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## Burnett lab used to study behavior of young children

By Jody Beem Staff Reporter

In the depths of Burnett Hall, hidden behind plain wooden doors, are psychology labs filled with fish tanks, rats, to study the development of infants and young children.

Ross Thompson, assistant professor of psychology, runs the child lab that has two playrooms so infant behavior can be filmed. Three more rooms are used to analyze the films. People can film and analyze at the same time, he sponse to family changes. said.

than a walk-in closet to help infants said. feel secure. The other playroom is larger so older children can move around, feel less enclosed and interact with other children, he said.

"I've got the best lab for my needs that I've seen," he said. The lab was renovated for Thompson when he came lems with his lab. He said his "state-ofto UNL five years ago. The rooms were the art" video equipment needs regubuilt to Thompson's specifications for lar maintenance. Also, the ventilation a few thousand dollars. He said he also bought wall hangings to brighten the rooms and make them appealing to unusable, he said. young children.

basis since it was built, Thompson conditions, the benefits of the lab keep said. Several studies usually go on at him at UNL.

once. Graduate students also use the lab for their studies, he said.

Thompson said his research projects must be approved by UNL's Ethics Committee.

Thompson said most of his research an enclosed apartment and a lab used has practical applications. For examto study the development of infants ple, Thompson said, he is researching how emotional expressions and differences in expressions develop. He also studies the security of an infants' attachment to caretakers, he said. Contrary to popular belief, Thompson has found attachment can change in re-

id. Both studies can help parents deal One playroom is only a little larger with their children more effectively, he

Research is funded by the university and by national or private foundations. The university also funds small preliminary projects that are necessary to get money for major research, he said.

Thompson said he only has two probsystem malfunctions and drops dirt into the equipment, making the lab

Thompson said that despite UNL's The lab has been used on a full-time budget and research cuts and dusty

## Grad student dies in burning car; cause of fire unknown, police say

From Staff Reports

report.

Charles A. Stiefvater, 28, of Bellevue St. Elizabeth's Community Health Cenpending investigation.

ter at 1:54 a.m. Friday.

Stiefvater was found in front of his A UNL chemistry graduate student apartment complex, 2600 S. 60th St., as was found dead in his car Friay morn- his car burned, said Lancaster County ing. The apparent cause of death was Attorney Mike Heavican. Police recarbon monoxide poisoning, according sponded to a 911 call from an anonymto the Lancaster County coroner's office ous caller, Heavican said. The death appeared to be accidental, he said.

The cause of the fire is unknown was pronounced dead upon arrival at and police refused to release details

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