acquired four times its previous office space by the move to Neihardt, Perkins said.

## short stuff

Students interested in the Washington Center for Learning Alternatives internship program for the 1982 spring semester should make an appointment with the Coordinator for Experiential Education, Oldfather 1218, 472-1452 by Oct. 5

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The Non-Traditional Student Association will have its weekly luncheon Friday in the Nebraska Union. Room will be posted.

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A spaghetti supper will be Saturday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. as a fund raiser for the National Federation of the Blind of Lincoln, said Jim Walker, state president.

It will be at the Pantry Restaurant in Agricultural Hall on the State Fairgrounds.

Tickets are \$3 in advance, \$3.50 at the door and \$1.50 for children under 12.

Advance tickets may be bought from staff members at the Rehabilitation Services for the Visually Impaired or by calling or stopping by their office at 1047 South St.

## The Collegiate Money Quiz...



**Problem:** You've got to have a new sweater for your date Saturday night. However, you are broke. Your dad says he'll send you money next week, but that's too late. You've got to have that sweater **this** Saturday. What do you do?

- \_\_\_a. You take up knitting and hope the sweater will get done by Saturday.
- \_\_\_b. You get your best friend to buy the sweater and then hope she'll let you borrow it on Saturday.
- \_\_\_c. You cancel your date because you have absolutely **nothing** to wear.
- \_\_\_d. You buy the sweater with your Visa or MasterCard from NBC and pay the bill next month when you have the money.





Answer: The correct answer is d. Visa and MasterCard from NBC can make it a lot easier to budget your money. Each month you get just one bill and, if you pay your bill promptly, there is no service charge. So, if an unexpected emergency comes up, like a new sweater for a Saturday night, it's no problem because you can charge it. But first you have to have a Visa or MasterCard. So, apply for a Visa or MasterCard from NBC today. It could save your life or at the very least... your social life.

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