

short stuff

Anne Campbell, former Director of Public Affairs for the University system, is speaking to the Free University class "Lobbying in Government" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union, Room 242.

Students at the University are sponsoring a Venezuelan Festival of Food Sunday. The event will feature food prepared by students in the

International House. Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, director of the Institute for International Studies at NU, will show slides of his trip to Venezuela and Jorge Rivas, a native of Venezuela will sing and play the Venezuelan four-string guitar. Tickets to the dinner and program must be obtained by 5 p.m. today in Room 1033, Oldfather.

The French film "Les Jeux Sont Fais" (The Chips Are Down, or the Game is Up) will be shown at Sheldon Art Gallery Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance from Pam LeZotte, 1218 Oldfather for \$1.25.

Prof. N.M. Bashara, winner

of the 1974 Outstanding Scientist Award, will speak at 4 p.m. Thursday in the Nebraska Union Auditorium on ellipsometry, the use of optical methods of study surfaces.

Students may express their views on the financing of the Soccer Club, Ski Club, Union Program Council, Weightlifting Club, Daily Nebraskan, Rifle Club, Judo Club, Fencing Club, Assoc. for Computing Machinery and the University Child Care Project at the open hearing of the Fees Allocation Board Thursday at 5:15 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. A schedule for the meeting and copies of the budget and subcommittee records are available in Union 200.

Novelist James Gunn says:

Verne launched science fiction

Although many science fiction experts believe that *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley was the first true science fiction work, James Gunn, science fiction author and University of Kansas English teacher maintains that Jules Verne's 19th century works mark the true beginning of science fiction.

Gunn spoke to an audience of about 100 Monday in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room on "The Discovery of the Future."

Verne wrote "a kind of simplistic science fiction—so pure that he was decorated by the Pope," Gunn said.

"Verne did more for the development of science fiction than any number of Frankensteins," he said.

Gunn is the author of 13 science fiction books, including *The Immortals*, which became the basis for a television series.

"Because it emphasizes man in his environment, in his relation with the universe, science fiction can provide us with a perspective of ourselves which we would not otherwise get," Gunn said.

Science fiction, he said, can teach us "something about the insignificance of ourselves." Man has existed only a couple of minutes relative to the age of the universe," he said.

To keep our planet and ourselves in perspective, Gunn said, we can look at the Milky Way and observe that "we live in its slum area, with no more than a mediocre star for our sun."

Life and education, he added, are processes of learning things we cannot do.

"But science fiction is a broadening

experience, an alternative to the way we are taught to think," Gunn said. If science fiction can effectively provide this alternative, he said, "it has done more than just give us a vision of the future."

In regard to his own writing, Gunn said he has tried to make science fiction easier to read.

"I have always tried to provide a bridge between science fiction and the nonscience fiction reader," he explained.



Photo by Kevin Higley
James Gunn, science fiction author and journalist.

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