

Life after death topic of speech

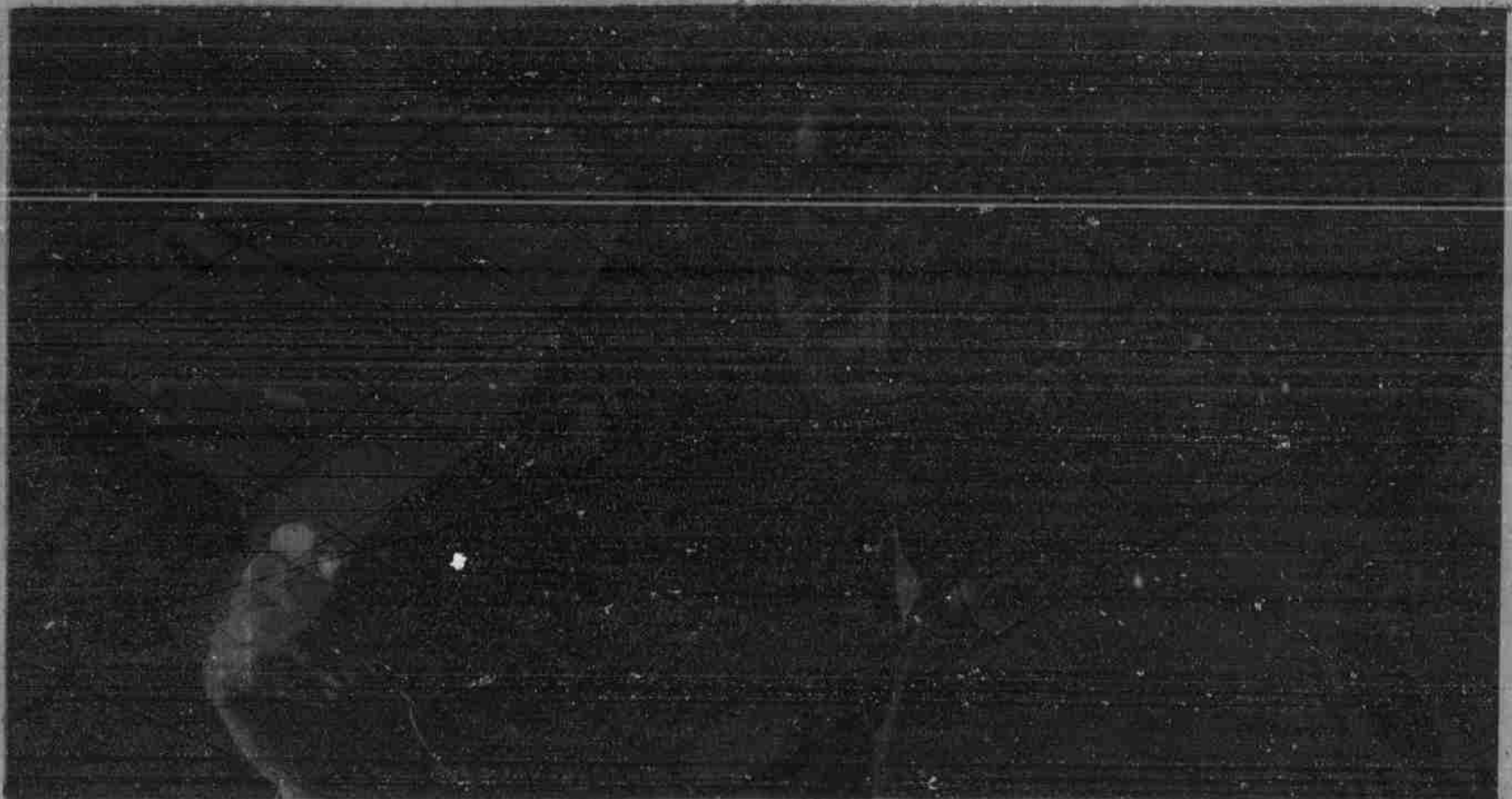
Does man survive death?

