

# Barkley Center provides program for stutterers

By Mary Kay Wayman

Porky Pig, with his famous "Th-th-th-that's all, folks!", probably could have benefited from new approaches to stuttering being used at the Barkley Memorial Center on East Campus.

Charles Healey, associate professor of speech pathology and audiology, said there are two kinds of stuttering, repeating the first sound of a word or prolonging a sound.

Healey said there probably are students with these problems who could benefit from treatment. He said some speech problems thought to be stuttering, such as repeating words or phrases, often are not.

One of the methods used at the center is the one Healey puts his confidence in—speech productive differences between stutterers and non-stutterers.

"We do not know what causes stuttering and we can't cure it," Healey said. Those who work in the behavioral sciences like speech pathology treat, not cure, he said, and they don't want to guarantee an end to a problem.

### Dead-end streets

Treatments that have tried to work with supposed causes of stuttering like psychological blocks are mostly "dead-end streets," Healey said. Instead of looking to causes, Healey said he works with the factors that main-

tain stuttering.

"We're now working to get rid of the speech productive differences between stutterers and non-stutterers," Healey said. "Origins of stuttering play a secondary role."

Three processes during the production of speech must be coordinated, he said. These are respiration, or the air coming out of the lungs; the on or off status of the voice box; and articulation, or the way the sounds are formed.

"We think the major problem is that stutterers have lost control of these," he said. "If we can identify what's wrong then we can have programs for them."

"Maybe we are onto something, the way to dealing effectively with this problem," he said. But Healey said he recognizes that the march of progress may prove these theories unrealistic 10 years from now.

The purpose of the Barkley Memorial Center's three departments, speech pathology and audiology, special ed and the media project for the deaf, is to train students to help people with speech and hearing problems, Healey said.

### Learn more

As chief undergraduate adviser for his department, Healey works with students, but he said he is interested in working with stutterers to learn more about the problem.

Because 1 percent of the U.S. population stutters, Healey said UNL could have 220 stutterers. But he said the actual figure is probably closer to 20.

He said stuttering students should not feel that they cannot be helped. Programs they probably encountered in public schools used outdated methods, he said.

Right now the 17 stutterers being treated at the center are mostly children and adults from the community, he said, with few students. He encouraged any interested students to call the speech and hearing clinic for evaluation of their problem.

Adult stutterers have had the problem all their lives, Healey said, and their stuttering pattern is well-established. He said it takes adults a long time to learn a new way of talking with a fluency that does not identify them as stutterers to other people.

The length of treatment will depend on the severity of the problem and the motivation of the individual, Healey said.

The charge for students and their families is \$10 for evaluation and \$10 a month for treatment, which usually means two or three times a week, he said. UNL employees and their families are charged half the regular fee, he said.

## Letters to the editor

Continued from page 4

There are a couple of things concerning the second coming of Josh McDowell that deserve comment. The first is the manner in which his appearances are advertised. Flyers have been sent via campus mail — at taxpayer expense.

Chalkboards across campus have been defaced. In the past, hundreds of placards were distributed on residence hall cafeteria tables.

The implication is that Josh is a university-sponsored speaker. (What would happen if say, Jane Fonda used such lecture advertising?)

Secondly, there is the question of Josh's philosophy. His talks are not really a critical examination of Christian beliefs. In truth, they are basically anti-intellectual and fundamentalist.

His method is to prove the truth of the Bible by reference to the Bible. His message is the same "I'm O.K. — You're O.K." (if you believe) that is offered by all ministries.

Josh's inspirational presentation is entertaining and worthwhile. But a religious pep talk is not the same as a serious pep talk theological debate. Josh proves again that you can sell Christianity like corn flakes. But it does hurt to read the label.

K.J. Ringlein  
Junior

College of Arts & Sciences

### Josh's truth cheap thrill

In a small town, organized religions provide the only source of information about such major questions as "Why are we here?"; "How does one lead a meaningful life?"; and "How does one serve others?". Most organized religions, especially fundamental sects, provide certain answers.

Since the Renaissance, a university has been the only place where people can gather to seek the answers to these questions in a skeptical climate where the truth other than

that of appealing to the authority of a religious leader or a particular set of scriptures. Through reading literature, philosophy, and comparative religions, it is possible to approach these questions by learning how others have sought knowledge and distilling from the wisdom of generations of people meaning and wisdom for one's own life. Through the sciences, one can learn a method for observing, analyzing, and synthesizing information in such a way as to derive *probable* answers as how this earth and the universe are constructed. Through the social sciences one learns to formulate precise questions about human behavior, and one can occasionally discover principles which are helpful in understanding one's own and other's behavior.

Sometimes the impact of all this knowledge is the gradual discovery that behind the questions of the humanities and sciences are more questions, more complexities, more ambiguities than seems tolerable. And sometimes one is brought unexpectedly, head-on in face of the possibility that there are no answers, that we are alone in a lawful but indifferent universe, in which we have the awesome responsibility of deciding for ourselves what we must do to be human, to be good, to be all that we can be for ourselves and others.

Now an evangelist who calls himself Josh comes to our campus with a highly organized, well-funded campaign to give us answers about everything from life after death to sexual problems. Anybody who has come to this university to learn and question, and struggle within himself or herself to define a meaningful life should be offended by this man and his organization. If the "Devil" exists, then he exists in the guise of this man, and others like him who seek to tempt us away from our struggles for knowledge and our individual ways of loving. Unlike real knowledge, the truth Josh brings does not lead to questions, hard work, more questions. The truth he brings is dull. The truth is a cheap thrill.

Barbara Kerr  
Assistant professor  
Educational psychology and measurement



**Keep Red Cross ready.**

**YES**

**OR**

**NO**

**The FUTURE  
TELLERS**

*That's OS!*

**The  
Great Resurrection-  
Hoax?**

*That's OS!*

**MAXIMUM  
SEX**

*That's OS!*

FREE  
ADMISSION

THURSDAY, JAN. 31 8:00 PM  
PERSHING AUDITORIUM

FREE  
ADMISSION

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30 8:00 PM  
UNION CENTENNIAL ROOM

FREE  
ADMISSION

FRIDAY, FEB. 1 8:00 PM  
PERSHING AUDITORIUM