

Passing scores set for tests

Pre-Professional Skills Test now required for TC students

By Joeth Zucco
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska Board of Education recently set passing scores for the Pre-Professional Skills Test, which education majors now are required to pass before being admitted to teacher-training sessions.

Teachers College students have been taking the tests as "entrance exams" to teaching programs for the last two years. After July, 1989, teaching certificates cannot be issued without passing the PPST.

A report in the American Association of College Teacher's Education said that in 1983 the Commission on Excellence in Education published "A Nation At Risk," a report criticizing teachers and teacher education for low educational standards. The report was followed up by Gov. Bob Kerrey's task force on Excellence in Education. Both called for a minimum basic skills test for all teachers.

When the college started giving the tests, two years ago it set its own passing scores, which were slightly higher than the new state scores. According to Dr. Mary Kluender, coordinator of student information, UNL students have been scoring three to eight points above the new state scores.

"We think it's really important for teaching college students to demon-

strate that they do have the basic skills to be teachers," Kluender said. "We're pleased with how well students are doing and performing on the PPST."

The test, devised and scored by the Educational Testing Service, examines the student's basic skills in mathematics, reading and writing. The first two sections are standardized and the last is compositional. Since there are no permanent records of students' failures, they can retake the test as many times as necessary. Workshops and individual tutoring are available for a minimal fee through the Student Center for Academic Success Center.

According to Mike Kissler of the State Education Department, 19 percent fail reading, 18 percent fail math, and 21 percent fail writing. Cumulatively, 20 percent fail one part or more the first time they take it.

"It provides good information to the students," James O'Hanlon, dean of Teachers College said. "If they can't pass, they're going to have lots of problems. It's an early warning for them to consider other fields. It measures a few of the things it takes them to make it through college."

The scoring requirements on the test differ from state to state. For Nebraska, the passing scores are 170 for reading, 171 for math, and 172 for writing. O'Hanlon said requiring the exam only will slightly improve educational standards in the United States

"because it doesn't really measure things to determine if a student is successful."

Most teaching students stay in Nebraska. Others are recruited by out-of-state schools to fill teacher shortages, mainly on the East and West coasts. O'Hanlon said he thinks the teaching programs in this section of the country are better, thus attracting better students and putting them through a more rigorous program.

ISLAM IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Thursday, September 18, 1986 at the Wick Alumni Center

12:45 -- Public Lecture: "Islam in the Contemporary World" by Christopher Van Hollen, who was ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and is director of the American Institute for Islamic Affairs in Washington, D.C.

3:00 -- Film "The Peoples of Islam"

The lecture and film are open to the public.
Sponsored by the Institute for International Studies.

Ask us about student credit.



Now we're full service. You can cash checks (including NBC checks — something you couldn't do before we became full-service). You can also make deposits or take advantage of all these other services.

Loan Services. We can provide a full range of personal loan services to meet all your needs. Apply for a Student Loan or ask about our BankCard Program for students.

Checking Services. We offer a variety of checking services, including a specially designed Student Account.

Investment Services. We have savings programs for large or small savers, from the regular Savings Account, to short and long-term CD's, and Money Market Accounts.

24-Hour Banking Services. We offer hometown banking services with an Automated Teller network that's citywide. Use your NetWorks ATM card from home or get an NBC Bank-In-The-Box card. There are two Bank-In-The-Box machines in the Nebraska Union for your convenience.

Stop in today. Take advantage of full-service banking on Campus.

Located in the Nebraska Union, 14th and R
Open Monday through Friday, 8:30 — 4:00; Telephone: 472-4530

NBC

National Bank of Commerce

Lincoln, NE 68508 / (402) 472-4250 / MEMBER FDIC

A FIRST COMMERCE bank.



Police Report

Monday

10:34 a.m. — Medical emergency reported at Memorial Stadium; injured person was taken to hospital.

3:09 p.m. — Non-injury accident reported at Area 24 parking lot at 14th St. and Avery Ave.

3:13 p.m. — Theft of car stereo equipment reported at Area 3 parking lot by Harper-Schramm-Smith complex.

8:32 p.m. — Theft of clothing from

Burr Hall laundry room reported.

Tuesday

8:51 a.m. — Plant industry fire alarm set off. No fire reported.

8:59 a.m. — Dental equipment reported stolen from Dental College.

9:11 a.m. — Bicycle reported stolen from Oldfather Hall.

11:47 a.m. — Auto accessories reported stolen from parked car at Kraft's convenient store, 17th and Vine streets.

1644 "P" **HERM'S** 474-6592

The Student Survival Store



- Michelob Bottles
- Reg.-Light-Dark 12 pk. \$5.59
- Warm/Case \$10.99
- Coors & Coors Light 12 pk. . . . \$5.19
- 16 oz. cans Case \$9.99
- Busch-Natural Case \$6.99
- Black Label (Reg. and Light) Case \$5.49
- Champale Wine Coolers 4 pk. . . . \$2.49
- 4 flavors

Offer good thru Sept. 24, 1986
or while quantities last.

LOONEY TUNES

Quartz
Pop-up
Watches
ONLY
\$9.99



Dirt Cheap
217 N. 11th
477-6061

GIFTS

Popcorn for peanuts.



At the Original Korn Popper and Colby Ridge, you can enjoy incredibly delicious popcorn for a very ordinary price. Like our giant 30 oz. party bag for just \$2.95 or our 10 oz. day pack for \$1.40.

So why not stop by for a little snack soon?
You'd be nuts not to.

Bring this ad in on Thursday, and get 2 day packs for the price of 1! Offer expires Dec. 11, 1986.



COLBY RIDGE

POPCORN • ICE CREAM

Northridge Center 1401 Superior 476-6822
Eastview Center 233 N. 48th St. 467-5811
Meridian Park 6900 "O" St. 466-2888

Operators of the Original Korn Popper



1417 "N" St. 474-5818

*Delicious frozen yogurt available.