

Computer numbers lacking, official says

By Angie Anderson
Staff Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students are provided with one-third the computers the average student is provided with nationwide, a UNL official said.

Gerald Kutish, associate director of the Computing Resource Center, said UNL provides about one public-access computer for every 136 students.

The average ratio of public computers to college students in the United States is about one to 45, according to a recent study by the University of Southern California and EDUCOM, a consortium of colleges and universities interested in computing. The study was released last week, The Chronicle of Higher Education reported.

"Right now, our computer facilities are barely adequate in meeting the demand," said Douglas Gale, director of the Computing Resource Center.

UNL also has fewer public-access computers than any school in the Big Eight, according to the 1990 Directory of Computing Facilities in Higher Education.

Kutish said UNL's microcomputer availability falls short of all of its peer institutions. The University of Wisconsin and the University of Illinois have four to five times more accessible computers per student than UNL, he said.

For UNL students, the shortage means waiting in lines to type papers and assignments. For instructors, the shortage means not giving some assignments because students would be unable to obtain adequate computer time to do them, Kutish said.

This is especially true in the colleges of engineering, business administration and computer science, he said.

Kutish said the ratio of students per computer would be lower if semi-accessible facilities were taken into consideration. Semi-accessible labs include those in the colleges of business, engineering, agriculture, home economics and journalism. The labs are available only to students in those colleges.

The lack of public-access computers is the result of other schools having a head start with computer investment, Kutish said.

But priorities are shifting toward more computing facilities, he said.

"Five years ago, UNL had no microcomputer facilities for students.

It's a new investment for UNL," Kutish said. The ratio of students per computer has improved. Last year, Kutish reported that one computer was available per 200 students.

Officials hope eventually to provide one computer per 30 or 45 students, he said.

However, Kutish does not foresee reaching the optimum in the near future because of lack of resource money.

“Right now, our computer facilities are barely adequate in meeting the demand.”

Gale
director
Computing Resource Center

Progressive topics covered

Ecology Now starts newspaper

By Doug Isakson
Staff Reporter

Ecology Now is starting up a newspaper, the Weather, to give students and area residents a closer look at progressive issues, one of its editors said.

The monthly paper focuses mainly on the environment, said Phip Ross, a UNL graduate student. It also will cover racial and minority issues, he said.

Now, Ross said, these issues are not being covered adequately by the media. The goal of the Weather is to provide more in-depth coverage and more investigative reporting, he said.

"We're in a crisis of perception," Ross said. "That's a way you view

change and your surroundings. And right now, we end up solving problems with Band-Aids."

Ross said he and co-editors Mark Nemeth and Paul Chandler started the paper to replace the 1-year-old organization's newsletter, Fandango, with a larger and more complete format.

The newspaper is financed by membership fees and fund-raisers, Ross said. But Ecology Now will have to sell advertising space to increase the paper's size and circulation, he said.

J Burger, public information coordinator and co-founder of Ecology Now, said the paper will give a medium for alternative views.

"My feeling is that it is going to be closer to the students," Burger said.

"It will serve as a medium of ideas that don't get covered."

Ross said the majority of the articles in the Weather will be contributed by outside sources. Getting enough writers will be a problem at first, he said, but as the newspaper gains credibility, the number of writers will increase and quality will improve.

The first issue of the Weather was released Oct. 22 with a circulation of about 1,000 and was distributed on City Campus, in the East Union and to some downtown businesses, Ross said.

The circulation is expected to increase to 2,000-3,000 and eventually the newspaper will be distributed to all campuses in the university system, he said.

police REPORT

Beginning midnight Friday, Oct. 26
12:01 p.m. — Injury reported late, Oldfather Hall.
2:53 p.m. — Porsche emblem taken, parking lot at 19th street between R and U streets, \$240.
3:32 p.m. — Bicycle taken, Cather Residence Hall bicycle rack, \$435.
9:13 p.m. — Woman taken to the Peoples City Mission, 10th and R

streets.
10:51 p.m. — Bookbag taken, Nebraska Union, \$125.
Beginning midnight Saturday, Oct. 27
12:41 a.m. — Follow-up, man arrested for arson.
3:30 a.m. — Car window broken, Harper-Schramm-Smith parking lot, \$75.
12 p.m. — Hit-and-run accident

reported late, 17th and R streets parking lot, \$200.
12:57 p.m. — IBM laptop computer taken, Nebraska Union, \$2,500.
2:04 p.m. — Window shot with BB gun, married student housing, \$40.
4:24 p.m. — Bicycle taken, outside the Nebraska Historical Society, \$135.

Beadle center project receives USDA funds

By Alan Phelps
Staff Reporter

The financing effort for UNL's biotechnology, biochemistry and chemical engineering center has received a \$4.5 million boost from Congress.

Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., announced last week that Congress allocated the \$4.5 million in the U.S. Department of Agriculture appropriations bill now before President Bush.

"This is certainly what we were hoping for from the USDA," said Marion O'Leary, director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Center for Biological Chemistry.

The allocation will help the sluggish funding acquisition effort for construction of the George W. Beadle Center for Genetic and Biomaterials Research, O'Leary said.

The project is estimated to cost from \$23 million to \$24 million. Federal funds of \$3 million were secured last year.

Groundbreaking for the Beadle Center, to be located on the south side of Vine Street between 19th and 20th streets, originally was scheduled for November 1991 with completion in 1993. However, O'Leary said the slow procurement of funds probably will mean that the project's beginning will

be delayed until the spring of 1992. "It's always been the intention that this was a multi-year project," O'Leary said. "What we don't get this year we'll ask for next year."

The USDA appropriations bill includes money for other UNL projects:

- \$110,000 for the Industrial Agricultural Products Center, a program for developing non-food products from farm commodities.
- \$80,000 for the milkweed research program, a cooperative effort with a firm in Ogallala looking into the feasibility of milkweed as an alternative crop.
- \$40,000 for a program researching how to make plastics from cornstarch, a renewable resource.
- \$99,000 for the sandhills grazing management practices program for range-land management research.
- \$67,000 for research into products that could be made from the erucic acid oils in crambe/rapeseed.
- \$194,000 for the Managing Main Street Project, which attempts to facilitate rural development by helping agriculturally impacted businesses assess their plans for the future.
- \$380,000 for the Rural Revitalization Program, a project to help rural communities remain viable in the future.

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