



Rev. Thomas R. Kramer . . . a Baptist minister, suggests possible reading material to students at the Cotner School of Religion, 1237 R. St.

## Cotner School of Religion — UNL's independent department

by Mary Lundak

The two-story, red-brick building at 1237 R St. is nestled between a bookstore and a clothing store. While the bookstore invites the scholarly and the clothing store greets the fashion-conscious, the other building, the Cotner School of Religion, caters to the spiritual.

"We do not have a doctrinal stand or evangelize in class," according to the director, Raleigh J. Peterson, Jr. "We strive for objectivity and academic standards in classes which concern the Bible, theology, history and practical application of beliefs."

The school was founded in 1889 as Cotner College, a four year liberal arts school, in Bethany, Neb. Difficult times during the Depression forced it to close in 1933. The College reopened on East Campus in 1946 as a school of religion and moved to its present location in 1954.

UNL accepts 12 credit hours towards a degree from the school, Peterson said. However, the hours and not the grades are transferred as electives, he added.

Students do not pay tuition to the school if they are registered for 12 hours at the University, he said. However, there is a \$2 registration fee, he added.

Beginning next fall, students will pay tuition per credit hour, Peterson said. The charge will be made because the University

will change its tuition payment procedure, he added.

The Cotner School of Religion does not receive money from the University, Peterson said, but it is financed by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the endowment from the former Cotner College. The instructors, who come from a variety of denominations, are volunteers or paid by their church, he said. The School offers no degree, he added.

Cotner "is not a training school for ministers, but a place to provide religious courses for a complete education, Peterson said.

Seventy-five students enrolled in fall classes, Peterson said. Ninety per cent were UNL students. The others were students from Nebraska Wesleyan University, Union College and private citizens, he added.

He said the main problem in dealing with the University as an "independent department" is separate registration. The school's courses are not listed in the University class schedule book, he said.

Peterson also said Cotner's board of directors are discussing a possible merger of the school with the University. If it does happen, he said, then religion classes may be accepted as meeting humanities requirements and other electives.

## Termpapers ...

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Morton said that before, the faculty could change books read by students for a class if they thought there were a lot of papers on particular book "floating around." The problem with term paper companies is that the student can get a paper on virtually any subject, he said.

Although only one student has been discovered so far, Art Steckel, a spokesman for Termpaper Arsenal Inc., in Los Angeles, said his company sells about two or three papers a month in the Lincoln area. The local agent for the company, who didn't want to be identified, confirmed this.

A spokesman for Termpapers Unlimited in Washington, D.C., James Butler, said he didn't think the company had much business in Nebraska, because of a lack of advertising.

Papers from Termpapers Unlimited are \$4.85 a page for undergraduate level papers and \$5.85 a page for graduate level papers. Papers that require more than an average amount of time cost more, according to Butler.

The company sends a brochure with the finished paper which discourages students from using the papers verbatim. He added the company hasn't had any problems with universities because, "we're above board and beyond reproach."

Steckel said Termpaper Arsenal sells few papers in Lincoln. The company sold just enough to break even with the cost of the ad run in the Daily Nebraskan.

Steckel added that the company is going to change its name to Research Unlimited. Papers will have the company name stamped on the back of each sheet and the customer will have to sign a disclaimer saying he will not use the paper verbatim.

According to the local agent, term papers from Termpaper Arsenal, Inc. are \$2.50 a page. If someone requests a page not in the catalog, the price is \$4.50 a page.

Besides students, the agent said, he sometimes gets requests from businessmen or other non-students for papers.

"With all the confusion and problems with Bader, I'm getting out," he said, but added a new agent is already in the process of taking over. The agent said the term paper business was just something to do in his spare time and he now wanted to devote more time to his business.

One reason students use the papers, according to the agent is that, "You just can't find anything in Love Library."

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