

Kiley Timperley/Daily Nebraskan

*A practice run*

Mark Rettig takes a break from jogging to watch the Cornhusker football team practice Monday afternoon.

*Officials: More steps needed*

# Women's job progress slowing

By Shelley Biggs  
Staff Reporter

Although the role of racial minorities and women in government has improved, some minority government officials say more steps need to be taken.

Speaking to a group of about 20 people at a panel discussion in the Nebraska Union Monday, Susan Welch, chairwoman of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, said the employment of minorities and women has greatly improved but has slowed and even regressed in the past decade.

Society must be concerned with the competence of the total work force, including all minorities and women, while looking to the 21st century, she said.

"Black and white women are still lagging behind black and white men," Welch said.

Women minorities bear twice the burden of every minority group, said Harold Clarke, director of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Black women have a 69-percent college dropout rate compared to a 52-percent dropout rate for black men and a 48-percent rate for white women, Clarke said. Only 39 percent of white men drop out of college, he said.

The high dropout rate for black women results in them accepting less demanding jobs that pay less and require less education.

"The two major issues now for the minority women are equal work and equal pay," Clarke said.

"Minority women have to be double

qualified," said Helen Meeks, director of the Bureau of Examining Boards for the State Health Department.

But minority women shouldn't view the need to be more qualified as unfair or negative, she said.

"It can be positive," she said, because it makes women more competitive and better at what they do.

Race should not become the focal point in terms of qualifications, Meeks said.

"Race plus superb qualifications equate excellence," she said.

Meeks said minorities can have the greatest impact on society by educating the public, not only in the classroom but also through leadership positions in the health field and public administration.

"People can have an impact on setting public policy to ensure things are available to all people," she said.

# UNL deaf students say attitudes of others aid college experience

By Erik Unger  
Staff Reporter

Living in a silent world does not tone down the college experience for two University of Nebraska-Lincoln deaf students.

Kenny Walker, the starting right tackle on the Cornhusker football team, and Cynthia Smith, a senior from Alliance, said handicapped students get a good education at Nebraska despite studying in "a different world."

Walker and Smith are the only two deaf undergraduate students at UNL that use an interpreter.

Christy Horn, coordinator of UNL Handicapped Student Services, said the university provides 10 interpreters for the five students -- two undergraduate and three graduate -- who need them.

Walker, the first deaf football player in the Big Eight, came to Nebraska because Handicapped Student Services offered the interpreter service.

Handicapped Student Services also provides auditory trainers, note takers and a microphone hookup between the instructor and student, Horn said.

Professors are picked for the students based on how easy they are to understand and lip read. Students also are offered alternate testing.

Smith and Walker said the deaf student experience is made easier by the good attitude of the student body toward deaf students.

"The students treat me like a typical student," Smith said.

Walker said being deaf hasn't hurt his social life.

"I have a good time here. I'm never alone and get along with everyone, no question."

He said his teammates don't treat him dif-

ferently on the football field, either.

"When they saw my ability, it didn't make any difference," he said.

A few adjustments are made, however. Walker gets his signals from a special mouthpiece. This works well except sometimes "the line-backer has foam or blood in his mouth and I can't understand."

Walker said the only difficulties come when he can't find his coach or on quick calls, which he sometimes misses.

Walker and Smith have one common problem: They do not understand some professors.

Although most instructors try to help, some don't understand what deaf students need to function in class, Smith said.

One professor, Smith said, stuck her in the corner of the classroom after she requested to sit in the front.

"Teachers don't know how to work with interpreters," Walker said. "I've learned to be patient."

Despite the problems, Horn said, the services offered by UNL are among the best in the country.

The reputation of the services offered to the deaf students at UNL speak for themselves, Horn said, and the staff doesn't do any recruiting.

However, the athletic department does let hearing-impaired athletes they are recruiting know about services the university offers.

Horn said the high quality program is due partly to the new computer system constructed with the help of a Department of Education Demonstration Grant.

It recently was expanded to access the university libraries' card catalog system from the office of Handicapped Student Services, Horn said.



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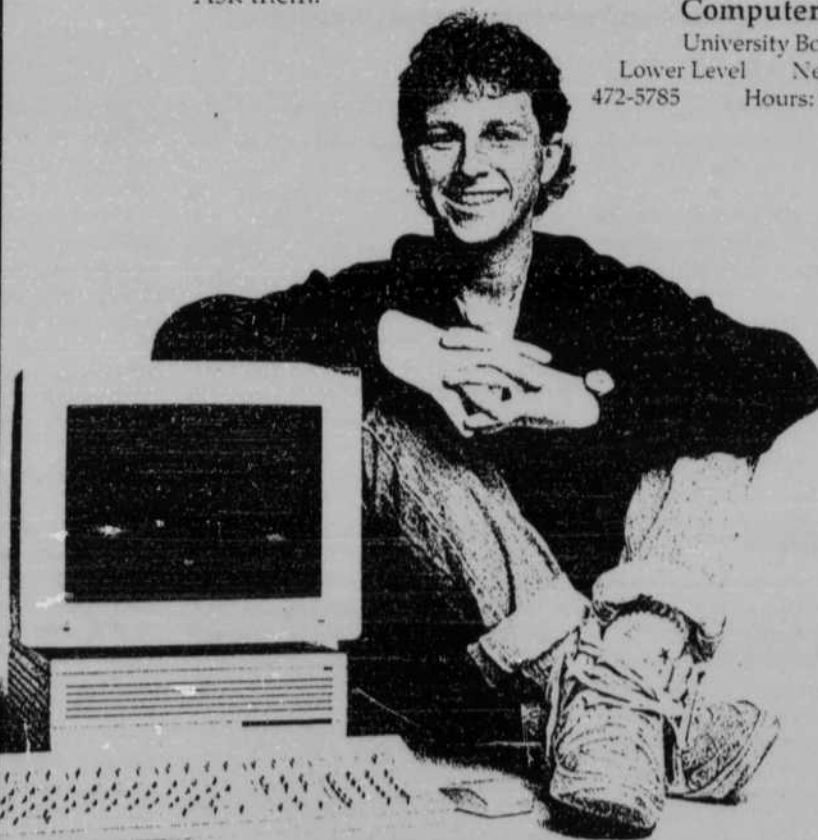
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