Got what it takes?
UNK hangs on to Top 10 ranking second year in a row

BY ASHLEY LEEVER
Antelope Staff

As one of U.S. News and World Report’s Top 10 Public Midwest Regional Universities for the past two years, UNK has proven to be an outstanding university.

But just what does it take to be considered a Top 10 university?

The report ranks universities based on 11 indicators of academic quality including peer assessment, student to faculty ratio, the percentage of classes with more than 50 students, SAT/ACT percentile and the number of freshmen who were in the top 25 percent of their high school class.

But that’s not all. Twenty-five percent of the ranking is also based on the universities’ reputation.

“A big part of the score, actually 25 percent of that score, comes from what other institutions think of us,” said Curt Carlson, vice chancellor for university relations. “That’s really very subjective but it is important in the world of public relations at least to...

TOP 10, PAGE 11

Sin no more, open-air preacher condemns students

BY ERIK DODGE
Antelope Staff

Kevin Pulver’s outfit is out of place at UNK. It’s not his brown button-up shirt or his blue jeans but the body-length black sign adorned with the phrase, “The love and grace of God will either make you holy or cast you into hell.”

Pulver is one of the open-air preachers who spoke outside the Nebraskan Student Union on Sept. 26 and 27. The 46-year-old from Kenesaw urged those watching to repent for their sins and denounced a variety of beliefs and actions including Catholicism, Islam, homosexuality, fornication and drunkenness in front of an agitated crowd. He said the agitation partially explains why his method of open-air preaching is important.

“Preaching will reach more people in the least amount of time, for the least amount of money, and it reaches the people that really need to hear it the worst. That’s the ones that don’t want to hear it: the people that won’t show up to church, the people that won’t show up to the little book table, or the pizza party or whatever it is,” Pulver said.

Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Joseph Oravecz said that people did not have to stop and listen, but the right to freedom of speech is fundamental and must be protected for everyone.

“Whether or not we disagree or agree with what’s being said, we need to be appreciative that we have the ability of free speech in our country, and we need to recognize that as one of the principles on which this country was founded,” he said. “It allows us to engage in a dialogue as far as what is right and wrong, but we can agree to disagree. That’s what makes us who we are in America.”

Audience members argued with Pulver. Some sang songs, and two male students dressed in women’s clothes and pretended to preach. However Pulver, who has been open-air preaching for more than 20 years, said it was nothing new.

“One young man, I mean he’s dressed...
Don Wellensiek has more than 300 chairs and 25 desks, but no classroom.

As asset disposal manager for UNK, he manages an eight-page list of surplus inventory, most of which can be found in dimly lit basements and other out-of-sight corners around campus until it’s needed or sold at auction.

Surplus property is anything determined to be excess, and Wellensiek’s job is to assess the value of each item, store it and oversee its transfer to other departments or campuses in the university system, other state agencies or to outside entities as a final option.

Items are stored in the basement of West Center, the old east heating plant between Conrad and Martin Hall and Cranewood Apartments south of West Center. Wellensiek delivers surplus items to faculty and staff who request them through work orders and organizes a surplus auction each year on the first Friday in June in the Parking Lot 14 north of the College of Education.

Saving departments money is one of Wellensiek’s favorite parts of his job. He recently replaced a desk in the athletic ticket office which was “not very functional,” with one from surplus.

“At a time when everyone is watching their budget, rather than purchasing at a new price, I brought them a desk from surplus which fit their needs and it was in good condition. I get enjoyment out of doing that, you might say, saving departments money on items that I can provide from surplus, so they can better use their budget dollars to enhance their department,” Wellensiek said.

“If they don’t have to spend money on fixtures and furniture, they can use it to enhance their department and what they are doing for students.”

In addition to saving university departments money, surplus inventory adds to UNK’s general fund and sale of certain items, such as bunk beds, are designated for the State Revenue Bond account. The 2011 auction brought in $23,668 before paying expenses and attracted 168 buyers, according to an auction summary filed by Wellensiek. Auctions since 2007 have grossed an average of $12,427 annually.

