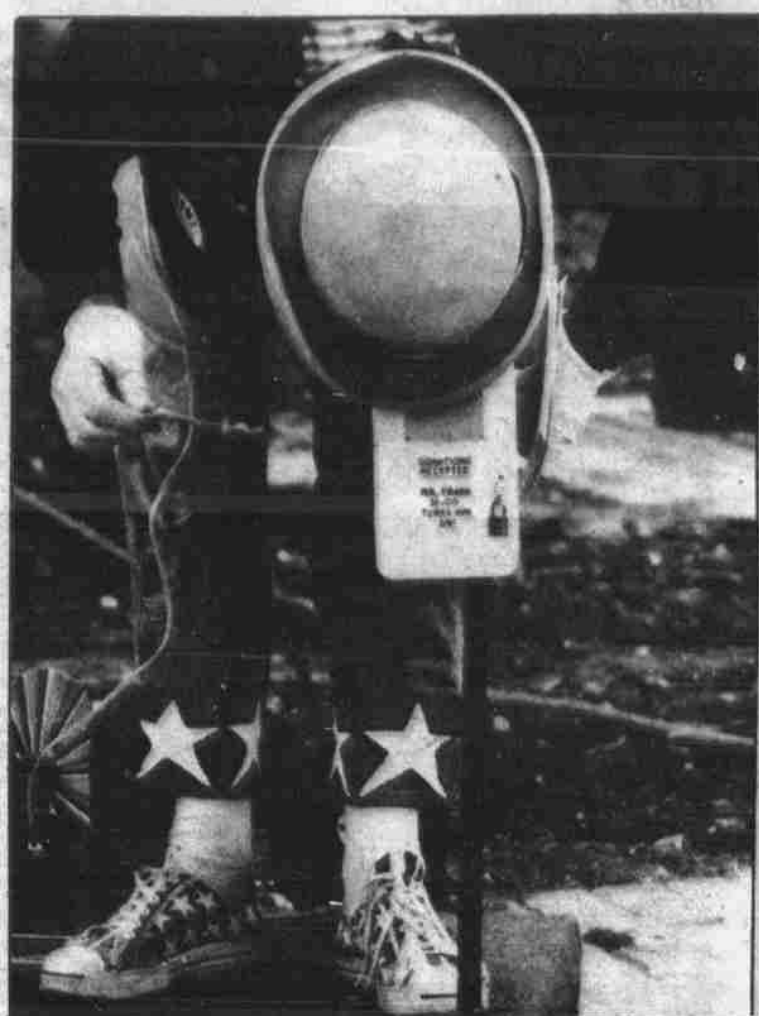


# Fill the pot with a little cash, get a kiss from Mr. Trash



Is it a robot? Is it a man? No, it is the Incredible Mr. Trash. Put some money in his can and watch him move.

Be careful not to shake his hand, though. The money may run out, Mr. Trash will stop, and there you are.

Mr. Trash visited the UNL campus Thursday morning and entertained students near Broyhill Fountain on the north side of the Nebraska Union.

Dressed in overalls, tennis shoes, a bow tie and tails, Mr. Trash performed "mechanical mime" for the crowd that had gathered.

His red, white and blue top hat moved up and down as he wiggled his ears and raised his eyebrows. His eyes opened wide as students put money in his can.

But, a short time later, the performance was called to a halt. A police officer ordered Mr. Trash to move on, since he did not have a permit to solicit.

