

"Touch"



Linda Story/Daily Nebraskan

Best Statue

Lincoln



Linda Story/Diversion

Best Dorm Rooms

Lieurance

Best Lincoln Window Display:

This goes three ways. Despite the fact that I think the store is part of a fraternity conspiracy to rule the world eventually, the Post and Nickle on the corner of 14th and P streets has a great series of window displays. Usually they feature their less annoying clothing in tasteful antique settings.

Ben Simon's in the Atrium just has really fashionable, non-trendy clothes in its windows. The windows make you want to make a lot of money and spend it all there, even if you're not a clothes horse. That's what window displays are for.

Nebraska Church Goods Company at 1032 O St., has a fun window if you're into "weird." There's even one of those two-way perspective Christ pictures (one, eyes open, the other, eyes closed during drucifixion) that Woody Allen's "Hannah and Her Sisters" made famous.

Runner-up: The Swapper's Paradise at 1016 P St., is more like a Swapper's Nightmare. It undoubtedly has the best window display if it was only open — ever. It's never open. I don't believe it ever has been open. The stuff in the window is incredible. Real brass diving helmets, old cigar store Indians, sextents, Nazi helmets . . .

If the old man who owns it would ever open the damn place everything would be sold in a half hour.

Best Local Celebration:

Flatwater Festival. Last summer was the premiere of what we hope will be an annual event. A full four days of fun and frolic all along R Street in front of the campus that actually makes Lincoln look like a big, lively — dare I say cosmopolitan — city. There was lots of great food from booths that range from the unusual and exotic to populist pedestrian, and there were live bands and dancers that covered an amazing variety of tastes. There

was traditional Irish music, bluegrass, quality rock 'n' roll, Native American dancing, blues and big-band music, and all of it was of the highest order. As an added bonus, coming from satellite or someplace, during intermission huge speakers blasted out reggae and funk and rap music from some New York City station. The most fun I've had in Lincoln. Really.

UPC's Walpurgisnacht in the Nebraska Union is no slouch. There are events in every room (to my surprise, there weren't jugglers in the bathroom stalls) — bands, movies, mind readers, jugglers who weren't in the bathroom stalls, lone troubadours, comedians, clowns, contests, etc. The entertainment isn't always up to Flatwater standards, but there's so damn much of it.

Best Reason to Remember Lincoln:

Where Willa Cather was educated, where Bill Kloefkorn, Roger Welsch and John Janovy Jr. live, where Oscar Wilde once stayed during his visit to America, the huge rhinopig thing in Morrill Hall.

Best Lincoln Laser Show:

Laser Pink Floyd at Mueller Planetarium. The band lends itself perfectly to the Planetarium's ever-improving laser gymnastics. Even non-Floyd fans (where are you?) will be impressed by the lasers themselves. Note: Don't go drunk. Without any notice the laser guys decide to send the whole universe into a swirling maelstrom. If you grip on what we perceive as reality isn't very steady, you could lose it entirely.

Best Name for a Lincoln Business:

Whitehead Oil, 2537 Randolph St. or Alice's Restaurant, 211 N. 70th St. I wonder how many old hippies wander into Alice's askin' for the official Massacree hash brownies. Excuse me, miss, can you get anything you want here? And can you tell me how far we are from the railroad track?

Best Locally Produced Snack:

Screaming Yellow Zonkers. Sure, it's a good name for one of those creatures that pop

unannounced out of somebody's belly in a science fiction movie, but for a candy?

Best Out-of-the-Way Bar:

By out-of-the-way, I mean not your usual walk or drive from campus. Suite 9 is at 2501 N. 11th St., and it has great drink specials, lots of really disgusting-looking pickled things in jars along the bar, a fun import drinking contest (and an incredible, to the point of weird, import selection), pool tables surrounded by Ingmar Bergman characters who speak delicious brands of frontier gibberish and bartenders with real character (ranging from harmlessly cranky to so laid-back you don't notice them until your beer's gone).

Best State Fair Booth or Display:

This is a tie between the live native Nebraskan fish exhibit (eels in Nebraska?) and the biggest swine.

"Where are the swine, ma'am?" I asked the woman tending the information booth.

"Over there's the combines, then the cattle . . ." She pointed far off in the distance, as if it were miles outside of town. "And beyond that are swine . . ."

"I'm sure there are, ma'am, and plenty," I said.

I wasn't disappointed. It was the kind of sow that should have been extinct by now, a dinosaur pig, sides heaving in the August heat. Very impressive.

Best Empty Lot:

This has to be the lot where the Lied Center is slated to go in (sometime after the Millenium, I'd guess). By next year it also will win the Big Inner-City Surprise Lake category. Good luck.

Best Sleazy Motel in Lincoln:

Starlight Motel, 5200 Cornhusker Highway. Never been there, just been told. Apparently the innkeep stuffs birds.

Best Best Museum Display:

Shrunken heads in Morrill Hall. Cool.



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