

# arts/entertainment

## Male reaction mixed to stripper's show

By Jill Denning

Nude and semi-nude female dancers brought a big round of applause from the young male-female crowd. But a male dancer named Calypso, at B.J.'s Hideaway brought mixed reactions from many of the males.

"I had no idea there were male dancers," Joe Daley of Florissant, Mo. said. Daley, who is here on business, heard about the bar and expected women dancers.

"I don't like to watch men undress. I can go to the gym if I want to watch that."

Daley was in Lincoln to promote his band Tish, which he said spelled backwards sounds similar to what they sound like.

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John, who didn't want to give his last name, said he didn't mind "class nudity but vulgar nudity doesn't do anything for me."

"Look at that, just look at that," the middle-aged man said. "I've seen more gifted guys in the army barracks."

John said he came out because he was traveling through town and heard B.J.'s had "a lot of action."

"I just wanted to cut loose and I'm a people watcher."

Steve Bach, a former Lincolnite, said he wasn't too impressed by the male dancer. But pointing to a semi-nude female dancer, he added, "She's just all right."

Bach said most men were there because a male dancer draws females.

"I'm surprised there are so few girls."

Bach, who now lives in Springfield, Mo., said Springfield has a male stripper-bar and, "The women go wild out there." Bach said no males are allowed in that bar.

Bach said he was in town on business and "just killing time."

Walter Kaden said he found nothing wrong with female or male nudity.

"It's something different," he said. His wife, also present, agreed.

Mr. Kaden and his wife, Lill, said they occasionally frequent bars which offer live dancing.

Mr. Kaden said, "I get a change of pace here. I get to watch the girls and get a laugh while she gets to watch the guys and get a laugh."

Mrs. Kaden said this was her first time seeing a male dancer and said, "I like it. He was good."

One man, who would not give his name said he saw nothing unusual about watching male dancers.

"Why not? What's the difference than watching females?"

He said he also was in town on business.

"I lived in New York for awhile so this stuff is no big deal," he said. He said he moved back because he was sick of "the hustle and bustle of the city."

Dale Hayes, a former UNL student, said he was "a little bummed" when he walked in and there was a male dancer.

Hayes said he had seen "a lot of stuff that is trash and then a lot of stuff I would classify as art." Hayes said he didn't know which category this would fit into.

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A disturbance by a large group of UNL students closed down B.J.'s Hideaway early and prevented Calypso's last performance last Thursday, according to sheriff's reports and B.J.'s Hideaway manager Dick Coons.

Sheriff's deputies were called to the bar on North 48th Street about midnight, according to sheriff's reports.

Coons said the students caused "literally a \$1,000 worth of damage" to plumbing, electrical wiring, glasses, chairs and a \$400 stereo speaker.

One person was arrested and charged with misdemeanor assault and disturbing the peace.