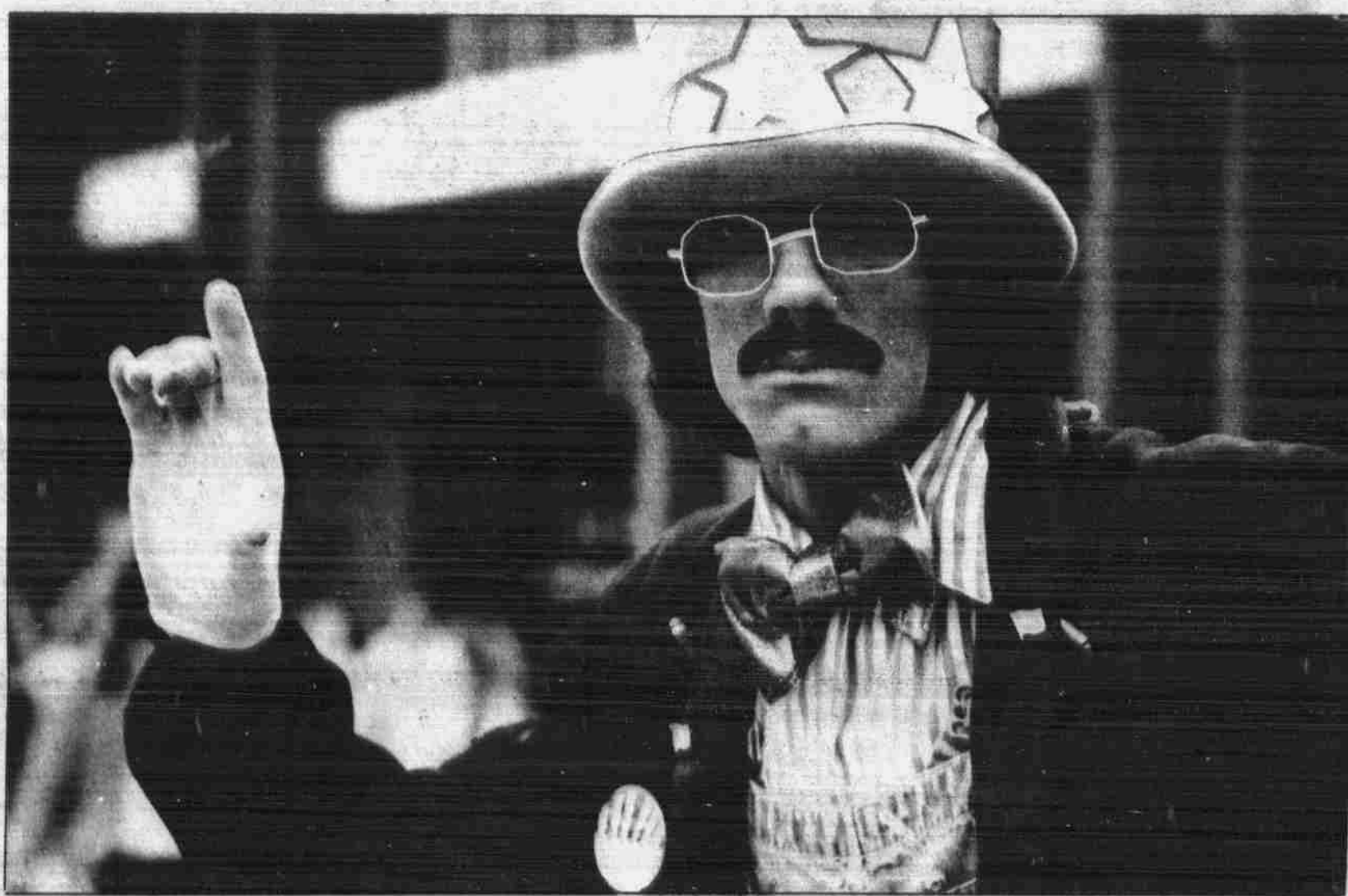
Bidding the crowd farewell, Mr. Trash added "thank you for your donations and smiles."

His real name is John DeBrito, and he's from San Diego, Calif. The mime said he was just "passing through" Lincoln, since Cedar Rapids is his destination. There, he will meet his girlfriend's parents for the first time.

DeBrito said while living in San Diego, broke and out of work he played the mandolin in Balboa Park for \$2 or \$3 a day.

Three years ago, DeBrito said, he went into "living street theatre" where he created his mechanical mime character, Mr. Trash.

Before leaving the UNL campus, DeBrito wished a group of students well and added, "Good luck with school and remember, this is where it got me."



Photos by Ted Kirk and Steve Boerner  
Story by Pat Gentsler