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—Staff Photo by Craig Andresen

From left, UNL juniors Doug Netz, Carol Pribyl and Eugene Tolston, the 1983 Schreiber-Hunter Student Leadership Award Winners, will get their tuition paid for their senior year.

## Nebraska society investigates the bizarre, unexplainable

By Margaret Reist

When Richard Dreyfuss became obsessed with building a huge, flat-topped mountain in the middle of his house and was drawn to the sight of an alien spaceship where he had a "close encounter of the third kind," many viewers left the theater with the rather eerie feeling that it was a good story — but highly unlikely.

Nevertheless, it was based on actual events. Although it was highly dramatized, all of the movie's events, except for the actual landing of the spaceship and "encounter" were based on actual recorded events, Ray Bouche, director of the Nebraska Association for the Unexplained said. The Nebraska Association, formed last year, is one of many groups around the country doing research and gathering evidence about unexplainable phenomena. It consists of a governing board of five directors; general membership is open to the public. Their first public meeting was March 20 and the group is waiting to see

how the public responds, Bouche said. If response is good, they may begin having monthly meetings, he said.

The 28-year-old Bouche has a bachelor's degree in art from Peru State College and works as a graphic artist for Foote and Davies printing Company in Lincoln. He said he first became interested in unexplained phenomena when he was 10 years old. He heard about a fish found off the coast of Madagascar, a species that had supposedly been dead for millions of years. His curiosity of the unexplained stuck with him as he matured and Bouche studied "the unexplained" independently until he moved to Pittsburgh to teach. There, he formed a group with a friend who had a mutual interest.

Well known organizations dealing with the subject exist around the country. The Society for Investigation the unexplained in New Jersey, Project Stigma and the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois, are two of the best known.