That is the question which has occupied most of the 20-year career of parapsychologist William Roll.

Roll will speak tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union on "What Science Can Tell Us About Life After Death."

Roll is head of the Psychical Research Foundation in Durham which seeks primarily to answer the question of survival after death.

Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Roll will participate in a discussion at Abel Hall.



Parapsychologist William Roll

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Library improvements result of 1973 study

By Charles Johnson

In March 1973, three researchers from Brigham Young University prepared a study of the UNL library system, and now a year later, Adam Breckenridge, acting director of University Libraries, has reported that many suggestions included in the study have been put into effect.

In a letter to UNL Chancellor James Zumberge dated Feb. 6, 1974, the researchers noted a number of improvements in the library program which they viewed in a second visit to UNL the first week of February.

The original 3-day study included criticism of public relations, physical facilities, location of books, lending and fine policies, management and morale. The researchers suggested examination of the roles and services of each of the 13 library branches, solving the morale problem with the library staff and acquainting students with the library system.

In their letter to Zumberge, the researchers noted especially the improvement in morale of library personnel. They listed as factors in this change:

appointment of an acting director who has demonstrated forceful leadership, filling of critical staff vacancies in the technical and public services departments and increased communication and cooperation between staff members.

"We've had a substantial reduction in the turnover of the professional staff. Most of the staff resignations this year have been because of family reasons," Breckenridge said.

According to the researchers, this change in morale has shown itself in a renewed interest in the needs of undergraduate students by staff members. Instructional programs have been developed to serve the patrons, including clinics and tours.

"We seem to think that the attitude of the staff and students is more pleasant," Breckenridge said. "These are just subjective things." He said the library usage figures were up over last year, however.

Breckenridge said the libraries had adopted several innovations to aid students. He mentioned term paper clinics, which were held twice this semester and once

last semester, large red directional signs and placement of librarians in the open to field questions and help patrons.

The large red signs were installed in Love Library in fall 1973 and give directions for "everything from where the restrooms are to where the reserve books are," according to Breckenridge.

In trying to make the materials of the library more accessible to the students, the signs have proved to be a great timesaver for library employees, Breckenridge said. Employees no longer must field questions about finding various parts of the library.

He hopes to have similar signs placed in the Undergraduate Library at Nebraska Hall next year.

The researchers also noted improvements in the technical service areas, resulting in a reduction of processing backlogs, and in planning the roles of branch libraries and storage areas.

However, the researchers indicated that several of the problems pin-pointed in the original study still exist. They included: the image of Love Library, difficulty finding library materials, organization of government documents, reading of shelves and physical remodeling of Love Library.

Breckenridge said he was baffled by the image problem.

"I don't know what one does with that," he said. "I would suspect that some students have never entered a library. I think the students will use a library if the faculty encourages them to do so."

He said the libraries are reorganizing handling of government documents and hope to have them available almost immediately after receipt. He said the reading of shelves, which means looking for misplaced books on the shelves, depends on the amount of part-time help and is always a problem with open stacks.

In their second visit the researchers also cited the need for appointing a permanent director, an increase of full-time positions at the associate director level and a careful analysis of the effects of inflation and changing enrollment patterns on the library's objectives.

Breckenridge, a political science professor, expects to serve as acting director until sometime this summer. A new director hasn't been appointed yet, he said.

On inflation, he said, "We recognized it and the Legislature recognized it enough to give us a small increase in funds this year."

Breckenridge and the researchers cautioned that construction of the new addition will not be a cure for all the problems of the library system.

A major change which completion of the addition will bring about is transfer to it of the Dewey Decimal system numbered books now on the third floor of Nebraska Hall. In the process about 500,000 pieces will be moved among the 13 UNL libraries Breckenridge said.

He said there would be advantages and disadvantages if the 13 UNL libraries were in one or two structures.

"We could administer the library perhaps more easily, but students and staff would have great inconveniences," Breckenridge said.