“It’s a drop in the bucket compared to the huge amount that the university budget is,” Wellensiek said.

The general fund accounted for

Chairs overflow one of the many storage rooms used for the surplus inventory.
As oldest building, Copeland served many roles

BY SKYLAR LOSEKE
Antelope Staff

In 1911, under the direction of Physical Director G.J. Van Buren, work began to build a gymnasium for the Nebraska State Normal School at Kearney. The wooden structure completed a few weeks later had a 75-yard track and was used for track and basketball.

The gymnasium was not well built and according to the Jan. 10, 1913, edition of The Antelope, “The student body hope someday not far off to see a beautiful building on the normal campus delegated to athletics and sports of all kinds.”

On June 23, 1916, a contract was made for the construction of a new gymnasium building. Completed in 1918, the building was first known as the Gymnasium.

The facilities included a court and a swimming pool that was repaired and renovated in 1927 and reopened a year later. Ten years later, as ordered by the City of Kearney Health Department, the pool was closed in September 1937 until the threat of poliomyelitis was gone. After thorough cleaning and painting, the pool opened a few weeks later.

The entire building was renovated in 1939, and a scoreboard was dedicated in January 1944.

When Cushing Coliseum opened in 1962, the Gymnasium became known as the auxiliary gymnasium until 1980, when the State Board of Trustees for State Colleges approved a recommendation of a faculty committee to name the gymnasium building the Leland C. Copeland Gymnasium.

Leland Copeland had been the assistant football coach from 1946 to 1962 and assistant track coach from 1946 to 1961. He had always been most interested in intramural sports and had been ahead of his time in organizing the first Kearney Jogging Club in 1960.

Copeland came from Creighton and joined Kearney State College in 1946. As enrollment increased, it was obvious to him that something needed to be done with the intramural program. Copeland developed a comprehensive intramural program and served as its administrator until he died in March 1970.

Leland C. Copeland Hall received new windows and doors in 1977. Further improvements were made in 1993, and in 1996 a major renovation and expansion was completed. The renovation and expansion cost $4.2 million and added 25,000 square feet.

Today Copeland Hall is the oldest standing building on university campus, except the association of the Alumni House and the Frank House.

The swimming pool in what is now Copeland Hall. This picture was taken in approximately 1918 and the windows are on the west wall.
What are your plans for Fall Break?

“I’m going to Joplin to help clean up more of the mess from the tornado this summer.”
Kayla Kimberling
Junior, Exercise science
Fort Collins, Colo.

“I’m going home to see my family. I have a spa day with my mom.”
Cassie Erickson
Senior, Health and Physical Education K-12
Aurora

“I am studying and hanging out with friends.”
Yuto Ymanshi
Sophomore, Athletic training
Shizuoka, Japan

“H’m either going home and working with my dad or going to a guys’ retreat. With college expenses, it might be better to work.”
Dustin Jacobs
Sophomore, Philosophy
St. Paul

Compiled by Skylar Loseke

SEPTEMBER RESIDENCE HALL 'OF-THE-MONTH' WINNERS

Advisor:
Heather Wolf (LPAC)

Bulletin Board:
Caitlin Ostberg (Randall)

Desk Attendant:
Nickolaus Claridge (Martin)

Educational Program:
Dude, Where’s My Sundae?
(URS Staff)

Executive Board Member:
Josh Brummer (NRHH)

Faculty/Staff:
CTE Resident Assistants

First Year Student:
Nathan Arehart (Mantor)

Graduate Assistant:
Brandon Blackmer (Martin)

Resident Assistant:
Amy Dunn (Martin)

Roommates:
Jami Scott, Laura Brockhaus and Elin Petersen (Antelope)

Social Program:
RHA Country Swing Dance

Spotlight:
Kerri Gill (Mantor)

Student:
Travis Stewart (Men’s) and Whitney Nelson (Roosevelt Academy)

Department of the Month:
Learning Commons

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After 7 months, Matsui says
Japanese disaster brought change
in priorities, focus on the family

BY JAY B. SLOAN
Antelope Staff

Imagine your city in rubble, the entire population of Kearney missing, injured or dead. How would you deal with the overwhelming emotions?

