

# Age improves wine—and violins

A violin, like the woman in the nationally advertised television commercial, doesn't get older, it gets better.

At least that's what University of Wisconsin-Madison Physics Prof. William F. Fry seemed to say Thursday afternoon in his lecture "The Simple Physics of the Violin—Did Stradivari Have a Secret?" The lecture at the Westbrook Music Bldg. was sponsored by the UNL Physics Dept. and the School of Music.

Fry, who has used his physics skills since 1964 to understand sound concepts in making violins, said an older violin exposed to sounds for a period of time will have a better sound than a "green" violin. From this, he said, he has learned to prematurely age violins to improve their sound quality.

"If you put 50 watts of acoustical energy in a violin, in 10 minutes you can tell the difference. It plays better," he said. Varnishing a violin also changes its acoustical properties, he said. Varnish "freezes in" some of the sounds the violin has heard, giving it better tone.

Calling the violin a "complicated instrument," Fry explained other physics-related problems in making violins. Because the violin is a small instrument which emits higher frequency sound waves, it must be designed exactly for highest quality sound, he said.

The back and the front of the violin must be arched both horizontally and vertically to stiffen the wood, Fry said. However because the vertical and horizontal measurements of the violin differ, the arching creates an imbalance which must be corrected. This is done by varying the thickness of the violin's wood. Using electronics, a balance point is found, he said, and the violin emits a better sound.

In his lecture, Fry also spoke about the history of the violin and the early violin maker, Stradivari. Fry said he believed Stradivari's success was due to his understanding of some of the physical problems involved in manufacturing violins. For 70 years of his life, Stradivari made more than 3,000 but probably less than 5,000 violins, Fry said.

## Higley is Hearst finalist

Daily Nebraskan photographer Kevin Higley is a finalist in the 1977 William Randolph Hearst Photojournalism contest.

The annual competition is sponsored by members of the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism. Higley's entries included a photo story on last year's Republican National Convention. His portfolio included a sports photo of Husker defensive end Ron Pruitt pinch-

ing a University of Kansas ball carrier. The picture was published last fall in *First Down*, the *Daily Nebraskan* football program.

A photo of last year's Pathfinder Hotel explosion and fire in Fremont also was entered.

Higley will reprint his portfolio, which will be entered again in competition with the 19 other finalists.

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Edited by WILL WENG

### crossword puzzle

**ACROSS**

- 1 homo
- 5 Put two and two together
- 8 Greek letter
- 13 Arab vessel
- 14 Mine: Fr.
- 15 Land — fours
- 16 Fourth —
- 18 Word with boot
- 19 "— on parole ..."
- 20 Windy-day eye hazard
- 22 Some are wild
- 23 Beverage
- 25 Word with run or turn
- 27 F.D.R.'s four
- 29 Ailing
- 33 "When I was — ..."
- 36 Greek letters
- 37 Slow, in music
- 39 City on the Ganges
- 41 Defenseless
- 42 "Oh, say, — see ..."
- 43 Prefix with bar or top
- 44 Common Latin verb
- 45 Brit. award
- 46 "Fourscore — years ..."
- 49 Book of Hindu doctrine
- 51 Storage units
- 56 "— so proudly we ..."
- 57 Weapons
- 59 Kind of dog
- 61 Abhorred
- 63 Tea cake
- 65 "— a customer"
- 68 Biblical kingdom
- 67 Israeli port
- 69 More baffling
- 70 Terrier

**DOWN**

- 2 Harpo's brother
- 3 Kind of opera
- 4 Farm animal
- 5 Political name in Uganda
- 6 Dinguses
- 7 Moola
- 8 Boxing results
- 9 Dvorak
- 10 Standards
- 11 Land map
- 12 Mountains
- 14 "— was saying"
- 17 Tarheel State: Abbr.
- 21 Russian dynasty
- 24 Break — (down)
- 26 Govt. agency
- 28 Stage directions
- 29 Ice, in Essen
- 31 Whoppers
- 32 Vein
- 33 Four of a series
- 34 Grasslands
- 35 Like some editions
- 38 Stage
- 40 Horse color
- 41 "It's no —"
- 43 Mrs. Peron et al.
- 47 Hangs loosely
- 48 Word with whale
- 50 Tête—
- 52 Grandfather, for one
- 53 Tree of New Zealand
- 54 Bash
- 55 Owl sound
- 56 Four-in—
- 58 State: Fr.
- 59 Eyeglass part
- 62 Beetle
- 64 Scale syllables

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

SMOOTHS ELMAH  
CHARCOAL DOING  
MOONSTONE DONUT  
ALAMO SMOOKS  
NOTION MEAS DTRA  
ANSO FILEY URIS  
DOWN RIDERS  
MASTER ARMLET  
IMPARTS ARSO  
SIRI HENRY OTAN  
EODN ENOS SHARE  
ADJANS AFRIA  
DAGEN ETIOLATED  
AGEAD TROLLIES  
GARRE TROUTERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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61			62		63					64	
65						66				67	
68						69				70	