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Fitness man Simmons at health fair

Richard Simmons, the self-proclaimed "court jester of TV fitness," will highlight the NU Medical Center's 1981 Oktoberfest, Oct. 4.

Simmons, the star of the half-hour daily program on NBC, will present free one-hour programs at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the medical center's annual health fair at 42nd Street and Dewey Avenue. KMTV is co-sponsoring Simmon's Oktoberfest appearances.

"We're inviting the public to come and exercise with Mr. Simmons to emphasize the theme of this year's Oktoberfest—'Here's to Healthier Living,'" said William Bulger, director of public affairs at the medical center.

'Star Trek' logic, emotion draw students to philosophy

By Tom Shelton

The philosophy of Star Trek? You mean there's more to Mr. Spock than his pointed ears?

Yes, according to Dr. Robert F. Anderson who has been bringing the philosophy of *Star Trek* to UNL students since spring 1978.

The course is one of many mini-courses in the philosophy department and of six that Anderson teaches.

Anderson said his Star Trek minicourse serves a worthwhile purpose—it gets students not normally inclined to learn about philosophy to give it a chance.

"The philosophy mini-courses make students more interested in philosophy," he said. "Often students take one or two mini-courses, and then take standard philosophy."

Anderson said philosophy has suffered from a disadvantage.

"Of all the disciplines in the university, philosophy is the least in focus because it is rarely taught in high school," he said. "The English department has it easy. Students learn English 12 years before they go to college."

"Nobody has to take philosophy in high school," so we're (the philosophy department) at a disadvantage."

Anderson said the mini-courses offered

by the department help alleviate the

"How can we acquaint people with philosophy unless we provide minicourses?" he asked. "Mini-courses provide

an easy introduction to philosophy."

Anderson said the types of mini-courses offered by the department have been determined by surveying students to find out what interests them. The last survey was done in the spring of 1979.

Andersen said students were given a list of over 100 subjects compiled by philosophy department faculty members, students and himself. The results were not without surprises.

Placing high on the list were Charles Manson, Adolf Hitler, and the Rev. Jim Jones, whose popularity has worn off as interest in the Jonestown Massacre lessened.

Coming in first in preference among those surveyed was the popular war comedy, M*A*S*H nipping Woody Allen, who came in second.

Despite its obvious popularity, Anderson said M*A*S*H is not likely to be offered as a mini-course because it contains too little philosophical content. Anderson said that subjects without adequate philosophical matter will not be offered regardless of popularity.

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