

# Art chairman paints hotly, blobby

By Jim Williams

Dan Howard has two big advantages when it comes to getting his paintings exhibited in Lincoln.

For one, he's the chairman of UNL's art department. For another, he has a distinctive painting style, often complemented by interesting subjects.

Howard's paintings are hot, nervous and blobby. Up close, they look like he did them using molten lava applied with a cannon. When you back off, though, the jagged splotches blend into recognizable objects with a remarkable sense of depth and good gradations of tone.

## art review

Howard's style does not lend itself to subjects too bland to match his technique's intensity. Chimney Rock, rooms, flowers and portraits seem flat, uninteresting and unpleasant, because they don't look right in Howard's hallucinogenic portrayal. To appreciate Howard's paintings, you have to look at the ones whose subjects let you get in and get crazy.

**Ruff & Tuff (The Big Red Experience)** is a football painting of somebody getting creamed, and it provides a good representational feeling—probably just what the scene looks like when a lineman is sitting on your head, cutting off the oxygen to your brain. *Legumes a la Mode* is a nicer, lighter painting of groceries on a table—interesting colors and shapes and a six-pack of Coors.

Howard must love Coors—the golden can keeps sneaking into his paintings. It's there again in *Under the Spreading Chestnut Trees*, at first glance a swirling green abstraction that eventually resolves into chestnut trees, a naked drunk, and a Coors can.

*Study for Political Rally* is a test run for a larger painting that isn't in the show. It should be good, if Howard's cynical rendering of pudgy fatcats is any indication.

## Band presents concert

The UNL School of Music will present a free, public concert by the Collegiate Band at 8 p.m. Thursday in Kimball Recital Hall. The band, under the direction of music instructor Robert A. Fought, will perform six works: *Proclamation* by Charles Carter, *Cuernavaca* by Joseph Wilcox Jenkins, *Liebestod* by Richard Wagner-Bainum, *Scottish Rhapsody* by Howard Cable, *Joyance* by Claude Thomas Smith and *Carnival Day* by George Kenny.

The best of the exhibit, though, is *Boston Tea Party*, a large canvas on the main gallery's west wall. When you first see it, you might think the Haymarket folks were careless in lighting it so several areas nearly are obliterated by glare.

Back up, squint, or slip on your polarized sunglasses, though, and you'll wonder if the gallery didn't do it on purpose, in the name of public morality. The painting is an amusing chaos revolving around the Marx Brothers, involved in some nautical insanity or other. Grocho reclines in the foreground, drinking champagne out of a shoe, the ship's captain is getting plastered, somebody's wandering around wearing a life ring for a collar.

But no respectable movie producer from the Marx Brothers era would have filmed this scene—not with what that unclothed blonde wench is doing to Harpo's harp, or is she? You can't really tell what's going on in any of Howard's best work—you just wish you could.

You can look at Chimney Rock any time, but you can only see Dan Howard's imagining of a Marx Brother's champagne orgy in a Dan Howard painting.

The contrast between his paintings and the other things in the Haymarket is almost painful. Howard seems to feel no obligation toward decoration, "niceness," or the average person's taste in art. He isn't so insecure in his reputation to shy away from a few yocks. Give him a paintbrush and he goes mad.

Just the sort of person you'd want running your art department, I think.

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**ASUN NOTICE OF ELECTION**

**March 15, 1978**

Offices Up for Election:

- ASUN President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice President.
- ASUN Senators in the College of: Agriculture, Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, Graduate, Home Economics, Nursing, Professional (Dentistry and Law) and Teachers.
- College Advisory Boards in the College of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Home Economics, and Teachers.

Voting Procedures:

- Each student must present his/her own student I.D. card, with a current registration label on the back, to the poll worker. The act of giving the I.D. card to the poll worker is the attempt to vote.
- Each student will sign his/her own name on the roster of the college in which he/she is enrolled.
- Each voter will be marked with ultra-violet ink.
- Each student I.D. card will be marked.
- No student shall vote or attempt to vote more than once in the election, nor shall any student aid in such an attempt.
- Violation of any voting regulation will result in prosecution in Student Court.

Polling Places and Hours:

Polls will be located in the Nebraska Union, the East Campus Union, the southwest entrance of Nebraska Hall, and in Ferguson Hall. All polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on March 15, 1978.

Procedures for Absentee and Disabled Ballots:

- Absentee ballots: Students who will not be in Lincoln, Nebraska during the time the polls are open because they are on officially recognized University trip may, by stating the official function on a form supplied by the ASUN secretary and having their signature notarized by 4:00 p.m., March 10, 1978, be permitted to vote by absentee ballot.
- Disabled ballots: Disabled shall mean unable to attend class due to confinement at the Student Health Center or a hospital. Students so disabled shall call the ASUN secretary before noon on election day, and arrangements shall be made for voting.

Complaints:

Students wishing to file complaints against any candidate or party for possible violations of the Electoral Commission's regulations must do so by 4:00 p.m., March 16, 1978 in the ASUN office. Complaints must be in written form.

To the Candidates:

Financial forms from all official candidates and/or parties must be turned in by 4:00 p.m. March 15, to the ASUN secretary. For a write-in candidate to be eligible for office, he/she must file a financial form with the ASUN secretary by 4:00 p.m., March 17, 1978.