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Richard Wright/Daily Nebraskan

Duck crossing

Students weren't the only ones going to classes Monday. The plastic ducks were later given a lift by UNL grounds personnel.

Environmentalist speaks Teachers

onmental Health of the federal Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., will speak at 7 tonight at the East Union. mental questions ranging from the Lancaster County Board of Health.

The director of the Center for Envir- impact of second-hand smoke to hazardous-waste managements.

Dr. Vernon Houk will address environ- Annual Meeting of the Lincoln-

College Houk is keynote speaker for the ranks high

By Tami Scheutze Staff Reporter

UNL's Teachers College ranks in the top 10 of 900 universities nationwide. said Lynn Mortensen, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction.

Bert Alfrey, director of the Teachers College Student Services Center, said reasons for the high rank include the 2.5 grade point average required for students and an adequate score on a state-required pre-professional skills test that undergraduates must take to enter the college.

Most Teachers College students graduate with a job waiting for them because of the annual Teachers Fair, Alfrey said. Schools from all over Nebraska and other states send representatives to the fair each spring to hire teachers for the upcoming semester.

Most graduates teach in Nebraska, Mortensen said, but some go to other states for higher salaries. Nebraska has some of the best teachers, but they are often paid below the national average, she said.

A key to maintaining quality education in the college is "keeping up nationally," or staying ahead of other schools' programs, Mortensen said.

NU Regent Don Fricke suggested earlier this school year a merger between UNL and UNO education programs to further improve the quality of the two

"Basically, the merger would involve the two campuses to share their resources, faculties, programs and cooperate more," Mortensen said.

She also said that efforts to improve three different types of student-teaching programs for undergraduates have begun.

"Project Experience" allows people trained in fields other than teaching to apply their course for credit toward a teaching degree.

Another program enables elementary teachers to focus on liberal arts classes and teacher-education courses through a five-year plan.

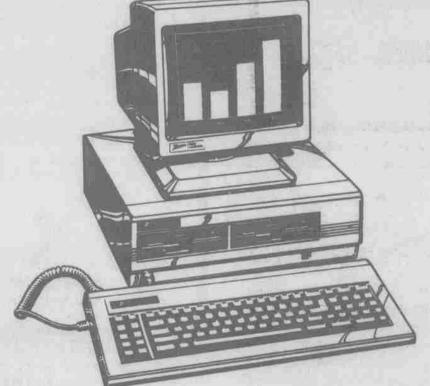
Lincoln Public Schools allow undergraduates to teach for fifth-year internships. Student teachers begin work Jan. 19.

Teachers College student Sheri Spotanski plans to graduate in the spring. Last semester, she spent weekday mornings, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Lincoln High teaching advanced algebra and a consumer math course.

"This student-teaching program prepared me very well because of the responsibility placed on me," Spotanski said.

Mortensen said that as well as teaching in class and grading papers, students also must be involved with other events at the schools such as parent-teacher conferences, monitoring halls and helping at athletic events.

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