

Love Library displays paranormal collection

By **DARREN IVY**
Staff Reporter

Pretty much anyone who has seen and believed "The X-Files," last summer's "Independence Day" or any one of the several other films, books and television shows that have capitalized on tales of the paranormal will tell you that "we are not alone."

And if you're one of those who find this newly-revived genre interesting at all, you definitely are not alone.

"Particular paranormal phenomena have seen increased interest because of recent movies and literature," said Donald Jensen, professor of psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

To keep students informed about paranormal activity and provide them with information, the Nebraska Paranormal Collection in the UNL Archives has been put on display in the second floor of Love Library near the interlibrary loan center.

The exhibit of books, magazine articles, newspaper articles, and personal records gathered over several decades by E.A. Kral will be displayed through Sept. 3.

Items for the exhibit were donated by Kral, a retired English teacher from Wilber who set up a fund to support the study of paranormal events at the university.

According to Gail Latta, reference librarian for the departments of psychology and sociology, work on the exhibit has been done during the past year. Latta said she

worked with Kral to set up the exhibit and to study the educational value of paranormal events.

"This exhibit is good because it goes along with Jensen's Psychology 470 class about science and parapsychology," Latta said.

In addition to teaching this psychology class, Jensen has taught a summer reading course about paranormal activity for 10 years. He also has been actively involved in the paranormal field for 30 years. Jensen had an article published in *Skeptical Enquirer*, a quarterly magazine that provides a standard scientific point of view about paranormal events.

The exhibit is an extension of UNL's paranormal claims hotline at 472-9493, which Jensen manages.

"The purpose of the hotline is to provide a service for people with paranormal claims and to look at data and seek ways to get scientific information about the paranormal claims," Jensen said.

By and large, Jensen said, paranormal claims often are explainable. Most of the claims received by the hotline have turned out to be caused naturally or haven't been paranormal at all.

"The key to determine if paranormal phenomena exist is taking a serious consideration of many alternate explanations," Jensen said.

Because paranormal events are difficult to investigate, it is easy for hoaxes and rumors to be get started.

Jensen said finding testable physical evidence poses a problem when trying to determine the authenticity of paranormal claims.



BIBLICAL CON'

Plaza preacher amuses, offends

By **TASHA E. KELTER**
Staff Reporter

Matt Ingle argued all day Tuesday. Ingle disagreed with much that Pastor Tom Short, on his last day at UNL, was preaching on the Nebraska Union plaza. His message on the Bible elicited mostly opposition.

Short's visit was sponsored by NU/Life, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Christian group.

Short does not get paid for his services, said NU/Life volunteer adviser Jim Wiebelhaus, but the group pays for his transportation and the production of his pamphlets.

The primary purpose of Short's visit on campus, Wiebelhaus said, is to "get people to think about the Bible."

The subjects in the Bible are relevant to everyday life, but the Bible is not discussed in the classroom, Wiebelhaus said.

"Lots of people have thoughts about God and Christianity, but not much education," he said. "We wanted to make this an open classroom."

Ingle, a freshman theater arts major, stayed for a good part of the day to listen to Short and to contest Short's views.

Ingle said he believed that Short had a right to speak on campus, but he was not completely satisfied.

"There should be an alternative, like having a Hindu or Krishna up there," Ingle said.

Ingle took exception to Short's way of presenting his viewpoints. He said that Short was practicing "verbal brutality" and that he wished the discussion would be less one-sided.

"He's offended several people by making gross accusations against them," Ingle said. "It's grossly unfair."

Sophomore psychology major Alissa Nichols said she thought the demonstration was healthy for the campus as a community.

"It brings people together," she

said. Nichols stayed to watch Short because she "likes to see how different people look at things," she said. "It gives everyone the right to say what they think."

Throughout the day, Short was confronted by several people who contested his views on the Bible, homosexuality and other social and religious issues.

"This is a typical day," he said. "I find the Scripture to be perfect, to be God's word."

Between defending his faith and arguing specific biblical issues, Short attempted to give his personal testimony to the group, which dwindled while classes were in session.

"People asked me if I've tried other ways of living besides with God," he said. "Yes, I've tried other ways."

Robert Aguirre, a graduate English student, didn't agree with Short's strong view on homosexuality.

"His condemning homosexuality can become very harmful," he said.

Regrettably,
all sections
are full this
semester for

Thermodynamics

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