



Grad works to upgrade youthful entertainment

by Bart Becker

Lanny Moles has a plan and he's no dummy. But when the spring rolls around he'll be working with plenty of dummies. They're an integral part of his immediate future.

Moles is a 22-year-old, 1971 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. After he was graduated he spent the summer traveling across Canada and along the west coast of the United States. In San Diego he saw a puppet show being performed for a group of children.

"It was Little Red Riding Hood, and the wolf was a computer," Moles said with a mischievous grin, turning from the workbench in his shop. "I thought kids deserved something better than that."

So he's back in Nebraska, working nights as a janitor, and planning a puppet show which he'll take on the road in the spring if all goes according to schedule.

The novice puppeteer envisions a different sort of format for his shows, a "Firesign Theatre for children."

"I'd like to think that such things as the **National Lampoon** (a satirical publication) have just about done their job of showing us how really messed up everything is and that we can now start to build," he said. "Food for young souls is what I intend; souls starved on a Wonder Bread diet of television."

He hasn't given much thought to the scripts yet, however. He's been experimenting with making the marionettes. He has just started molding the heads, and feels he has found a method for molding that will prove adequate.

Moles' shop is a coal bin which he's converted into a working area. At the head of the stairs leading to the shop is a sign, "Elf Hollow Workshop One Flight Down", to give the visitor a hint of what to expect.

The shop is small, a characteristic common among coalbins. The ceiling is at noggin-bumping height and the shop is filled with tools, paints and puppets in various stages of development. It is here that the puppets are born.

"My idol is Dan Hicks, of Hot Licks fame," Moles laughed. "Dan is the father of

Jimmy, the Talking Dummy, you know."

The creation process involves several steps of making molds and filling them with material which will harden smoothly into the features Moles wants. He sanded the head of a puppet as he talked about his actors.

"I found out almost all I know about building puppets, and about the other aspects of puppeteering in books," he said. "These first ones will be pretty rough, but it's a good feeling to know that I can get puppets through a relatively simple process."

Rather than build the puppets to fit particular character ideas, The English major will let the puppets decide what role they will play.

"Take this fellow for instance," he said, indicating the head he was sanding, "some folks say he looks like LBJ and some folks say he looks like DeGaulle. I think he'll be an elf in my show."

Moles realizes that it will take him a long time to achieve any level of proficiency. But he feels he can gain that proficiency most effectively by getting his show together as quickly as possible.

"I really don't give much of a hang about telling everybody this, because it sounds, and is, pretentious from somebody who scarcely knows a thing about puppets," he said. "What is important to me is that I do it."

"You see, it's a magic theater and most of the magic hasn't invented itself yet. More accurately, there's always been this puppet show and inasmuch as what we call time has anything to do with it, it's time that this took on what we call reality."

Moles has purchased a "bread-truck size" van for the show. It's being outfitted to serve as his home, transportation and theater when he is finally ready to go on the road.

He'll work mostly in eastern Nebraska and maybe slip over into bordering areas of neighboring states.

The truck will have "Magic Theatre" painted on the side, so "I guess that's the name of the show."

"He's a crazy man," laughed one of Moles' housemates who has been helping to make the puppets and fix up the truck.

"Puppets of the New World. Unite!" says a small

hand-lettered poster tacked to a doorway of Moles' house. It's an indication of the things the Magic Theatre shows might contain.

Lanny Moles won't be walking the streets looking for a job come springtime; he'll be on them performing, with the help of the Magic Theatre company.

NHRRC programs serve migrant youth

by Duane Leibhart

Four hundred UNL students are involved in 10 separate projects to help young people. They work out of the Nebraska Human Resources Research Center in the basement of the 501 building.

Bruce Skinner, co-chairman of the center's family project, said students who want to work there are closely screened before they are accepted to work in any of the projects. "Some students are just gunners for activities," he said. "We want students who have a sincere desire to help people and who are willing to devote a certain amount of time a week."

IN THE BUILDING are classrooms for children of migrant workers who have had to change schools frequently. A sign on the wall of one of the classrooms reads—"Love is like the measles: The closer you get to people the faster it spreads!"

The sign reflects the one-to-one relationship the volunteer worker tries to build with the person he is helping.

Skinner said most volunteers are sociology or psychology majors but volunteers in all fields have a chance of working here. We try to match up the counselor and counselee with common interests, for obvious reasons."

Bob Stark, director of the potentiality development project, works with high school students who are from families in which none of the members have graduated from college. The high school student is shown around the campus and made aware of work study programs and other means of financing a college education.

Model Project is a program in which one volunteer is assigned to one boy or girl who has been referred to Director Sam Hale by Lancaster County Juvenile Court.

Skinner said, "A boy can model himself after the businessman or graduate student that works with him. This is a lot better than putting all the juveniles in the keeping of a busy county sheriff. All a sheriff can do is phone them once in a while and ask them if they are keeping out of trouble."

He said the project is operational in Seward, Saunders and Lancaster County, and may go state-wide if it can get the federal funding.

Right now, the center is selling a variety of "Go Big Red" items, such as sweatshirts, blankets and mugs. Profits will be used to develop lake property southeast of Lincoln being leased by the center.

B.F. Goodrich

BRAKE RELINE

\$29.95

Most American Cars. Disk brakes extra

WE DO ALL THIS!

1. Replace linings, Grind linings to match drums
2. Repack outer wheel bearings
3. Bleed & refill brake system
4. Inspect master cylinder
5. Install new grease seals
6. Inspect wheel cylinders
7. Adjust park brake
8. Road test car



SHOCK \$7.77 EACH

SALE

STANDARD SHOCKS
REG. PRICE \$11.95 EACH INSTALLED FREE

3 ways to charge all parts and service. Use our convenient Budget Terms, plus we honor



CAPITOL TIRE



3 Locations — Open 8-5

432-4497 B. F. Goodrich 2400 "O"

Lincoln Tire Center OK Tire Store
840 West "O" 477-6794 13th & South 432-1614

10% Discount to all students with i.d. cards off above prices