On Friday March 11, 2011, nearly 6,000 miles from UNK, the world and the lives of 127,560,000 people of Japan were forever changed.

Around 5:46 a.m., a 9.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the island country of Japan and subsequently ignited a tsunami that would be responsible for many of the lives lost. The earthquake would go down as the largest to ever hit Japan and one of the top-five largest ever recorded in history. According to the Japanese National Police, 15,813 have been reported dead, 5,940 were reported injured and 3,971 are still missing. Economically the quake will be chronicled as the most expensive natural disaster ever. Early estimates are believed to total over $300 million.

But what do these numbers and figures mean to UNK students on the opposite side of the globe? It should mean a lot.

It has been nearly seven months since the devastating quake stunned the northern area of Japan, but the emotional scars are

“the disaster has made us think about our life. Many people began to think about what's really important about our lives.”

Yusuke Matsui
UNK junior from Mie Pré, Japan

AFTERSHOCK PAGE 8

NOW: Angela Ortiz, working with O.G.A. FOR AID, a non-profit organization involved in the rehabilitation, writes online that Minamisanriku is slowly yet steadily progressing after 95 percent of its area and about half its population of 18,000 were wiped out in the March 11 tsunami. “Even though perhaps most residents hoped for quicker reconstruction and a more definite recovery plan after six months, the reality of a slow recovery is apparent. People take joy and hope from small everyday progresses, such as the opening of a small cram school for one temporary housing area so children can keep up with schoolwork.”


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Google images
THEN: A woman searching a loved one seems lost in the rubble after an earthquake and tsunami struck Minamisanriku, a town of 18,000 on the coastline on March 11 in Japan.

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Aqualopers look to make splash in 2012

BY ERIK SWAZO
Antelope Staff

The 2011 UNK women’s swimming and dive team might be young, but this year, speed is a key factor that could elevate the Aqualopers to success in RMAC competition. Most of this year’s team consists of freshmen and sophomores with only two seniors on the team.

Jamie Jenkinson, a sophomore majoring in accounting from Kansas City, Mo., is one of the few returning members from last year and is looking forward to the upcoming season. “This year, our team is going to be a lot faster because of all of the new talent on the team,” Jenkinson said. With the team being so young, Jenkinson added that “it might take a little bit for the team to get going, but once we do, there is no doubt that we can have a successful season.”

With such a youthful team, memorable experiences are bound to happen. For instance, Jenkinson recalls a moment from last season that she hopes to share with her new teammates this year. “My favorite moment from last year would have to be when the team got snowed in at a hotel, and we had to stay an extra day. We decided to make a music video in the pool at the hotel. It was something that all of us remember to this day and hope for something like that to happen this year.”

This season, Jenkinson will be swimming the 500 and 1,000 freestyle events. She also might compete in the mile as well. “Swimming the mile this year might be interesting as it is something new for me, so we will see how that goes,” said Jenkinson.

Experience is often something that is useful for a successful athletic team, but this year all the Aqualopers talk about is their speed.

“All of our new girls are fast and came to compete, and not only compete, but win,” Jenkinson said. “Right now, all we want to do is go out there and compete.”

Alyssa Dillion, a freshman biology/pre-physical therapy major from Fremont, takes a student coach for the team. It was really frustrating because all time that I tried to come back and play, but when she found out she had mono during the middle of the first season, Thomas was sidelined for the rest of the season though she tried to come back multiple times. “I kept getting sick every time that I tried to come back and play, which was really frustrating because all I wanted to do was be out there on the field,” Thomas said.

After sitting out the whole season, Head Coach Mike Munch asked Thomas to be a student coach for the team. It was a hard role for Thomas to transition to because she never imagined going from an athlete on the field to being a coach on the sidelines.