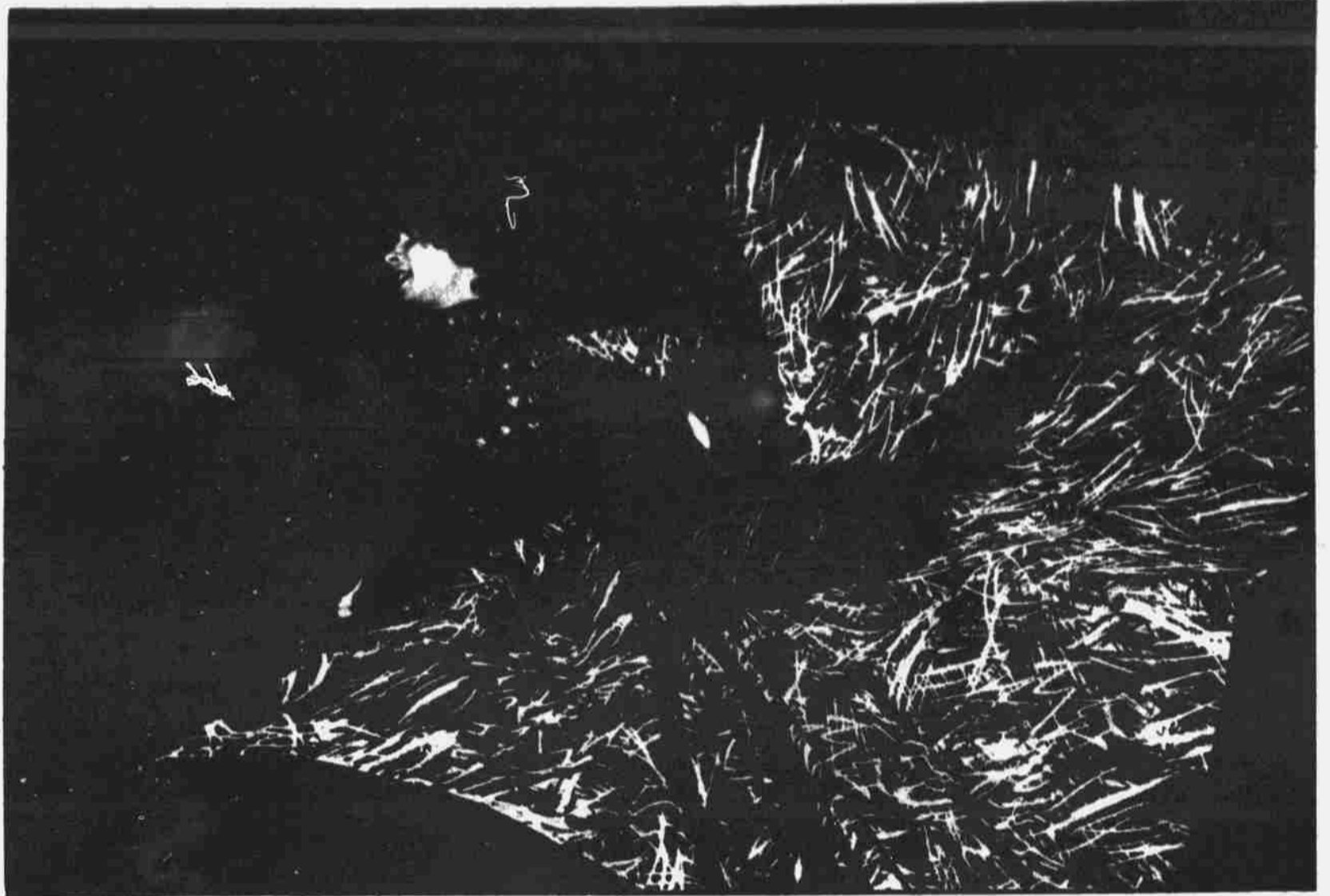


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Turnabout is fair play, and ladies, Lincoln's first male stripper has come to town. Calypso, "International King of Burlesque," shows his razzle dazzle and a whole lot more at B.J.'s Hideaway this week.

## Calypso brings new swing to Lincoln

By Mary Kay Wayman

The soft-spoken young man in the restaurant booth talked of his occupation and his dreams.

After four years of hard work, he is now considered the best in his craft, earning more than \$50,000 a year and getting a three month vacation each summer.

He says he will keep entertaining until he's at least 30, when he would like to finish college and open a day care center.

By day, David Calhoun looks for antiques for his antique shop in Green Bay, Wis., and answers fan mail. By night, he transforms a small stage into a "Las Vegas" burlesque revue. Until Saturday, he's on stage at B.J.'s Hideaway stripping.

He calls himself Calypso, after the sorceress of Greek mythology. At 24, he is billed as "The International King of Burlesque," and "America's Leading Exotic."

With a flash of strobe lights and the pulse of recorded music, Calypso takes the stage with yards of rhinestone-studded capes, part of his \$8,000 wardrobe's twirl and twist. He spins a fantasy as he sheds his clothes. "I start out in a \$1,000 costume and work down to a \$50 costume," he said. "It's just a costume change."

**DON'T MISTAKE** this for down-home entertainment. Calypso is a professional and his act is not for the naive or faint of heart. His moves threaten to break free of the small stage at B.J.'s Hideaway. The stage, which has held many a female performer, was obviously not built for the tall frame of a man.

"When I go on stage the place doesn't look so dingy," he said, adding that it's the people that matter, not the place. "The audience is very much a part of the show," Calypso said. Each night he gives a few volunteers the chance to participate in his disrobing process.

Calypso said his Lincoln audience has been "great," but also a little on the rowdy side. Both men and women have come to see the first male stripper to visit Lincoln,

but Calypso said he definitely prefers working for a female audience. Women come to his performances, he says, "because it's a little more risqué and daring than they are normally used to seeing."

**THE JOKES** in the comedy burlesque part of his act definitely fit in that category, but Calypso said such language is not natural for him off-stage.

"They expect to hear that from me," he said of his audience. And the audience is the boss.

Why does he do it?

"The applause," he answers. "And if I can make somebody smile and have a good time. It's a good feeling to make people have a good time."

Calypso said he first became interested in this unusual craft while attending the University of Wisconsin. He had taken some dance classes, but discovered his particular form of show business when he met his mentor, Marsha Mellow.

Mellow, a 450-pound burlesque comedienne, already a big name on the striptease circuit, was his inspiration. After entering an amateur go-go dancing contest he discovered his talent. Since then Calypso said he has trained in many forms of dance, including belly-dancing.

Only about 50 men have entered the traditionally female occupation. "I am not one of the top. I am the top," he declared.

He added that his act is different than that of the bump-and-grind male go-go dancers, insisting on making this clear distinction. His act is entertainment. The nine different shows he has compiled offer people in Midwest towns a "touch of Las Vegas," a show they might not otherwise be exposed to.

"We're going to take a little fantasy trip tonight," he says as each act begins, and only the audience's imagination and his rhinestone-studded G-string limit what follows.

**CALYPSO BELIEVES** members of the audience are turned on mentally rather than physically by his performances. He enjoys each performance as well.

"It's really a head trip," he said. "Really an internal high."

Although the late Sally Rand, whom he admired, fanned until the age of 75, Calypso said he plans to retire from this \$1,200 per week job within a few years.

Retirement would mean the end of many long drives and long hours of work for Calypso. Each weekend entails at least six and sometimes twelve hours of driving to his next engagement.

The striptease circuit is hard work, he claims, although few people realize it. The work goes beyond the 30 or 40 minutes of strenuous physical activity in each performance. "It sometimes takes eight months to put an act together. Then you go on stage and nobody realizes what goes into it," Calypso said.

Being away from home is the biggest problem for Calypso. Home in Green Bay includes his mother, who is the honorary chairman of the Calypso Fan Clubs of America.

Calypso sees the striptease profession today coming full-circle back to the style of vaudeville, with some changes of course, much to the pleasure of the female half of society.

"The business is really changing from what it used to be," he said. "I'm trying to put the razzle dazzle in."



Photo by R. K. Mahr

Omaha's Music Hall got the KNACK Saturday night in the band's first stop on their current United States tour. Following the recent trend in music, the four-member band presents itself as a slick commercial package reminiscent of the early Beatles.