

Sheldon show includes pickled art



Photo by Steve Borman

Kathy Connell, backgrounded by her painting, "Piggy Pup," is one of the 200 undergraduate artists whose works are on exhibit at Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. In the foreground is "Pickles, I guess."

By Mark Kjeldgaard

Duplicating pickles is not as easy as one might think. Kathy Connell, a senior from Crete, decided to do it for an art class project. The result is "Pickles, I Guess," part of the undergraduate art exhibit at Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

The exhibit, which continues through May 2, consists of more than 200 works by 117 UNL students. Members of the Art Dept. selected the works, which range from photography to painting to sculpture.

Connell said her plan was not to interpret pickles or to abstract pickles, but to make fake pickles that look exactly like the real thing. She said she chose the "slip casting" method to make the pickles, using two-piece plaster molds of real pickles and pouring thin, watery clay into them.

The plaster absorbs water from an outer layer of hardened clay. She said she poured out the fluid remainder, called "slip," and when the mold was removed she had false, hollow pickles. Connell said she then painted them with oils, made a label and mounted them inside a jar.

"We left the fake pickles sitting around and when a friend came by he didn't notice anything unusual about them," Connell said. "I was hoping he would try to eat one, but he didn't."

Connell also has an oil painting on display called "Piggy Pup," which shows a friend on a doorstep petting a small dark animal. She said it was a kitten, but it resembles a puppy. It is not a pig.

Another work, "Almost Heaven" is a board covered with green material. It features trees, tiny sheep, and a rainbow. The work is a variation on Connell's motto, "Cute but decadent."

"I aimed for pure cuteness," she said, "cute for cute's sake." She refused to elaborate any theory of cute, saying she considers that a job for the critics.

SAC band to perform

The Strategic Air Command Band, Flair, will present a free concert in the Nebraska Union Ballroom at 2 p.m. Thursday.

Sponsored by the UNL Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) detachment, the program will include music of yesterday and today from pop to rock and country and includes hits by Elton John and the Doobie Brothers. The group blends horns, guitars and vocals.

The concert is part of ROTC week at UNL, which started Sunday.

arts & entertainment

East Union hosts Western concert

Asleep at the Wheel will perform at 8 p.m. Thursday in the East Campus Union Activities Bldg., 33rd and Holdrege streets.

The Nebraska Union Concerts Committee is sponsoring the Austin, Tex., band, with tickets costing \$2.50 for UNL students, \$3 for others.

The band originated about five years ago on a West Virginia farm near the town of Paw Paw, where Ray Benson and his high school friend Lucky Oceans, along with Leroy Preston, a Boston musician, decided to form a band.

The band first played rock'n'roll, but soon turned to country, a style they never abandoned.

The band has grown into a nine-piece western swing-band in the Bob Wills tradition.

Members are Chris O'Connell, vocals; Floyd Domino, piano; Tony Garner, bass; Scott Hennige, drums; Ed Vizard, tenor and alto saxophones; and Danny Levin, fiddle.

The band appeared on the Nebraska Educational Television Network program "Soundstage," March 28.

Jon Emery and the Missouri Valley Boys also will perform at the concert.

Producer reveals 'Star Trek's' T.V. possibility tonight

By Anita Stork

Will the U.S.S. Enterprise and "Star Trek" return to the television screen? Gene Roddenberry, creator and producer of the original "Star Trek," will announce the answer tonight at 8 p.m. in UNL's Coliseum.

Roddenberry's appearance is sponsored by Union Program Council's Talks and Topics committee and admission is \$1.50 for students, \$2.50 for others.

In a telephone interview Saturday, Roddenberry said he also will disclose when filming of the *Star Trek* wide-screen movie will begin.

Roddenberry said "there were numerous problems" connected with planning the movie.

"The studio refused to give me creative control," Roddenberry explained. "Now, however, I am supervising the script and doing some rewriting."

Avoids "trekkies"

Roddenberry spends much of his time writing, avoiding "Star Trek" conventions that attract thousands of "trekkie" enthusiasts.

"I'm not a performer," Roddenberry said. "The huge mass of people (at those conventions) scares me and I can't get through the crowd without a security guard accompanying me."

However, he said he frequently lectures on college campuses, touring four times annually for a week to 10 days.

"Students ask good questions," Roddenberry said. "For some writers, Hollywood becomes the center of their lives. It can be very confining and traveling keeps that from happening to me."

Although "Star Trek" formulation took several years, he said, once the format was established a pilot show was written in only 90 days.

The show itself was set in the future on a starship, whose crew included Capt. Kirk, played by William Shatner and the half-human, half-Vulcan Dr. Spock, known for his pointed ears and lack of emotion.

100,000 protests

"Star Trek" lasted three years on the air after its 1966 premiere. Following its cancellation, the National

Broadcasting Company (NBC) received 100,000 protest letters from "Star Trek" fans.

Roddenberry said the series faded from NBC because "it started before the United States was well into space, and also before the networks started considering demographics."

"If the network had considered the quality of the audience and not merely the size, "Star Trek" might have continued for 10 years and I would be the millionaire some people think I am."

"Star Trek" reruns currently play in 49 American markets and 52 foreign countries. One hundred fan clubs are in the United States alone, he said, and attributed the show's success to two points.

"The show was about something and had a real message," Roddenberry said. "Secondly, the characters were real heroes in a time of anti-heroes."

They stood for moral integrity, where one's word is a bond, he added.

The most satisfying aspect of "Star Trek," Roddenberry said, was fans reaction.

"Kids have told me they have decided to attend college because of the show and older people wrote they developed more tolerance for different points of view," he said. "When you change lives for the better, then you've really accomplished something."

Roddenberry said he currently has a contract for another television series, and is writing documentaries.

-JANGLIN-