“Going from sitting in the locker room, waiting for game time as an athlete to watching my former teammates get ready for the game as I help coach, is something that I’m slowly getting used to,” Thomas said.

Now that her role has changed, Thomas is the person Head Coach Mike Munch can look to for help during practice. “At first it was really hard to be on the sidelines all the time,” Thomas said. “Although it is getting easier as time goes on, I still miss being out there with the team.”

Thomas still makes all the road trips with the team helping Coach Munch with equipment and filming the games. For practices, Thomas will warm up other players and help Munch set up and run drills.

When junior Ellen Thomas came to UNK in 2009, working as a student coach for the women’s soccer team wasn’t one of the things she planned. Thomas, from Omaha, came as part of the very first women’s soccer team here at UNK.

But when she found out she had mono during the middle of the first season, Thomas was sidelined for the rest of the season though she tried to come back multiple times. “I kept getting sick every time that I tried to come back and play, which was really frustrating because all I wanted to do was be out there on the field,” Thomas said.

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As for Dillion, she will compete in the backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle at almost any distance this year.

The Aqualopers open up at home on Oct. 26 against Adams State College, the College of St. Mary and Morningside College.

The Antelope Staff

Sudoku answer:

Upside down, from page 3
A grand slam comeback

UNK men's tennis doubles team looks to make up for last year at championships

BY AARON URBANSKI
Antelope Staff

Since leaving the 2010 USTA Intercollegiate Tennis Association Small College Championships with a 0-3 record, UNK men’s tennis doubles pair Josh Raymond from Elkhorn and Yeswant Nadella from India, have often pondered the question "what if?"

“Yesh (Nadella) and I had only played a total of five doubles matches before we went to nationals last year,” Raymond said. “I guess you could say we were very inexperienced together as team. We had a chance of winning two of those matches.”

Mistakes that usually get worked out through the course of a season eventually got the better of the pair. Still, they both wonder, what if they had won the two of three.

They may just have a chance to find out this year. So far, Raymond and Nadella are off to an impressive 5-0 start this fall and are set to appear once again on Oct. 13-16 in Mobile, Ala. for the ITA Small College Championships.

The team definitely has a better connection and know each other’s game pretty well,” Raymond said. “We also switched sides from last year. I went from the ad side to the deuce because we each return better when we are positioned that way.”

This year, the two are doing a great job of keeping their opponents off-balance on the serve. According to Raymond, “My serve is a lot flatter and lower, and Yesh’s serves seem to throw off the other team because he gets great action and spin on the ball.”

As for Nadella, “He’s a good player and a great friend,” Raymond said. “He is a beast in the net and moves around the court really well. He compliments my game by putting shots away at the net and serving well.”

Not only have the two been able flourish on the court, but off the court as well. “He stayed with my family and me over the summer, and we always practiced together and hung out a lot. I guess you could say we’ve really come a long way from a year ago.”

Raymond and Nadella will soon find out whether or not the extra year together will pay off at the championships in Mobile this week. UNK’s women’s singles participant Vanessa Gunawan (see Oct. 5 issue) will join Raymond and Nadella in Mobile.

Sudoku

How to play:

Sudoku is a placement puzzle. The aim of the puzzle is to enter a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of a grid. Each row, column and region must contain only one instance of each numeral. Completing the puzzle requires patience and logical ability. The puzzle initially became popular in Japan in 1986 and attained international popularity in 2005.

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How can you help?

Japan has often donated when other countries have experienced disasters, such as when Hurricane Katrina impacted the United States. Below are organizations that are working on relief and recovery in the region.

AMERICAN RED CROSS: The American Red Cross is currently supporting and advising the Japanese Red Cross, which continues to assist the government in its response. You can help people affected by disasters, like floods, fires, tornadoes and hurricanes, as well as countless other crises at home and around the world by making a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief.

