

# Students give troubled youths attention, care they lack, need

From Staff Reports

UNL criminal science, psychology and sociology students can gain valuable job experience by volunteering at the Lincoln Youth Attention Center.

Kristi Krueger, a UNL education major and volunteer coordinator at the center, said the center is looking for students to work with youths.

"We need the volunteers to play games with the kids, talk to them and just make the kids feel like somebody cares about them," Krueger said.

Jon Hill, center director, said interaction shows young people that they can do things without cheating or using foul language.

The center, which opened in January 1976 at 220 S. 10th St., has two functions: to detain youths under 18 who have been arrested by the police and to rehabilitate those who have been sentenced to a maximum of one year at the

center.

The average age of young people in the center is 16, but Hill said the center has treated 8-year-olds. The treatment program has been a part of the center since July 1984.

Hill said the program appears to be successful, but it is still too early to determine how successful it is.

Most of the young people have many problems and need somebody to pay attention to them, he said. Sometimes it's the first time they've received any attention, he said.

Krueger said volunteers tutor, teach arts and crafts and join in recreational activities with the young people.

Krueger said the center would welcome theater classes or musical pro-

grams to entertain the young people.

She said volunteers should expect occasional verbal abuse from the youths. Volunteers must be open and honest with the young people because they expect that, she added.

Hill said some young people who left the center called back to thank the volunteers because, for some, the center was the first time people cared about them.

"I think in the long run the kids in the center really appreciate these people coming in to show some attention to them," Hill said.

People interested in volunteering should contact Krueger at 471-7090 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m.

## Setting It Straight

The article "NU President Roskens says he'll quit if campuses merge," (Daily Nebraskan, Sept. 19) should have referred to the consolidation of NU and Nebraska state colleges, not the merging of UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center, which already are consolidated.

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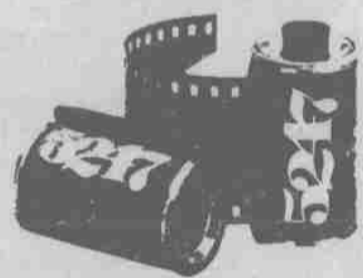
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