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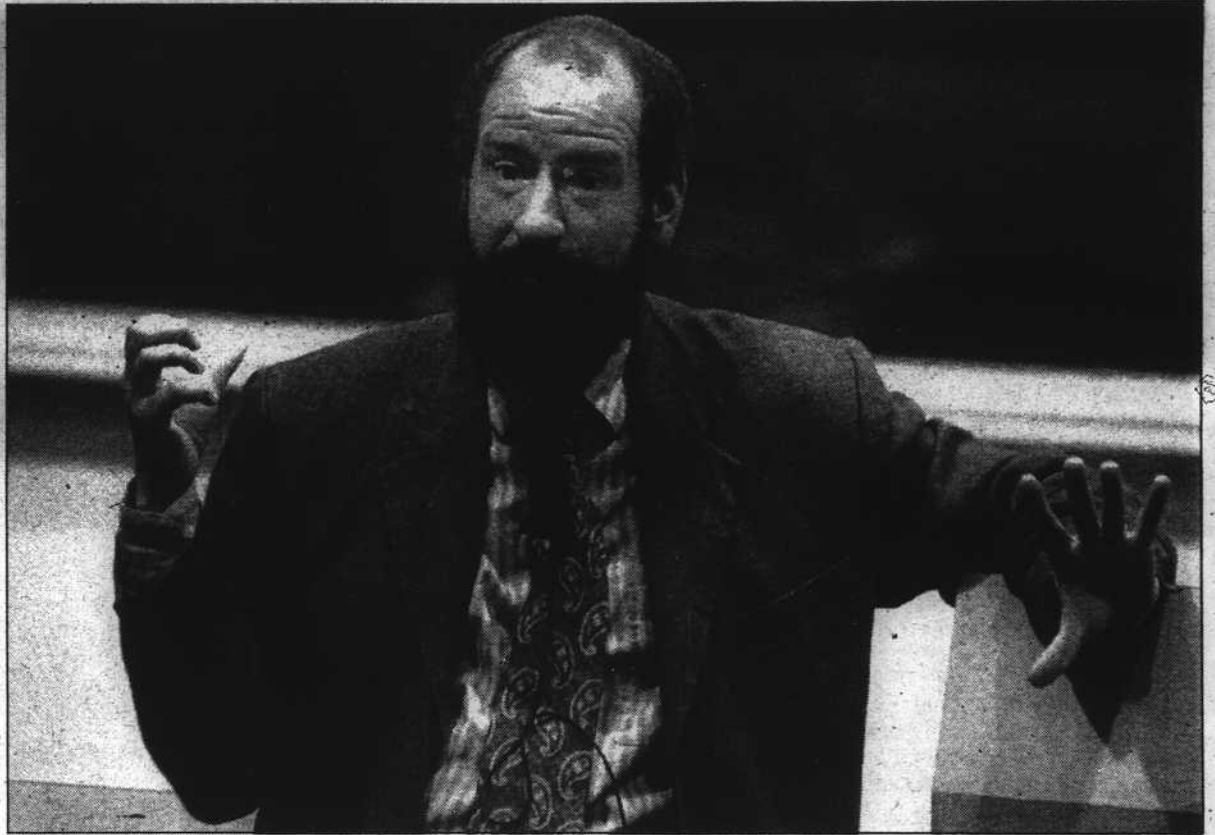
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Travis Heying/DN

Karl Reinhard, assistant anthropology professor, speaks at Bessey Hall Wednesday night.

## Mummies preserve history

By Doug Kerns  
Staff Reporter

Karl Reinhard unwrapped a dusty subject Wednesday night at Bessey Hall.

The assistant anthropology professor addressed "Mummies, Disease and Mortuary Practice: Examples from the South American Andes."

Reinhard has been part of an excavation of Moquegua Valley in southern Peru, where he studied mummies from the Chirabaya culture of almost 1,000 years ago.

His talk was the first in a series offered by the Archaeological Institute of America.

Cultures in the area thrived in or near fertile river valleys in the otherwise hostile terrain of Peru and Chile, Reinhard said.

A great deal of information about the culture of these ancient peoples can be obtained by studying their mummies, the preparation of their dead.

Modern investigators are more careful than archaeologists of the past, Reinhard said, when the mummies often would be destroyed after the autopsy.