GLOBALGIVING: Established a fund to disburse donations to organizations providing relief and emergency services to victims of the earthquake and tsunami. Globalgiving is working with International Medical Corps, Save the Children and other organizations on the ground to provide support. Partners on the ground are working hard to provide immediate relief.

SAVE THE CHILDREN: Save the Children, which has worked in Japan since 1986, has an immediate goal of $5 million to launch longer-term recovery for children affected by Japan’s March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Save the Children has opened the first child-friendly space in Japan, protective environments where children can gather and begin to think about what’s really important about our lives. Many people began to think about what’s really important about our lives. We used to think about getting money or getting a good job and never think about friends and family. It is helping to have a better society.”

AFTERSHOCK from page 5

 anything but mended for a group of UNK students. UNK is home to 148 Japanese International students, all with their own personal stories about how the quake has affected them.

Whether or not they are from areas far from the disaster zone or miles away, they were all significantly impacted.

Former Japanese Student Association at Kearney (JAK) president Yusuke Matsui is in his junior year at UNK and remembers the misery and sadness he felt when he heard the startling news.

“My heard of the disaster while in my political science class. My professor had asked me if I had heard about the earthquake, but I had not yet checked the news,” Matsui said. “I was very depressed and felt the disaster area to help. I had other friends who also went to help however they could,” Matsui said.

Back at UNK, Matsui was here to console his fellow Japanese peers who were also dealing with the heartache of seeing their native country in distress. JAK set up grief and counseling centers to help students emotionally recover, but Matsui said the overall feeling about the tsunami was sadness and sorrow.

The students of JAK decided start a fundraiser in an effort to help their homeland. Matsui and his fellow JAK member were able to raise over $1,000 to send back to Japan.

As a whole, Matsui said the country of Japan has a lot of work to do in rebuilding the country. Structurally, the effects of the disaster are very visible.

For Matsui the emotional damage will be the toughest to mend. Matsui said that the experience has changed the way many Japanese citizens think about life.

“The people are still very sad and depressed,” Matsui said. “The disaster has made us think about our life. Many people began to think about what’s really important about our lives. We used to think about getting money or getting a good job and have a famous status in society, but now think about friends and family. It is helping us to have a better society.”

Contact editor Rebecca McMickell or adviser Terri Diffenderfer in the Mitchell Center, room 165

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like a woman and he’s acting like a tele-evangelist, and I’m thinking ‘Yeah Mom, here’s your tax dollars at work. Here’s your college money that you gave your son.’ It’s kind of sad that the professing Christians, a lot of them, were laughing at that,” Pulver said.

“I’ve seen things like that preaching at Mardi Gras in New Orleans. I mean that would be very commonplace at a place like Mardi Gras, but in supposedly conservatively Midwest Nebraska, that would be a little extreme. But our society’s on a downward spiral so we’re always hitting new lows.”

Pulver preaches to obey a Biblical calling to spread the gospel. He said his motivation is to bring awareness to people so listeners will consider judgment day.

“You and I are both going to die. We are going to face God on judgment day,” Pulver said. “Most people spend more time planning a two-week vacation than they do thinking about eternity, and yet we are going to be dead for a long time. People need to think about it.”

Pulver’s thinking changed when he became a born again Christian on July 4, 1986. He said as a child he was raised in a Catholic family and had a lot in common with many of the students he recently preached to at UNK.

“I would have been typical of the average college student — raised in a church-going family, but really living selfishly and doing my own thing. I was a drunkard and a fornicator and just a selfish person like a lot of the people we talked to at Kearney are,” he said.

Now Pulver lives with his wife, Maria, and seven children. He works as a self-described handyman doing plumbing, radiant floor heating, carpentry, air-conditioning and furnace work. The family has taken vacations to around a dozen national parks in recent years and enjoys activities such as canoeing. Pulver homeschools his children to keep God at the center of their education.

“We want Christ to be the center of every subject. If God invented everything, you can look at every subject and how it relates to the creator. At a public school you just can’t do that,” he said.

