

Septemberfest proves nonquality can attract huge crowds, too!

By Jim Williams

Killing a weekend in Omaha gave me some insight. Septemberfest, a Labor Day celebration on the downtown Central Park Mall, was pulling in crowds despite bad conditions.

For one thing, there was nowhere to park. I orbited the cratered slag that Omahans use for pavement until I found a spot in the warehouse-and-wino district, and walked from there.

It had been raining on the Central Park Mall, and Omaha's new downtown showplace smelled like dead fish. There was mud everywhere, from a slimy ooze inside the tents to genuine quagmires between them. Two rock band roadies were trying to jump a puddle while carrying amplifiers.

There were acts. Some local bands played—but the Amazing Rhythm Aces, the festival's "name" group, had played Monday. A flacid belly dancer circulated. A 4-H club dog obedience class obeyed. Model airplanes flew. National Guard tracked vehicles, looking at home in the muddy field, served as jungle gyms.

The Great Missouri River Raft Regatta drifted downstream toward an eventual win by two ringers from Arizona. Bellevue, huffy from the loss of its status as finish line to the Central Park mountain, would stage its own raft race the next day. The Arizonans, who had trained for two months, promised to win that too.

Volunteer entertainment

Entertainment—volunteer mostly, celebrities the caliber of Dr. San Guinary, were there. But the people,

Joslyn Art Museum, on the other hand, has its act down cold. It's big, impressive, and professional.

The star exhibit now are photographs by Andreas Feininger, a stalwart from the glory days of Life magazine. The exhibit takes up two rooms. The one you enter contains only one photograph—Feininger's self-portraiture, "The Photojournalist."

Pictures dramatic

It's a dramatic, schlocky approach, appropriate to Feininger's character as a dramatic, schlocky photographer.

The exhibit's introductory information says Feininger's colleagues at Life dubbed him "Double-Truck Feininger", from the journalistic term for a photograph taking up two whole pages. The information doesn't mention the snide quality of the nickname. Some of Feininger's co-workers thought he concentrated on dramatic images at the expense of journalistic content.

But all the amateur photographers who ever read Feininger's books (which aren't bad) will be trooping down to view the master's images. They're not worth imitating, but deserve to be seen.

None of these events were really big blockbusters. But the institutions are making it, and people are turning out. Why? There must be promoters in Omaha who know how to put together an unusual event, something that will get the celebs out and spawn favorable coverage by press and TV, something that will draw groups willing to entertain for the chance of public attention. There are people who know how to apply for and get government grants, how to tap the arts patrons for money, how to organize continuing series of events that get the public into the place. The arts in Omaha don't depend entirely on artists. They have hustlers who can make things happen.

What did you do in Lincoln this weekend?

For a free booklet on how to stop smoking, call or write your local unit of the **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLISHER AS A PUBLIC SERVICE

Attention Student Organizations.

Earn \$10-40 in one morning by selling **FIRST DOWN** on home game Saturdays.

Hurry, these 30 positions must be filled by Thursday, September 8. For information contact Carla or Barb at the Daily Nebraskan, room 34 Nebraska Union or call 472-2588.

review

50,000 to 75,000, according to Omaha World-Herald, came anyway. That compares pretty well with the 85,000 attendance the same day at the Nebraska State Fair.

Southeast from the mall, the Western Heritage Museum was playing to a much smaller crowd. The museum, housed in the former passenger railroad Union Station, had an exhibit of Art Deco, the stylized design of the Twenties and Thirties.

Art Deco is interesting stuff. It drew its style from ancient Egypt, when King Tut's tomb was opened in 1922, and from then modern ideas of mechanical power.

For this was before someone decided everything good must be 100 per cent natural and organic. Artists recognized the creative possibilities of what Le Corbusier called "the great life of the machine," and expressed them appropriately in objects that came, not from the sculptor's hand, but from the production line.

The objects displayed are blatantly commercial—clocks, compacts, chairs and railway posters. But they were elegant and handsome. They fit nicely in their surroundings, too, because the station itself was built in an Art Deco style.