"There is a new focus on conservation of mummies in the archeological community," he said.

Through their mummies, the spirituality of the dead in a culture could be

carried on through succeeding generations.

"All of this deals with honoring the dead," Reinhard said.

Mummification helped preserve the dead in a recognizable form according to the cosmology of the survivors, he said. Those cultures often brought offerings to the corpses; some may have even been preserved in upright fashion for use in ceremonies.

"Intentional mummification often involved some type of interaction with the corpse," Reinhard said.

Reinhard contrasted three separate and diverse indigenous cultures of Chile and Peru that practiced mummification.

The Moche culture, which ended about 700 A.D., had a complex, hierarchical society, and their mummies often were buried in chambers with intricate artifacts.

The Chinchorro culture, which ended about 4000 B.C., was a hunter/gatherer society that practiced mummification. Reinhard said this was rare among primitive peoples, and may be because the Chinchorro stayed in their fertile estuary environment for long periods of time.

The Chirabaya culture offered a socio-economic middle ground between the other two cultures. The Chirabaya were agriculturalists and llama herders.

Reinhard is particularly interested

*"Intentional mummification often involved some type of interaction with the corpse."*

**KARL REINHARD**

assistant anthropology professor

in the intestinal contents of the mummies, and how that data reflects their way of life.

"It's good, gut-level data," he said.

Also of interest to Reinhard is that through these mummies, scientists can explore the origins of the various diseases of ancient peoples, including tuberculosis.

A major problem archeologists face, Reinhard said, is the desecration of buried remains and the vandalism of the mummies after excavation. Mummies are sometimes reburied in the hope that ground conditions will preserve them, Reinhard said.

Reinhard said he believed these ancient people knew that burying their dead in one of the hottest, driest climates in the world would mummify the remains.

## NRoll, ISO topics at senate meeting

By Kasey Kerber  
Staff Reporter

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska discussed changes to the NRoll system and the International Students' Olympics at its meeting Wednesday night.

Several issues initially discussed at last week's meeting were updated by ASUN President Shawn Tell.

Hurtgen. Among them was the push to have instructors' names listed earlier on the NRoll system.

"Academic Affairs has told me that they couldn't get all names on

the NRoll system," Hurtgen said. "What they did tell me they could do is send a letter to the deans of each of the colleges. This letter would urge the deans to assign instructors sooner."

Hurtgen also discussed making the colleges' class waiver forms more universal. Some colleges' existing waiver forms are short and simple, while others' are long and tedious.

A new issue on the agenda was the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's accreditation. The university renews its accreditation once every 10 years. UNL faces renewal in April 1997.

"To be ready for the accreditation, we will have to start organizing committees now," said Hurtgen. "Since it will take two years for a student committee to finalize its criterion report,

we are encouraging sophomore and junior senators to become part of accreditation committees."

Muhammad Javaid, ASUN's international student subcommittee chairman, also asked for the senate's help to get more students involved in the International Students' Olympics.

"Previously it was open only to foreign students," Javaid said. "But we wanted the olympics to live up to their name and truly be more of an international event."

The olympics will run Sept. 17-30. They will feature competition in most major sports. Events will be held in the Campus Recreation Center, on the tennis courts behind Smith Residence Hall and on the athletic fields behind Abel Hall.

## Nebraska Book Company changes owners

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska Book Company, which operates a nationwide chain of retail bookstores, including the Nebraska Bookstore at 13th and Q streets, has been sold to Olympus Partners, a private equity firm in Stamford, Conn.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Mark Oppgaard, president of Nebraska Book Company, said the

change would not affect the company's operations.

"It's going to be business as usual for us," he said.

Oppgaard said there would be no personnel changes as a result of the deal. Customers shouldn't notice anything different, he said.

"Our mission statement, as always, is to provide the best service as possible to our customers," Oppgaard said.

Jim Cornell, general manager of Nebraska Bookstore, reiterated Oppgaard's remarks.

"It's been just an extremely smooth transition," Cornell said, adding that the company was already in new hands. Olympus Partners took control Sept. 1, he said.

Cornell said Nebraska Bookstore would "continue to provide a strong textbook presence on the University of Nebraska campus."

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