

# Technology aids search for truth about shroud

By John Koopman

The controversy over the Shroud of Turin, supposedly the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, has taken on a new dimension in the last decade with the introduction of modern research technology.

Scientific research performed on the shroud was the topic of a lecture and slide show presented at First Plymouth Congregational Church, 20th and D streets, Sunday night.

Capt. Ralph Enger, a U.S. Air Force laser physicist and member of the Shroud of Turin research team, presented the show.

Although he gave the lecture to a crowd of mostly church members, Enger urged his listeners to be scientists with him.

"As scientists, we have to put our religious beliefs aside while we look at the data presented. Otherwise we could distort the facts," he said.

The shroud is a 5 by 14 foot rectangle of woven cloth. Faintly distinguishable on the cloth is the impression of a man.

Enger said the most important discovery made about the shroud was in 1898 when an amateur photographer got permission to take pictures of the shroud. (The shroud is shown only about every 40 years). After he took a picture and had a negative, the photographer realized that the impression on the shroud is, in fact, a negative.

### Shroud scorched

Capt. Enger said the most important information gathered by the research team was that the impression on the shroud is a scorch. He said that using sophisticated lighting techniques, the scientists have determined that aside from blood on the cloth, there are no particles of substance in the weave of the fabric that could have made

the impression. He said that when light is shown through the cloth the impression cannot be seen.

The blood on the shroud is that of an animal or human, he said, but at this time it cannot be determined which one.

He said there are many ideas how the scorch was made, ranging from low-level radiation to using a hot statue. But theologians believe the scorch was made at the time of the resurrection.

Enger said the age of the cloth has not been determined yet because the process of carbon 14 dating, which is used to determine age, is a destructive test and a large portion of the cloth would be destroyed.

The physicist said that it will probably never be determined if the cloth is actually the burial cloth of Jesus Christ because there is not enough known about Jesus, such as blood type or specific physical characteristics.

### Not positive

Although they probably won't be able to say positively that the shroud was used to bury Jesus, Enger said information from the shroud can be compared with information already known and comparisons made. He cited these comparisons:

-The image on the cloth is that of an adult male Jew. Rabbis say he is a Jew because they claim to see the image of a small square pouch on the head, which rabbis say early Jews used to hold Scripture passages.

-The beard of the man in the shroud is parted in a V shape, much the same as a drawing of Jesus made during his lifetime.

-The image shows wounds that were made by crucifixion: holes in the wrists and feet.

-Certain wounds seem the same as those the Bible says were inflicted on Jesus. The image shows small holes in the head similar to ones that would be made by a crown of thorns, bell-shaped welts in the back that fit the size of the barbelled ends of Roman whips, and what some say is

a wound in the side, piercing the heart, as a soldier is said to have done after Jesus had died.

-Some scientists and theologians say they can see the impression of coins on the eyes of the man. One theologian in Chicago claims there are 22 points of similarity between the coins on the eyes and two coins produced under Pontius Pilate during the time of Christ.

-A Swiss criminologist has taken pollen samples from the cloth that, he says, match pollen samples from the area of Jerusalem, some from plants that haven't grown there for many years.

### UNL helps

The research group that Enger belongs to is not the only one trying to determine the origin of the shroud. Another group headed by Ray Rogers in Los Alamos, N.M., has been conducting research for a number of years. The Los Alamos group was helped in their research by UNL.

According to Michael L. Gross, chemistry professor and director of the Midwest Center for Mass Spectrometry, tiny threadlets, or lint particles, were sent to UNL in the fall of 1980. The center is part of the UNL chemistry department.

Gross said the particles were sent to determine the organic content to see if they have the same compounds that are present in paint or any other substance which is used to make images.

He said the particles were slowly heated at 300 degrees Celsius and liberated gases were analyzed. He said the analyzed particles came from areas of the cloth which had the image, areas which do not have the image and from a cloth woven that year in the same way as the cloth of the shroud.

The results, he said, showed that the particles from the image area had less organic content than those from the non-image area. Gross said these findings are consistent with the theory of scorched fabric because when a fabric is scorched it loses some of its organic content.

## Agriculture to be topic of seminar

The Agricultural Advisory Board will present an agriculture seminar called "Getting Involved In Agriculture" on Thursday. The seminar will be from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the East Union.

Three speakers will discuss various topics relating to agriculture. They include:

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - "Agri-Motivation," Pat J. Bosco, assistant dean of students, Kansas State University.

2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - "New Policy Horizons for Agriculture," Roy Frederick, UNL professor of agricultural economics.

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - "The Politics of Agriculture," Roger Sandman, former director of intergovernmental affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, state of Nebraska.

The seminar is open to all agriculture students and other interested students and faculty members at UNL.

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**Wellness Week**

**Wednesday, Oct. 6**

	<b>CAREER AND PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT</b> 9:00-11:00 a.m. Nebraska East Union Two assessments will be available to determine career and personality interests and strengths. Follow-up counseling sessions will be available to interpret the results.		<b>GETTING TO KNOW ME: JOURNAL WRITING</b> 1:30-3:00 pm Nebraska Union Discover how journal writing can become your personal record of growth and development. Learn to assess your life.
	<b>STUDY/TIME MANAGEMENT</b> 10:00-11:00 a.m. Nebraska East Union This session will help students assess how they spend their time and offer tips to set a study/living schedule.		<b>CAREER AND PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT</b> 2:00-3:30 pm Nebraska Union Two assessments will be available to determine career and personality interests and strengths. Follow-up counseling sessions will be available to interpret the results.
	<b>THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF WELLNESS</b> 10:00-11:00 a.m. Nebraska Union All individuals have a spiritual dimension which strives for a meaning and purpose to life. Explore ten reasons for seeking healthy spirituality.		<b>BUT I WAS A STRAIGHT "A" STUDENT IN HIGH SCHOOL</b> 2:30-3:30 pm Nebraska Union This workshop is designed to identify skills and pinpoint tips necessary for successful academic performance.
	<b>FILM FESTIVAL</b> 11:00-1:00 p.m. Nebraska Union Lounge		<b>YOU PLUS ME: RELATIONSHIP</b> 3:30-4:30 pm Nebraska Union Examine ways to improve relationships of all kinds. Discover how unrealistic expectations can often cause problems.
	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> 11:30-1:00 p.m. Nebraska Union Centennial Room		<b>WHERE TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR PARENTS NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT SEX</b> 4:30-5:00 pm Nebraska Union This panel will present available campus and community resources for sexual information and problem resolution.
	<b>THE JOY OF LOVING YOURSELF</b> by Sister Mary Christine Maraluso Sister's presentation will focus on the importance of self image on behavior, performance, communication and interpersonal relationships. Her warm and humorous style will make you feel like you've just taken a shower inside.		<b>THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF STRESS</b> 4:30-5:30 pm Nebraska Union Explore the concept of Eustress and learn how to turn a stressful experience into healthy growth.

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