

Bingo stories lure writer into dens of tame iniquity

By Susan Edwards

This is an article for anyone who has passed the Knights of Pythias bingo sign on 11th and Q Streets and wondered, Wondered, as I did, what went on at Knights of Pythias and Eagles and Labor Temple on bingo night and joked about it with friends.

I heard about old ladies winning \$125 on a 50 cent card and joked because I was unexplainably afraid.

I listened to "big winnings" bingo stories from a library custodian friend and finally made two ventures to Eagles and Knights of Pythias (K of P).

You arrive early because the bingo regulars, (the same people at Eagles on Saturday are at K of P the next Friday), are already filling the barnlike room with their folding bingo card holders, cigarettes and coffee cups.

Ink bottles

At K of P, everyone also had a little, slightly indented plastic bottle of ink—reds, greens, blues. This remained a mystery until intermission bingo began with paper cards.

Regulars don't just cross off a called number with a pencil or pen; they blob a dot of colored ink over the square.

The people vary by race and age and are friendly but quick in their answers to me, surprised to find the uninitiated in their crowd.

These people, the old ladies in housedresses and plastic jewelry (sold by the caller's wife who takes up 2 to 3 places with her boxes of homemade necklaces), the custodian, the old men in stiff black suits and ties and the young Indian couple, speak the same language: Bingo.

Razzle Dazzle, Mutt & Jeff, little diamond and bow tie—everyone anticipates the caller's moves and speaks the jargon. I would have sat with mouth open, unable to play if my neighbors hadn't patiently explained each game and kept an eye on me, making sure I didn't win inadvertently.

Sifting

At Eagles, you pick your cards from the piles heaped on long tables. I asked three people if there were secrets to picking "good" cards. They said no and carefully went on sifting, scrutinizing each card before making a decision.

It cost \$3.75 at Eagles for 6 cards; the men at

my table thought it brave to try so many the first time. People won \$100 for blackout, \$14 for straight bingos. I won nothing.

It was exciting and it seemed so possible to win, but like the 185 other nonwinners out of the crowd of 200, I spend \$4, after buying a coke, just to sit in an incredibly smoky room. After an hour, you have your numbers practically memorized.

The only difference at K of P, a social and service organization according to the Pythian Sisters selling rolls and coffee, was a jazzier calling machine.

50 per cent return

The little balls pop like com in a clear case and, one at a time, shoot up a little column.

The nonprofit organizations licensed to play bingo must return 50 per cent of the take in winnings, the caller's wife said. Big crowds appear for running jackpots—razzle dazzle blackouts worth up to \$100.

Feeling cautious and burned from Eagles, where I had anticipated easy money, I bought only three cards and two paper intermission cards at K of P. They cost \$3.25.

The same old lady wearing a plastic corsage at the neighboring table won three times, stuffing the cash under her cards. We all hated her.

By the time the caller began the razzle dazzle sequence—straight bingo, little diamond, double and blackout without clearing your cards—I was bored. Bingo was wearing thin.

Relaxed, open

It was not the strange, dark rite or roomfull of crackpots I had fantasized—people were open and relaxed. But the initial thrill of gambling and hoping that I'd win wore off into disbelief.

So—I almost didn't notice the razzle dazzle straight bingo which had neatly, efficiently appeared on my card. I was struck dumb and another player called 30 seconds before I got out my meek, squeaky "Bingo." We split the \$16 pot.

My table partners congratulated me and said, "See how easy it is to win?" So, I figure it cost me \$7.25 for two days of bingo and I won \$8. Who could ask for more? I think I'm ready for the V.F.W.

USE sweeps student elections

Continued from p. 5

School of Journalism: Linda Lee Olson (USE) 308*, Jim Williams 198.

Home Ec. Constitutional Amendment Approve 91, Disapprove 9.

Home Ec, Advisory Board Human Dev. & The Family: Linda Meisinger (USE) 20*. Textiles, Clothing, and Design: Cheryl DeCosta (USE) 16*, Holly Killham 13*, Mary Wagner (USE) 14*. Education and Family Resources: Pam Simonsen 27*, Julie Moravec (USE) 37*, Beth Troester 18. Food & Nutrition: Alice

Cadwallader 12*, Mary L. Anderson 9.

Agriculture College Advisory Board Ag Economics: Mark Buell 23*. Ag. Education & Ag. Journalism: Kay Christensen (USE) 7*. Ag. Honors, General Ag., & Undeclared: Lowell E. Graves 22*, Steve Garvey 20. Animal Science & Pre Vet: Ron Ross 25*, John Holstein 17, Dave Lamb 13. Bio Chem, Ent., Hort & Plant Pathology: None. Crop Science, General Agronomy Soil Science: Paul Hejny 14*. Dairy, Food Technology & Poultry Science: Jim Geiger 1*. Mechanized Ag.: Wes Anderson 4*.

Union spring break schedule

Nebraska Union Hours—Spring Break

Friday, March 21—Regular hours except: Building: 7 a.m.-9 p.m., North Crib: 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Games: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., North Desk: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., South Desk: 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23—Nebraska Union closed except: Campus

Bank: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Monday, March 24 through Wednesday, March 26—Building: 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m., Harvest Room Cafeteria: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., South Crib and Vending: 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m., North and South Desks: closed, North Crib and Games: closed, Colonial Dining Room: closed, Bookstore and Barbershop: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Campus Bank: 8:30 a.m.-6

p.m.

Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28—Nebraska Union closed except Campus Bank: 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30—Nebraska Union closed.

Saturday, March 29—Campus Bank: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Monday, March 31—All departments: Regular hours.

You survived the cafeteria lunch.

You owe yourself an Oly.

Olympia Brewing Company, Olympia, Washington "OLY"®
All Olympia empties are recyclable

PLAZA THEATRES

12th & P STS.

477-1234

PLAZA 1 HELD OVER!

Daily at 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10.

Something strange is happening in the town of Stepford.

THE STEPFORD WIVES

A very modern suspense story from the author of Rosemary's Baby.



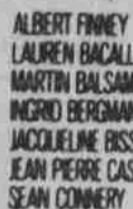
KATHARINE ROSS, PAULA PRENTISS

PLAZA 4 NOW!

Daily at 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:45.

NOMINATED for 6 ACADEMY AWARDS

"A TERRIFICALLY ENTERTAINING WOODNIT!"
—Vincent Canby, New York Times



ALBERT FINNEY
LAUREN BACALL
MARTIN BALSAM
INGRID BERGMAN
JACQUELINE BISSET
JEAN PIERRE CASSEL
SEAN CONNERY
JOHN GIELGUD
HENRY HILLER
ANTHONY PERKINS
MANESSA REDGRABE
RACHEL ROBERTS
RICHARD WIDMARK
MICHAEL YORK
PG

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

"MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS"

From now until eternity the best movie ever made on the subject.

—Arthur Winters, N.Y. Post

2nd GREAT WEEK



Ingmar Bergman's SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE
starring LIV ULLMANN
PG

PLAZA THEATRES
12th & P / 477-1234

KFMO

FRIDAY NIGHT MIDNIGHT MOVIE

LAST DAYS OF MAN ON EARTH

TONIGHT AT MIDNIGHT
ADMISSION \$1.00

RATED "R"