Pulver brings his children when he preaches. Several were holding signs and passing out pamphlets at UNK. His children are often subject to some of the anger his preaching arouses, according to Pulver, who said an audience member from UNK told his son he would never learn anything without going to college. Pulver said his son should go to college if God calls him to a profession that requires a degree, but that his son has already received a more well-rounded education than many college students.

“We’re not out to say look how smart we are and you guys don’t know anything, but let’s face it the average college student’s probably never changed his tire or changed his oil. Then they want to say, ‘You’ll never learn anything being homeschooled.’ It’s just kind of laughable,” he said.

Pulver has also been accused of brainwashing his children, a point he strongly disagrees with.

“If you’re going to brainwash somebody, what do you do? You isolate them from all viewpoints except yours. You just feed them one little world view,” he said. “If I was going to brainwash my children, I certainly wouldn’t bring them out here where everything that we teach them and train them in is mocked and ridiculed.”

“Like I said, I got a dollar, so if I’m in this to earn money, I’m not doing very well-rounded education than many college students.

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Preacher from page 9

good,” he said.

Although he had problems in Hastings, his experience with the UNK Police left Pulver with only positive things to say. “It’s a blessing too, to have the presence of the police over there. I want to go on record as saying those fellas (UNK Police officers) did an exemplary job. They seemed to have a real clear understanding of our constitutional rights, first amendment rights, and they did a tremendous job,” Pulver said.

Pulver preaches that God loves everyone but hates sin. In order to go to heaven one must repent, as it is phrased on his sign, “Conditional forgiveness, limited time offer.” He said if he could make one statement to the UNK community it would be about how people should fear God.

“People should fear God the same way that an electrician fears electricity,” Pulver said. “Think of the way an electrician works with electricity. He knows the laws of this thing, he knows how to use it or make it work. If he does things his own way, if he just decides he’s going to make up his own rules, then he should be very afraid. He’s in very great danger. An electrician that goes about doing things the way it’s supposed to be done in his daily work, he’s not quaking in fear, he’s not trembling, he’s not worried at all because he knows he’s in the right relationship to electricity.”

CLOTHESPINS FOR ST. JUDE

Kara Crawford, a senior family studies major from North Platte, pins a clothespin on Caitlyn Olson, a sophomore early childhood development major from North Platte on Oct. 4 during St. Jude Awareness Week. The clothespins are to raise awareness for St. Jude Hospital and the St. Jude Up 'Til Dawn event on Nov. 8.

CAMPUS CRIME LOG

Police Log Oct. 3-9

Oct. 3: A university Chevy truck was reported vandalized with its driver’s side window broken in Lot 17.

Oct. 3: Jeffery Hamburger was stopped for an expired registration and a cracked windshield and was issued a citation for no valid registration.

Oct. 3: Shelby Workman was issued a warning in Lot 14 for speeding.

Oct. 4: Brandon Hanika was issued a citation for stop sign violation after failing to stop when leaving Lot 16 onto University Drive.

Oct. 7: Chase Svaboda, Michael Lechowicz and Jack Nicholson were issued conduct violations for having alcohol in CTE. The alcohol had been dumped before officers arrived.

Oct. 9: $1,400 in travelers checks and $600 in cash were stolen from a room in Randall Hall.

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“IT still think our biggest competition is ourselves...You have to constantly look for the best faculty, the best students, the best facilities, the best staff and just keep working at it.”
Curt Carlson
Vice chancellor for university relations

Kristensen.
Carlson said the Enrollment Management Council that was established here has done an incredible job identifying where the university needs to do a better job in recruiting.

“I chair the marketing team. We take our cues from the Enrollment Management as far as strategy for what areas we are going to market to, what do we advertise, what are our messages. Everything from message development to the way we present ourselves in our literature, on our website,” Carlson said. “We have made improvements in all those things so that

UNK in my opinion, looks and feels better to outside people looking in than it did a few years ago.”

UNK’s marketing techniques have effectively worked to attract students to enroll at UNK according to 2011 freshmen who were on the other side a year ago.

