

Mueller Planetarium's new hardware opens another world of visual trips

By Greg Tally

Tumbling asteroids, gas clouds and lunar landscapes are effects made possible by new equipment in UNL's Mueller Planetarium.

Those new moving images should make planetarium programs more interesting to audiences, coordinator Jack Dunn said, because today's audiences are becoming more visually oriented.

"Audiences are becoming watchers more than listeners," Dunn said, "and seeing moving images will be more visually stimulating than just listening to lectures about planets and constellations."

The new equipment was purchased and constructed during the past few weeks.

The Horizon Panorama System, costing between \$600 and \$700, Dunn said, will show such things as lunar and planetary landscapes.

The rotating and moving images shown on the planetarium dome are projected through new slides treated with a polarized substance, Dunn explained. The slides are used with eight new projectors. He said four more projectors will be bought later.

Another addition to the planetarium will be a landscape panorama, replacing the Lincoln skyline that has been the dome's horizon for many years.

A UFO program in January and a show in April based on astrological references in the works of Shakespeare are programs scheduled to use the new effects, Dunn said.

The younger audiences are interested in visual effects, so the new programs should be particularly appealing to them, Dunn said.

"Older audiences go for the more traditional type of program where you point out planets, stars and so on," Dunn said. "A good planetarium program will be a combination of both interests."

Mueller Planetarium was built with funds from UNL alumnus Ralph Mueller. It opened in 1958.

Although the planetarium is financed by UNL, it "makes enough money to pay for its own existence," Dunn said. Expensive special projects, like the 1970 purchase of the Spitz A4-RPY star projector, are sometimes financed by the Mueller fund, he said.



calendar

- 10 a.m.-6 p.m.—University Health Services, flu clinic, Nebraska Union.
- Noon — Security Mutual Life, luncheon, Union 203.
- 3:30 p.m. — Panhellenic, Union 232.
- 4 p.m. — International Education Services, Flights & Study Tours orientation, Union 222.
- 5:30 p.m.—Towne Club pledges, Union 343.
- 6 p.m.—Towne Club, Union Harvest Room B-C.
- 6:30 p.m.—Kappa Alpha Psi Kittens, Union 232.
- 6:30 p.m.—Tau Kappa Epsilon, Union 222.
- 7 p.m.—Table Tennis Club, Union Conference Rooms.
- 7 p.m.—Baha'i Association, Union 337.
- 7:30 p.m. — College Career Christian Fellowship, Union 202.
- 7:30 p.m.—Math Counselors, Union 225 B-C.
- 9 p.m.—Kappa Alpha Psi, Union 232.

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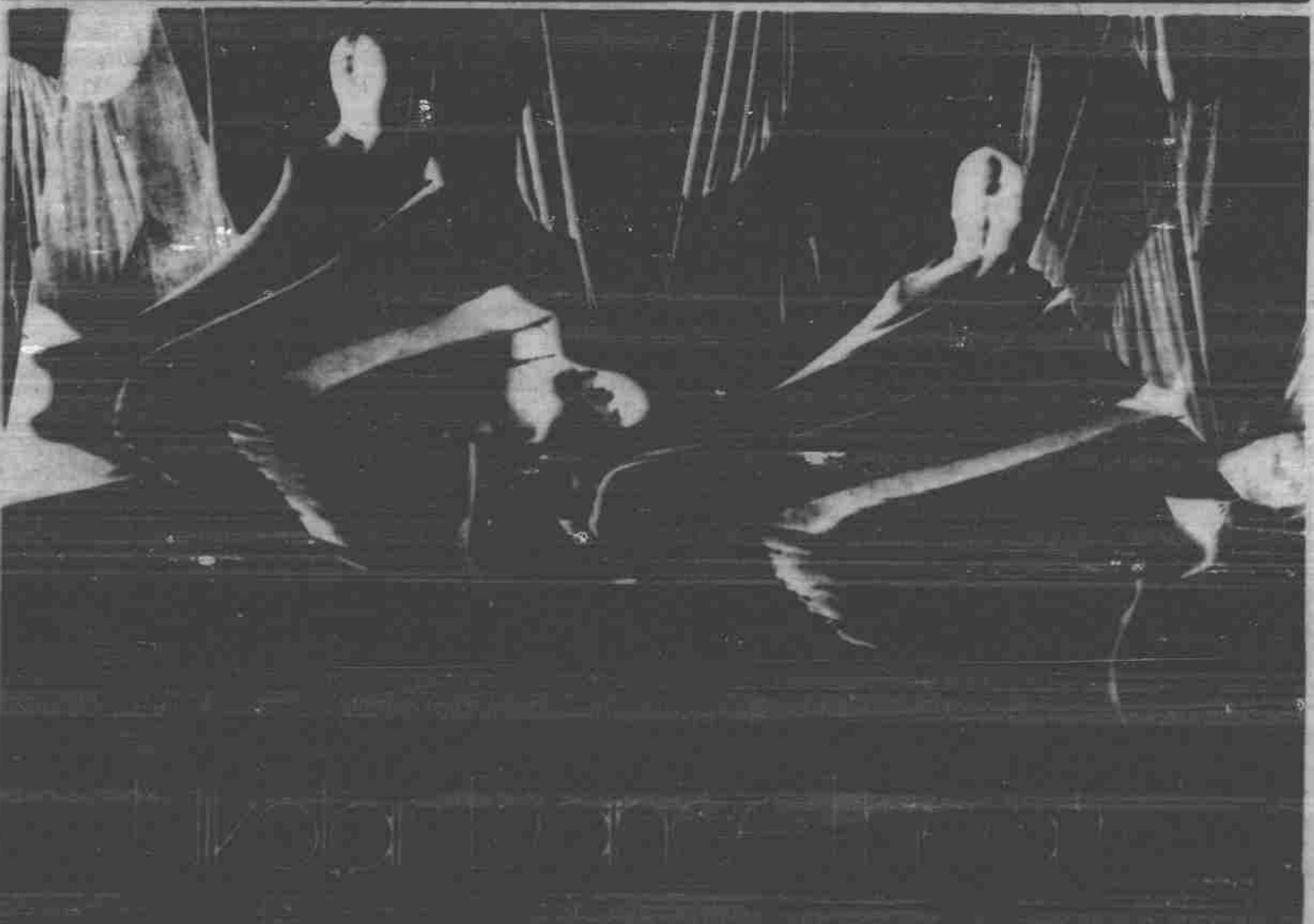
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