

Prince wins ratings war

Primetime television programming has often left a lot to be desired. But discriminating viewers can many times find escape from these doldrums by tuning in late night television, primarily Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show* and the *Dick Cavett Show*.

According to all ratings, Carson is still the prince of late-night television. His humor is broad and his guests entertain rather than inform.

Cavett is on the other end. His humor is more subtle and submerged. The goal of his show is to intellectually prod and inform his audience.

For a couple of years, Cavett tried to unseat Carson using this method—it didn't work. The intellectuals have always been a minority.

Larry Kubert
what can I say?

So, in a typically television move, ABC launched an all-out campaign to do in Carson. They pulled Cavett off the air and originated the ABC Wide World of Entertainment. In this format, Cavett

returns once a month for a one week stint.

ABC couldn't beat the prince with a young knight, so it tried to resurrect the old king, Jack Paar. Not too many college folks remember Paar when he had the *Tonight Show* (before Carson), but when he did have it he was king. ABC brought in Paar for a week long stint once each month.

That left two empty weeks a month. ABC filled them with made-for-television movies, comedy specials, a London mystery series, *On Location* specials and *In Concert*, featuring rock groups filmed in live concerts.

Carson's NBC sat back and wasn't too concerned with all the rigmarole. So, every Friday night starting Feb. 2, NBC will air *Midnight Special* from 12:00 to 1:30 a.m. Performers will include George Carlin, and the Byrds and Don McLean.

Appraising the success of some of the shows, Paar is certainly going to have to work if he wants to dethrone Carson. His first week of shows was terrible.

Advertising for Paar's new show said, "Jack Paar's back . . . hear interesting and intelligent conversation." Someone should have told Paar that he was supposed to be intelligent.

Unless Paar does a lot of improving in the next couple of weeks before he's due up again, ABC can forget about him—the king is dead, long may the king lie dead.

Cavett, on the other hand, keeps right on doing what he was so good at before, even if he couldn't unseat Carson.

So, the word is watch long and sleep late. And if you've got a 7:30 or 8 a.m. class—forget it.

Albee 'Delicate Balance' just misses at Playhouse

Review by Carolyn Hull

It's disappointing to see a production come within inches of success, only to have that success remain beyond its grasp. The Lincoln Community Playhouse's (LCP) *Delicate Balance* is a strong show, only hurt by simple things the director could cure.

Albee's play involves the delicate balance of a middle-aged couple, Tobias and Agnes, whose home is upset by Claire, an alcoholic sister, and Julia, their 36 year-old daughter who returns home after her fourth marriage breaks up.

Another couple, Harry and Edna, best friends of the family, arrive and announce that a nameless and unexplainable fear has caused them to seek refuge. This destroys any remaining semblance of order.

Much of the credit for a near-success can be given to Marie Muffley (Agnes) and Robert Stuewig (Tobias) for communicating Albee's idea of life with delicate balance. Their characterization was of a professional quality rarely seen at the playhouse, reflecting their experience and training.

Disappointment followed delight, though, as characterizations were muddled by overdoing some of the character business. It is entirely possible that this is not the cast's fault but that of the director. Another playhouse regular in a strong characterization was Patricia Dickeson (Claire). Her sardonic attitude brought to life the humor Albee intends in calling it a "serious comedy."

Those few extra inches to success can be so far. Good characterizations of the good script can be undone by little mistakes which go unnoticed.

blurbs

The Lincoln Community Playhouse's production of Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* will continue Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Lincoln Broadway Theatre League will present *Story Theatre*, a series of adult fables, at Pershing Auditorium Monday. A few tickets still are available.

Next in the Artist Series at Kimball Recital Hall will be violinist Daniel Heifetz at 8 p.m. Saturday.

Sha Na Na, hiding their faces behind dark glasses and drooping cigarettes, and wearing everything from gold lame jerkins to sweatshirts and dirty bluejeans, returns to Pershing Auditorium at 8 p.m. Thursday. Mason Proffitt also will appear.