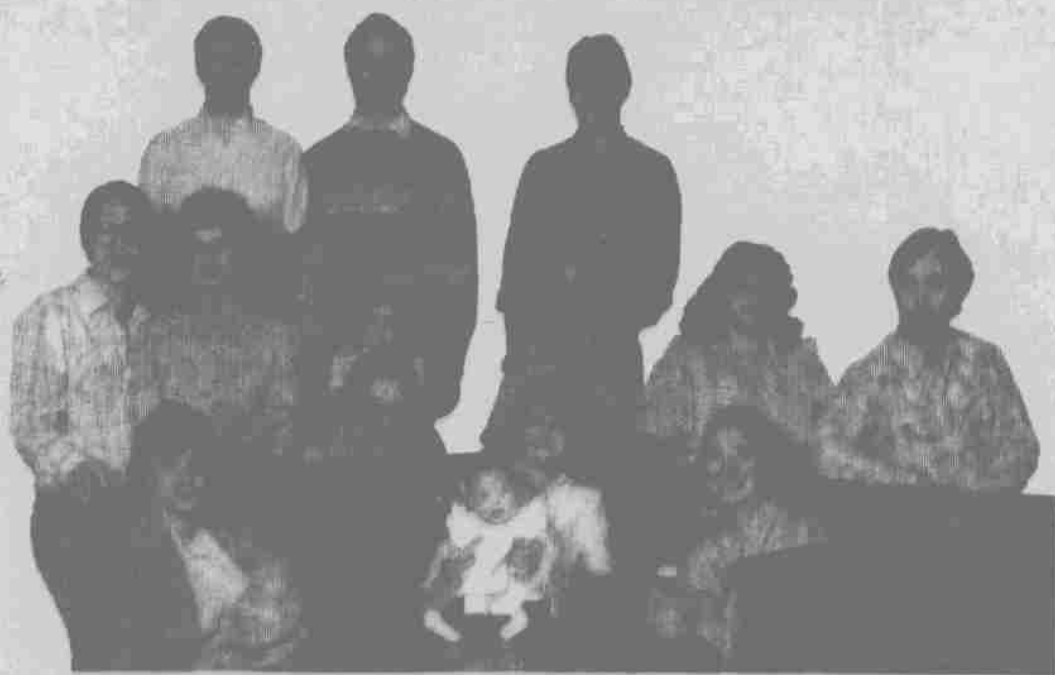
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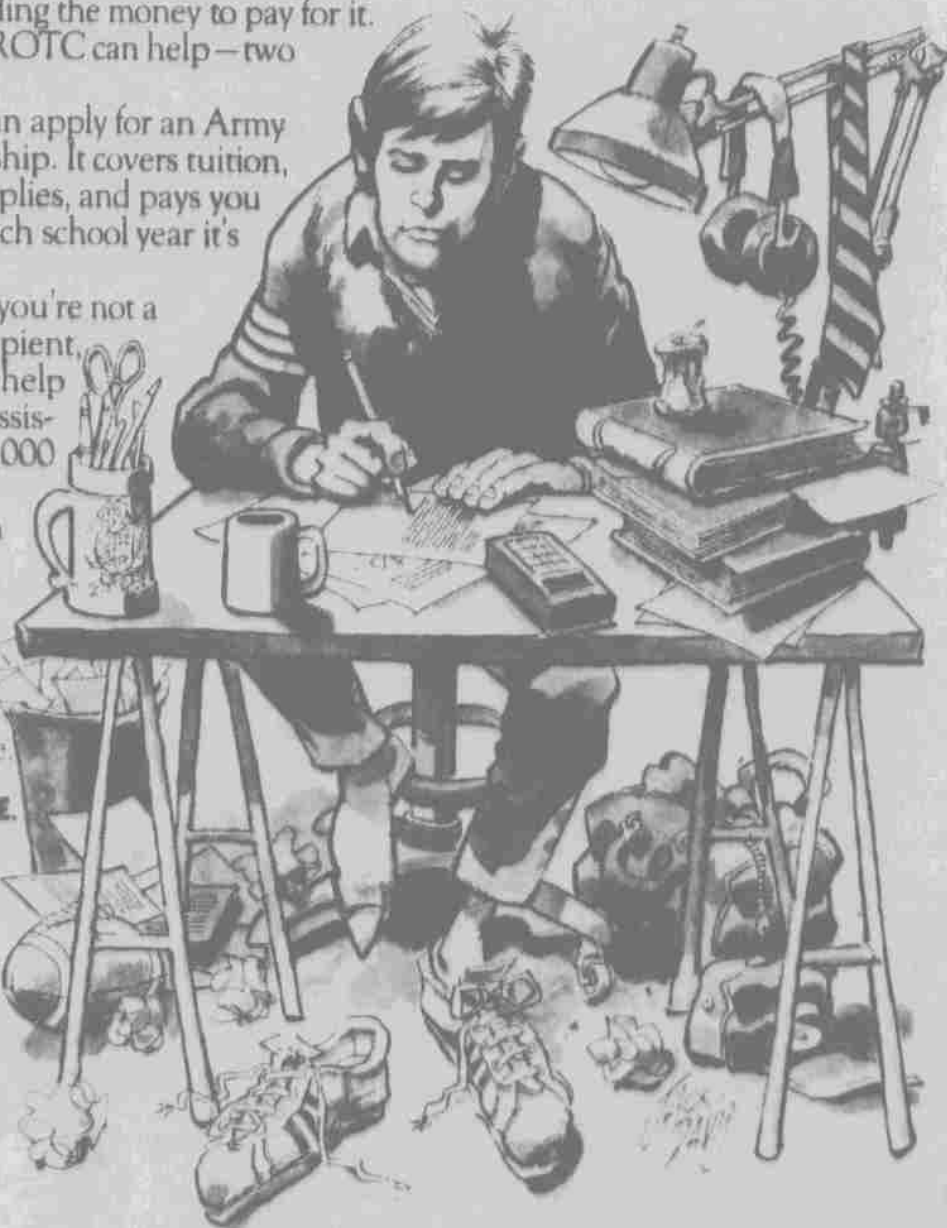
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