

Ruth Michalecki and UNL's telecommunications system

## UNL operators handle calls for students, government

grades or financial aid. she said.

By Judi Nygren

UNL's Telecommuni- Michalecki said the sercations Center has changed vice brings "UNL as close Michalecki said, the cenfrom a horse and buggy as the phone" to all Nebto a Cadillac, the center's raska residents. director said.

Ruth Michalecki said the always advancing, Michaexisting network, but the advances were made by lecki said she thinks the Department of Adminischanging from manual cord center will offer more sertelephone administrative vices in the future. She authority from the physical plant to the business dence hall room soon will and finance department be equipped with a comand moving from 14th puter linked to the cenand R streets to Nebraska ter. The computers would 20 to 25 percent on their Hall.

Since she began as a cord-board operator 26 years ago, Michalecki said, UNL's communication system has grown from 2,000 telephones to 10,000.

Much of the growth occurred eight years ago when UNL installed phones in every residence hall room, she said. Before this, Michalecki said, each hall floor shared a phone from which students could receive, but not make, calls.

The number of calls the center receives also has grown, she said. The center handles approximately 85,000 calls every month.

Government calls contribute to the load, she said. The state joined the center eight years ago, and the city and county linked up more than two years ago, Michalecki said.

"What are the hours of the city dump?" is the most common governmentrelated question operators receive, Michalecki said.

Along with answering government calls, the operators monitor fire, security and temperature alarms throughout campus.

UNL's institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources depends on the operators to watch for lighting and temperature changes in its experimental plants.

Operators also assist an agriculture meterologist to monitor water depth and quality through phone wires dropped into wells.

The center's teleconferencing enables top executives to talk to UNL classes over the phone, disabled students to hear lectures without visiting campus and UNL officials to attend meetings without leaving their desks, Michalecki said.

People outside Lincoln also benefit from the center's services, Michalecki said. Out-state people can call the center's toll-free number and get answers to questions about tuition,

## Voters now signing up

The League of Women Voters will conduct voter registration drives at the following sites today: the recreation center, 1225 F St., noon to 2:30 p.m. and the Centrum, downtown, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Registration drive sites on Wednesday will be the Goodyear plant, 4021 N. 56th St., 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the Commodity Distribution building of the Naval Reserve Center, 1625 N. 10th St., 9 a.m. to noon.

The Naval Reserve Center also will be the site of a drive from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday.

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link-up would be illegal.

If the center is able to

legally hook the two sys-

tems together, Michalecki

said, students would save

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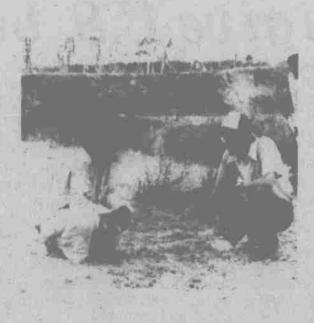
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