The museum finally is beginning to see the light at the end of its financial tunnel. Amtrak, now operating from an adequate and modern steel building down by the tracks, has recognized that atmosphere is about all train travel has going for it. The national rail passenger service plans to move its Omaha operation back to Union Station.

Roof restored

A Department of the Interior grant is financing the restoration of the building's roof. In the course of this, museum directors discovered that what they thought was brown paint on the ceiling was actually beautiful silver and gold leaf.

At the same time, they discovered that what they had thought was gorgeous veined black marble was just paint on plaster. It had defied detection for years—looked like marble, felt solid and cool like marble—but was just paint, applied by some now-lost technique.

The building doesn't really lend itself to use as a gallery. The ceiling is high enough for three floors, but there's only one, much of the floor cramped by ticket windows and benches. The benches, lighted for reading, are used as photo displays of early Nebraska. The Art Deco exhibit is mostly printed sheets mounted sloppily on pegboard panels.

In the former dining room is a Union Pacific "round-house theater." It is a 360 degree slide-tape commercial and the beginning of a fantastic HO train layout.

You can't save the whole world, but maybe just a little piece.

Progress comes in inches. But even inches add up. A few lives here. A few lives there. And what the Peace Corps will do for your life is more than we can ever tell you. Call the Peace Corps. And maybe you can help get the world back together, a piece at a time. The Peace Corps is alive and well. Call toll free: **800-424-8580. Peace Corps**

Ad Council A Public Service of The Newspaper & The Advertising Council

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	L	E	E	K	D	U	D	S	M	I	S	E	
T	I	A	R	A	U	S	I	A	E	S	T	A	
A	T	R	I	P	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	
B	E	S	E	C	H	E	S	I	R	A	T	E	
	L	O	I	R	E	X	O	D					
V	I	O	L	I	N	I	S	T					
C	O	L	U	M	N	C	A	S	H	M	E	R	
A	C	U	T	E	S	O	N	S	O	R			
S	E	S	S	I	O	N	S		T				
			S	K			C	A	M	E	L	S	
P	A	L	A	T	E	S	O	U	P				
A	G	A	T	E		M	A	R	S	H	B	I	R
P	A	P	E	R	M	O	O	N		O	R	D	I
A	V	I	V		I	O	N	E		N	I	C	E
L	E	S	E		O	D	E	R		Y	E	S	E

UNL'S SEVEN WEEK SPEED READING COURSE

Five Sections Available

- Sec. 1 - Mon. & Wed.: Class, 1:30, Lab. 2:30 or arranged
- Sec. 2 - Mon. & Wed.: Class, 3:30, Lab. 4:30 or arranged
- Sec. 3 - Tue. & Thurs.: Class 1:30, Lab. 2:30 or arranged
- Sec. 4 - Tue. & Thurs.: Class 3:30, Lab. 4:30 or arranged
- Sec. 5 - Tue. & Thurs.: Class 7:30, Lab. 6:30 or 8:30

Two First Semester Sessions

- Session 1 - September 6 or 7 to October 19 or 20
- Session 2 - October 25 to December 8 (Tues. & Thurs. only)

This non-credit, seven-week Division of Continuing Studies course is designed for those students with average or above average reading abilities. Emphasis is placed upon comprehension, vocabulary and speed in reading, and upon the attainment of effective study skills.

To Register: 511 Nebraska Hall
 Fee: \$40.00
 Texts: College Reading Skills (available at Nebraska Bookstore)
 Craig Workbook (classroom)
 Class Location: 208 Richards Hall

UNL Division of Continuing Studies

For additional information: contact the instructor, Kay Felton, at 488-8978 or 489-7517.

VW need repaired?

Call Olston's

We repair VW Vehicles and parts and sell accessories for Volkswagen vehicles.



Olston's Independent Specialists, Inc.

2435 No. 33rd 467-23967

KLMS 14.8
 the BEST MUSIC