“IT (the Top 10 ranking) definitely did have an impact on me going to school here. I wanted to pick a university that I knew I would hopefully excel in and push me to greater limits,” said Mary Greblunas, a freshman construction management major from Yutan.
For freshman Robert Kirkland, a premed major from Seward, UNK has already lived up to its status.

“So far I think it is heaven on earth. I love it here. I never want to go home,” Kirkland said. “In the long run I think I’m going to be getting a good education.”

But Carlson knows that even though UNK is No. 9 this year, the university will have to continue working and improving to keep that status.

“There is no magic wand or nothing like that. A university is a very complicated, complex place. I like to think at UNK we found the formula. In a lot of ways we do it right,” Carlson said. “There are a lot of things we can still improve on, and we have to keep doing that.”
Fall theatre season off to 'Rocky' start

BY ADAM KONRUFF
Antelope Staff

Kearney is in for a treat, and a few tricks as well this Halloween, when associate theatre professor Jack Garrison will finally get to direct his adaptation of “The Rocky Horror Show.”

“It’s a show I’ve always wanted to do,” Garrison said with a grin. “It’s a spoof, it’s a sci-fi, it’s edgy, it’s a lot of raunchy sex. It’s enjoyable.”

The play, which will be performed at the Miriam Drake Theatre in the Fine Arts Building, will show at 7:30 p.m. from Oct. 26 to Oct. 31, with a midnight showing Oct. 29. Ticket prices vary from $3 for a UNK student to $12 for an adult, and can be purchased at the UNK Theatre box office by calling (308)865-8417.

The story of alien transsexuals in a Frankenstein-like castle has caused quite a stir since its inception some 40 years ago. Garrison, who has been involved in theater since his sophomore year in high school, explained that his directing sensibility is to do edgier, racier plays. “I like to challenge my audience. I am pushing the edge,” he said in reference to the production.

Sophomore props master Tia Hadley, a theater and biochemistry double major, agreed. “It’ll probably be the raciest show we’ve done here,” she said.

“The dilemma with ‘Rocky Horror’ is that everyone has expectations of what it should be,” explained Garrison. This production, Garrison promises, will be no “cookie-cutter version.”

In addition to shocking the audience with its edgy themes, the play will also encourage, and in some cases rely on, audience participation to bring the show to life. Garrison said his show will get right in the audience members’ faces, with a walkway extending out into the third row where performers will interact with the crowd. Hadley said pyrotechnics, lighting effects, confetti cannons and other surprises are all in store for the audience.

Halloween week is late for the first production of the fall season, which usually happens closer to the beginning of October. Garrison said the nature of the play and the costumes and theatrics involved made opening right before Halloween the right choice.

The costumes, which are little more than spandex tights for the male performers and bras and tight shorts like those worn in volleyball for females, have been the source of some apprehension for performers. Garrison explained that he has had “to desensitize the performers.” He hopes he can achieve this by opening night, by having them rehearse in their costume, or lack thereof.

In addition to the audience participation with under-dressed performers, the cannons and pyrotechnics, the edgy raunchy sexiness of it all, there’s more. To top off this rock opera, a live rock ensemble will accompany the performers to bring the director’s vision full circle and to show UNK and Kearney exactly why this cult classic has endured for nearly 40 years.

Photos by Adam Konruff

Sophomore theatre and biochemistry major Tia Hadley of Atwood, Kan. works on a set piece for "The Rocky Horror Show." Hadley is the props master of the production.

’ROCKY’ HISTORY

• Opened in June 1973 in Liverpool at the Royal Court’s Theater Upstairs. (Vincent Price attended opening)
• First shown in America at The Roxy Theater in Los Angeles in March ’74.
• Tim Curry played Frank N. Furter in the theatrical opening and in the movie version.
• The movie has grossed over $112 million and is shown at theaters worldwide on Halloween nights.
• The initial run of the play included 2,960 showings.

roskyhorrorshow.com