

Mueller planetarium shows UFO's

By Ivy Harper

As the projector rises in the domed room, blackness sets in and stars slowly appear. Families and students stare at the rotating sky and vertigo takes over.

Sunday afternoon at UNL's Mueller planetarium in Merrill Hall.

The narrator gives a short history of the constellations with the Moody Blues, Debussy and Boston Pops in the background.

The music goes electronic and "Visitors from Outer Space," —the UFO show—begins.

Jack Dunn, planetarium coordinator, wrote the script and said he tried to give both sides of UFO reportings.

Dunn said he did not want to come to any conclusions about UFO's, because it is easy to scare the audience or to make UFO's seem ridiculous.

It is like being alone on a ship at night with music emanating everywhere.

The reaction of the audience to the program could be seen by the clenched fists and open mouths of the children.

Don Spearow, a sophomore at UNL, said he would definitely recommend it to anyone. He said that he has been to other planetariums around the United States and this "one is above average."

Jeff Armstrong, a sophomore at UNL, said he came to the show because his interested in astronomy.

Tom Stack, also a sophomore, said, "I've never seen a UFO and I'm interested in any information that can tell me more about them."

Humor is injected in the narration but the main purpose is to "give serious attention to the UFO's that people see."

Dunn explains the most famous and reliable UFO sightings and tells how it is possible to test the reliability of those who report them.

The show costs 35 cents for students and 75 cents for adults and will be shown every Saturday and Sunday afternoon for the next six weeks.

Employe taxis save time, gas

By Ivy Harper

Drivers, organizers and passengers agree that an experimental "taxi" service begun this summer at UNL is working.

The idea to pool state cars, used for university business, to conserve gas and time came from a brainstorming session between the finance and business department heads Ray Coffey, assistant business manager at UNL, said.

Coffey said the initial experiment begun in June involved administration, Nebraska Hall and the Physical Plant giving up seven state cars.

The departments were then given use of two state cars operated like a commercial cab system.

Coffey said the basic policy of the state had been to operate under a centralized car pool for UNL. Each department was given a certain number of cars for employees to use for business. They would sign up for them individually, he said, sometimes tying them up for longer periods than needed.

Now if an administrator needs to go to the Statehouse, he calls dispatcher Diane Nelson and she sends out a cab.

She said the taxi idea is working out fine because now more people can ride in state cars. Before, she said, they had to sign up for days but now they can go on a trip by trip basis.

Ruth Mickalecki, director of communications, said the new service has been put under her office because the cars are equipped with mobile radio units.

Mickalecki has issued a guide telling who can use the service and how they should use it.

She said it is strictly for UNL business and that students should not feel that there is a taxi operation on campus.

Mickalecki said the most important service is people, but in emergencies, the cab drivers will deliver packages.

UNL students are the drivers of the cars, she said, and she hopes that it will remain that way. There have been some minor problems with scheduling but she is confident that students will stay as the drivers, she said.

One of the first cab driving students, Judy Erickson, said that she liked the job because of the interesting people she has met.

She said that she had some problems figuring out where to go, but that is because she is a freshman and not familiar with the campus.

Jan Kelly, a secretary for the Personnel Dept., said she took a cab this summer for business and found it "quite handy."

She said it is helpful because it allows the messengers to get more work done when they don't have to worry about signing up for cars and running errands.

Coffey said that the idea caught on so fast that the service has been approved and will be expanded. One more car has been added bringing the total to three, he said.

He said during the initial experiment the service was limited to just the three departments but now it is open to all departments.

The program will be evaluated on a cost benefit scale to see if it is economically beneficial.

There are many services, like time and convenience, Coffey said that cannot be measured monetarily.

Coffey said that as far as he knows, no other university has a program similar to this one.

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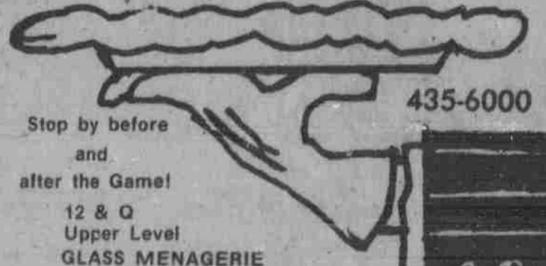
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