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# Campus minister spins ghost s

By Mary Fastenau

He started with a thread of suspense and slowly wound it around the room until every imagination had become a captive of his tale.

The cowlicks and toothless grins of the first and second graders were all part of his story, willing prisoners of his charm and story-telling ability.

In reality, the gray-haired and bearded man stood in a classroom of Lincoln's Pershing Elementary School, but the minds of his audience were in Arkansas exploring the depths of "Ghost Cave," from which no one had returned alive.

The gray-haired story teller is Duane Hutchinson, pastor at Wesley House, a campus ministry. The stories he tells are ones he collected while doing "people research" and taking information from the minds of the "old-timers."

**Ghost stories**

He said he goes to about three public schools a week during October, but normally tries to limit it to about two a month. He explained that he visits more during October because of his ghost stories.

Those ghost stories are believable, so believable that every first and second grader was going to go to Arkansas to look for the gold that had been left by the Spaniards.

One little girl, dressed in a blue turtle-neck shirt with matching eyes, which were so big with wonder that they filled up her glasses, assured the reporter that she was going to Arkansas that night. She said she might even miss school the next day.

Another little fellow in a flowered shirt and plaid pants also had his trip planned. He was going to go down into that cave and "punch him in the eye" just like he did to his brother.

**Love of writing**

Besides telling stories, Hutchinson also is learning puppeteering. Before the children left the room, he instructed each one to come shake hands with his puppet, who remains nameless.

