

# Speaker lectures on issue of teaching evolution

BY MARC SALEME

Some students learned in grade school and high school that the world was created in seven days.

Others learned humans evolved from monkeys.

The issue of which theory should be taught in public schools — evolution or creationism — was a hot topic of debate Thursday night. The eighth in a series of lectures about the controversy of biological evolution versus creationism was held in the Nebraska Union Auditorium.

Robert Pennock, an associate professor of science and technology studies at Michigan State University in East Lansing, discussed why evolution theory should be taught in schools and creationism should not.

The lecture was propelled by an uproar in Kansas in the summer of 1999 that made international news.

The public school curriculum, which would have taught evolution in science classes, was

altered to teach creationist-revised science standards.

Pennock explained that the original curriculum instructed teachers to treat any questions of religious conflicts (in relation to evolution) with the utmost respect and send students to parents and/or clergy with questions.

With the revision, "creationists removed all standards relating to biological evolution, reference to big-bang cosmology and any geological time-scale that would give the Earth ancient age," Pennock said.

"They even removed reference to erosion, as that would date the Earth contrary to the creationist beliefs."

When observing the controversy in teaching evolution or creationism, separation of church and state becomes a question.

Les Lane, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln plant pathology professor, said he thought creationism was not scientific.

"Science is based on making predictions and testing those

predictions," Lane said. "Since creationism is closely linked with religion and is not science, it should not be taught in public schools."

Regardless of its religious affiliation, Pennock pointed out that presidential candidates Pat Buchanan, Bob Dole, Steve Forbes and President-elect George W. Bush said they would allow local school districts to decide whether to teach creationism in science classes.

This does seem to reflect the ideas of nearly half of the population, Pennock said.

A recent Gallup Poll showed 47 percent of Americans hold creationist views, he said.

Several in attendance said they agreed creationism should not be taught in public schools.

Melissa Mosier, a UNL freshman undecided major, said she thought separation of church and state was important.

But Mosier also said it's important for teachers to be knowledgeable on resources to direct someone with questions about religion.

# New equipment fuels research

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machines, put the university in a catch-22, Shoemaker said.

"It is hard to justify the cost of getting the instrumentation if you don't have faculty, yet at the same time it is difficult to recruit that kind of faculty if you don't have the right instrumentation," Shoemaker said.

Gaining the new spectrom-

eter makes the university more attractive to researchers. Right now the chemistry department is looking to hire an additional faculty member who specializes in protein studies using an NMR.

As the field of protein research expands and becomes more competitive, the acquisition of the new spectrometer will put UNL at the leading edge

of this science, Shoemaker said.

In the past, Shoemaker, like Harbison, also built his own NMR machines when the commercial market didn't have what he needed. He said commercial models have now surpassed what he could make on his own.

"The days of home-build are almost gone," Shoemaker said. "But getting into the new millennium is good."

# Bill intends to increase penalty for MIP

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MIP, Keefe said.

Keefe also said that being a designated driver would be discouraged because of the new procedures for MIP.

But Quandahl said designated drivers would not suffer from this bill as long as they were not participating in alcohol consumption.

"If you are at a party and if you're not acting drunk, looking drunk or tested drunk — there's no problem," he said.

Mylo Bushing, assistant chief of police at UNL, said minors who refrained from drinking weren't charged with an alcohol violation.

"We'll cite the ones, and only the ones, that have consumed alcohol," he said.

Harsher penalties also have been included in LB114 because current penalties aren't enough, Quandahl said.

New penalties the bill would enact include a drivers' license revocation for a minimum of three months.

Another penalty in LB114 is that parents or guardians of an

alcohol violator would be notified, Quandahl said.

"Studies have shown that the current penalties are inadequate to curb underage drinking," he said.

As for the harsher penalties, Quandahl said a driver's license was a privilege, not a right.

"The suspension will potentially have underage drinkers wake up to the servility of what they're doing," he said.

Keefe said he was against notification of parents for minors over the age of 19.

"When you're 19 or 20, to noti-

fy your parents, that seems crazy," he said.

Bushing said underage drinking was not a major problem on campus, but not all of it is caught.

"It's not something that consumes a lot of our time," he said. "If they're in their own room having a beer while they study, that would go undetected."

Even though the student government has proposed to lobby against the bill, Quandahl said he would stand behind it.

"I would expect some resistance to this, but I still think it's the right thing to do."

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## Law & Order

### Drivers find 4-year-old trying to cross street

A small group of drivers going down Cornhusker Ave. and 27th St. noticed something out of the ordinary Wednesday night.

A 4-year-old child trying to cross the street was reported to the Lincoln Police Department shortly after 10:30 p.m., Officer Katherine Finnell said.

Georgina Schaffer, 22, stopped the girl and tried to find out who she was, Finnell said.

Finnell said the girl told Schaffer she was hungry and was going to the Super Saver grocery store for something to eat. The girl did not know her last name.

Lincoln police received a call

at 10:49 p.m. from Melissa Clow, 23, who was looking for her lost child, Finnell said.

Clow said a friend had been watching the girl in her mobile home at 2545 Theresa St. while Clow was asleep. The friend had to leave at 10:30 p.m., Finnell said.

Clow was ticketed for misdemeanor child neglect.

### Burglars break into three commercial businesses

Three commercial burglaries Wednesday night left police on the lookout for break-ins.

Finnell said police were alerted to the first of the burglaries by an alarm at Mills Amoco Food Shop, 4445 S. 70th St., shortly

before 2:00 a.m.

Burglars pried open the southeast glass door to the business and entered, but did not take anything, Finnell said. Damage to the business was \$350.

Another alarm alerted police to a burglary at Mobile Audio Design Inc., 2701 N. 27th St., around 2:30 a.m., Finnell said.

The burglars also entered the business by prying the front door open, causing it to break.

Police officers then noticed the front window broken out of the GNC at 5100 N. 27th St., Finnell said.

Cash and checks totaling \$786 were taken, and \$150 in damage was done to the door, Finnell said.

Compiled by Jill Conner

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