# Couch potatoes go to school

Telecourses bring the classroom to the state

By Shirley Roenfeldt Staff Reporter

Watching TV is a common excuse for some students to postpone homework. It is also a way to earn college credit through telecourses on Nebraska ETV. Telecourses are televised classes which will be offered on NETV starting Sept. 20, said Dr. Marvin VanKekerix, director of academic telecommunications at UNL.

Two to three classes are offered through the Division of Continuing Studies each semester, VanKekerix said. This year classes include "Geology 107, Frontiers of Earth Science: Planet Earth," "Geology 107, Frontiers of Earth Science: Out of the Fiery Furnace," both one-credit classes taught by Prof. Samuel Treves; and "Economics 211, Principles of Economics: Economics USA," a three-credit class taught by Associate Prof. William Walstad.

Telecourses provide weekend instruction over the NETV airwayes, textbooks and study guides through the mail and a toll free number to contact the instructors, he said.

1971 and are offered on a "break-even dent to maintain full-time status, he basis," VanKekerix said. Tuition col- said. lected should be enough to cover the credit hour for telecourses, VanKekerix

Average enrollment is 100 students per semester, with the "typical student being non-traditional, usually older and working," VanKekerix said.

"The highest single percentage group that enrolls is mothers with children at home," VanKekerix said.

Telecourses, originally called the for it, he said.

Telecourses are an option to pick up credit hours toward a degree but are

Telecourses have been available since not an option for the traditional stu-

There are both advantages and discosts of production, he said. Tuition is advantages to the program, he said. slightly higher, about \$6 more per The biggest advantages are convenience and the unlimited possibilities of television. The programs are televised on weekends, with video cassette recorders a person can tape the class and watch it when time permits, he said. Unlimited possibilities lies within the video aspect. For example, the geology classes are a series of field trips that classroom students will not get to go on for lack of time, VanKekerix said.

There are also disadvantages to the 'Sun Program" were designed to reach telecourses, he said. Falling behind in Nebraskans statewide, ideally allowing course work and no personal contact students to complete their first and with the instructor are the two biggest possibly their second years of study at problems. There is more freedom for home, VanKekerix said. There are not the student to go or not to go to class, enough classes offered to fulfill the VanKekerix said, so it is easy to fall original idea, and expansion is difficult behind because the student doesn't due to the limited amount of time have to see the instructor the next time available on NETV and the competition they show up at class. Lack of classroom interaction does cause some problems, but "instructors usually contact all students at least once," he said. Most instructors of telecourses do have questions but in many cases they are pretty enthusiastic about the way the class is handled, he said.

> "I called students once a week for 15 to 30 minutes apiece, so in some ways I had more contact," Treves said. "It worked out quite well for us and for the people involved. I enjoyed it," he said. "If I can't be face to face and they still want to learn, then that is good," said Walstad, a UNL associate professor of

Walstad is involved with telecourses

'It is obviously preferable to be faceto-face, but look at the market served - people all over the state who can't fit into a schedule on campus," Walstad said.

Many feel telecourses are the only way to pursue their degree, VanKekerix said. The weekend of Sept. 13 is a program overview of the available courses, he said.

It is best to register before classes

Treves, a UNL geology professor has taught the courses before.

economics.

for the first time this fall.

start on Sept. 20, but registrations will be accepted through the first week of classes at the Division of Continuing Studies or through the mail, VanKekerix said.

#### Police Report

Monday

11:03 p.m. - Domestic assault reported outside Bob Devaney Sports Center.

8:48 p.m. — Medical emergency reported at Abel Hall.

8:48 p.m. — Window reported broken at 1908 S St. Vandalism suspected.

Tuesday 6:26 p.m. - Indecent exposure

reported in Sandoz Hall basement. 2:50 a.m. - Burglary reported at the NETV Building, 1800 N. 33rd St. Video equipment reported stolen.

3:20 a.m. — Three males arrested for disturbing the peace and trespassing at 426 N. 16th St.

12:20 a.m. - Stereo equipment and miscellaneous items reported stolen from a car in Area Two parking lot near Sandoz Hall.

#### Shorts

The University of Nebraska Honors Program will accept applications for admission from sophomores until Friday, Sept. 12. Students admitted to the university in August 1985, who were recommended for honors courses, and who have sophomore standing, may apply for admission. For further information about the Honors Program, contact Professor Patrice Berger, director, UNL Honors Program, 207 Administration, 472-5425.

KRNU, the campus radio station in Avery Hall, will broadcast live Thursday's Kay Orr/Helen Boosalis debate from the Nebraska State Fair at 11 a.m. KRNU can be found at 90.3 on the FM

art Time Job Fair

When: Tomorrow-Friday 8:30-12:30 p.m. Where: Centennial Room in Union

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