As he drives away from the school, he admits that he enjoys telling stories, but

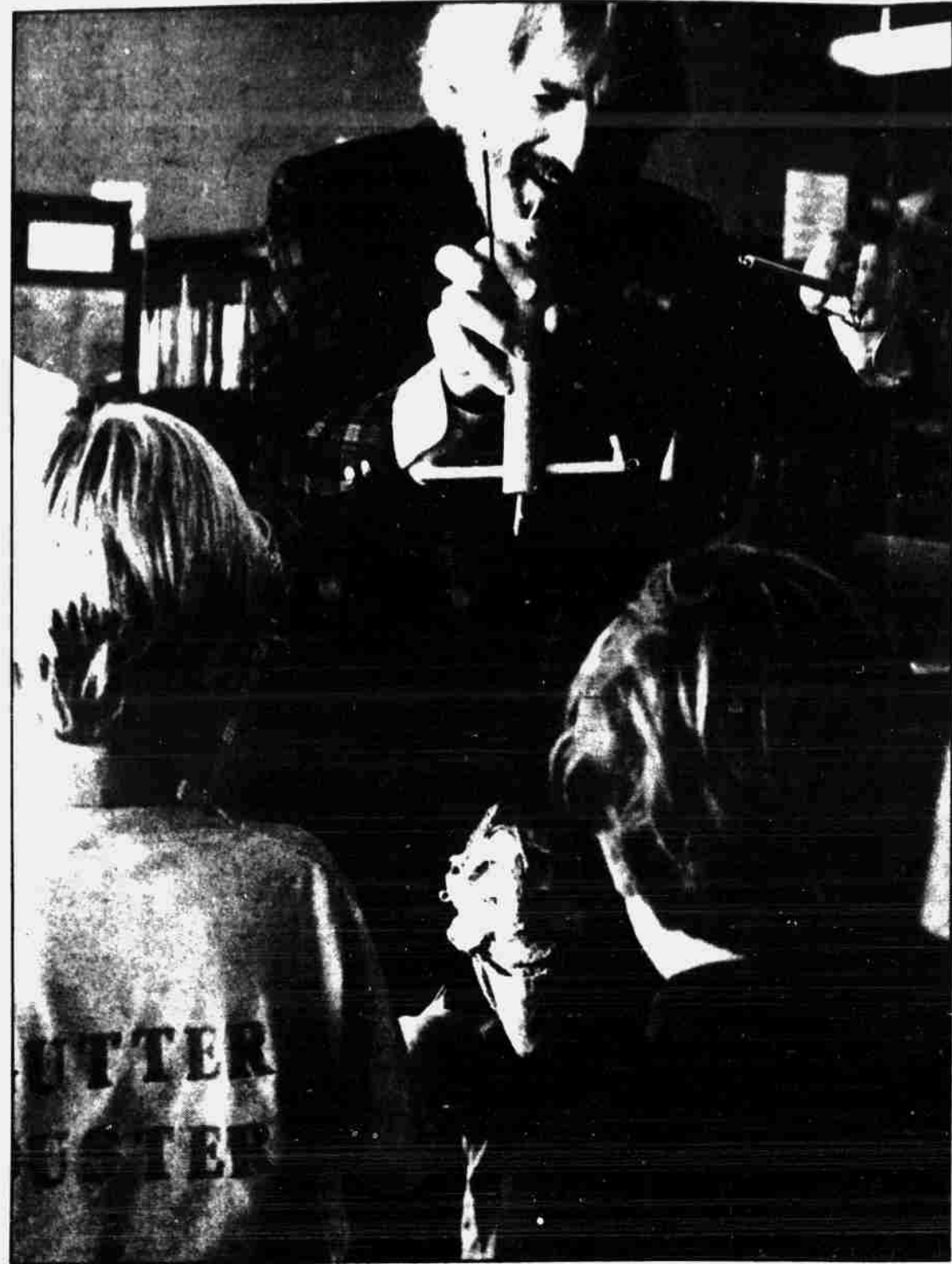


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Duane Hutchinson, a campus minister at the Wesley House, entertains second graders with his charm and story-telling ability.

that his first love is writing.

He has combined story-telling and writing, and soon will be writing a book of Nebraska ghost stories. He said he has about 50 that he has collected to include in the book.

Being an author is not a new experience for Hutchinson. He has written a book entitled, *Doc Graham, Sandhills Doctor*

and also wrote a biography of Gov. J. James Exon, he said.

He is now working on a story about the first airplane pilots in Nebraska.

Hutchinson said he does his research by talking to "old-timers" in the Sandhills. He said he knows many of these people because he grew up between Elgin and Clearwater, Neb., where his father raised horses that were pastured in the Sandhills.

## Local candidates hold debate

It was a day for the candidates a person doesn't hear about much.

They don't have high priced media campaigns to bring their message to the public. They have to depend on real people-to-people campaigning.

Thrusting a piece of campaign literature into a prospective voter's hand and repeating the same line hundreds of times.

"Hi, I'm John Doe, running for dog-catcher and I'd appreciate your vote on Nov. 7."

These candidates abandoned their door to door campaigns Sunday and appeared at the Lincoln League of Women Voter's Great Debate at Gateway Shopping Center.

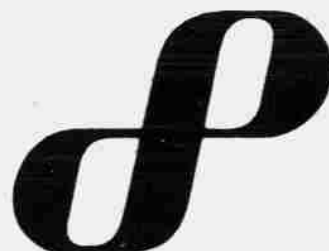
They debated with their opponents for about 10 minutes discussing their positions on issues concerning their offices, but often only repeating what their opponent had to say.

As Ken Sherwood, democratic candidate for county clerk said, "I have a problem with my name, it comes after Dick Baker (his Republican opponent who spoke first) in the alphabet and I find myself repeating what Dick Baker has said."

After the speech, it was back to the enclosed mall to shake more hands, each candidate sharing a table with their opponent.

The offices represented ranged from register of deeds and county weed commission to state legislature, their pay scales ranged from nothing to \$22,000 annually for some county offices.

And the candidates for these offices did their best to get elected, passing out literature and balloons adorned with their names, put there by a friend with a magic marker.



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**CULTURAL VARIETY SHOW**



Wednesday, October 25,  
8:00 P.M.  
Union Centennial Room  
University of Nebraska  
**FREE Admission**

There will be an informal welcome in the Union Main Lounge, 230, Wednesday, Oct. 25 Students invited.