Some quick concert notes within driving or hitching distance: Jan. 26: Modern Jazz Quartet at Kansas U.; Jan. 27-28: America in Chicago; Jan. 28: Seals & Crofts in St. Louis; Jan. 29: Traffic in Denver; Jan. 30-Feb. 3: Muddy Waters at Tulagi's in Boulder; Jan. 31: Traffic in St. Louis

and Dave Von Ronk in Chicago.

On exhibition at Sheldon Art Gallery is the biennial exhibition of work by graduate students in the UNL Art Department's master of fine arts program. The exhibit will continue through Feb. 11. An exhibition of Fritz Schuder paintings is also on display through Feb. 18.

The Nebraska Union Special Film Series opens the new semester with *Reefer Madness*. The laugh-a-minute feature will open Thursday at Sheldon Art Gallery with showings at 3, 7, and 9 p.m.

cinema

Cinema is a weekly mini-review service, featuring all major movies playing in Lincoln's indoor theaters. All reviews are written by and represent the opinions of the Daily Nebraskan entertainment staff.

Cinema 1

Deliverance. Burt Reynolds and John Voight do an incredibly palpable job of acting in one of the best films in some time. During an adventurous, last trip down a rugged river, four canoers fall prey to hillbillies, natural disasters and emotional crises. Performed in a brilliant, natural setting. A good bet for several Academy Award nominations. 13th & P. 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05 and 9:15 p.m. Rated R.

Cinema 2

Jeremiah Johnson. Robert Redford in violent yet tender movie adapted from Vardis Fisher's novel, *Mountain Man*. 13th & P. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 p.m. Rated PG.

Cooper/Lincoln

Pete n' Tillie. Spotty attempt at tragi-comedy (comedy good, tragedy nauseating) that features Carol Burnett and Walter Matthau as mismatched middle-agers who follow a hilarious courtship with a tragic marriage. The acting generally is mediocre and lacks any sense of unity. A few, wildly humorous scenes, including a battle between Burnett and Geraldine Page, that make the movie almost worth seeing but not quite. 54th and O. 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Rated PG.

Embassy

Heat. Joe Dallesandro and Sylvia Miles in Andy Warhol's new spectacular in high comedy and low tragedy. 1730 O. 11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15. Rated X.

Hollywood

Reefer Madness. A funny and frightening 1936 anti-marijuana production. Lively scenario shows the evil things that happen to the marijuana-crazed lackeys after getting hooked on the evil weed such as rape, murder, failure and death. An experiment in camp and

corn. Also: Firesign Theatre's hilariously not insane *Martian Space Party*. 12th & Q. 2, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40 p.m. Rated G.

State

The Sword in the Stone. Witchcraft, wizardry and comedy in Walt Disney's all-cartoon feature. 1415 O. 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30 and 8:50 p.m. Rated G.

Stuart

The Poseidon Adventure. An epic, underwater *Airport* features a galaxy of stars in a super-melodramatic plot. An inane script, however swamps nearly all the high-power stars. Plot generally concerns itself with the capsizing of the luxury liner *Poseidon* and the struggle of a small group to survive. Gene Hackman and Ernest Borgnine hit new lows in major roles, while Shelly Winters and Jack Albertson turn in the most acceptable acting jobs as a middle-aged Jewish couple. The lines are not to be believed. 13th & P. 1, 3:05, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m. Rated PG.

Union

The Omega Man. Science fiction thriller features Charlton Heston as the last human being alive after mutants destroy humanity with germ warfare. Nebraska Union Small Auditorium. 7, 10 p.m. Rated PG.

Varsity

The Getaway. Sam Peckinpah's latest offering stars Steve McQueen and Ali McGraw as two lovers who pull a bank job in exchange for McQueen's prison release. Sally Struthers of *All in the Family*, Ben Johnson from *The Last Picture Show* and character actor Slim Pickens excel in minor roles. Technically imaginative and creative adventure film. 145 North 13th, 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15 and 9:20 p.m. Rated PG.

Vine

To Have and Have Not. For Bogart fans, another favorite you shouldn't miss. 12th & Q. 3:40, 8:10 p.m. Also running *Key Largo*. 2, 8:30, 10 p.m. Rated G.

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