

## arts/entertainment

# La Fonda de Acebo is nice, but lacks the spice

By Lyle George

La Fonda de Acebo, located in the Centrum, is a relatively new face on the Lincoln Mexican restaurant scene.

The appearance is inviting. The main room is light and airy. Plants, plates and tapestries have a nice decorative effect on the walls. The restaurant is divided by enough walls that it gets away from being just a big room. The atmosphere is cheerful and intimate.

### viandese

My taste in Mexican food is hot. Three trips to the far side of the Rio Grande have left my palate jaded by anything less than a destructive level of Mexican seasoning. I could eat a whole jalapeno pepper, alive and kicking and suffer no ill effects.

When I first sat down, the waitress brought me a basket of nacho chips and two bowls of hot sauce. She told me one was regular and the other was extra hot. When I heard that, my face broke out in a sweat of Pavlovian anticipation.

#### Hot sauce

As I took the first chip, dipped it in the extra hot sauce, and placed it in my mouth, I fully expected that my skin would develop a rash and I would beg the waitress to please leave a full pitcher of water at my table.

Such was not the case. I felt let down. The hottest sauce they had really was not hot after all. I could have taken it through a straw. Once again the old axiom, "the farther north of the border, the cooler the seasoning," has been verified. The hot sauces were nice but they were at a tourist level of intensity.

The menu features several Mexican dinners. For the weak at heart, there are hamburgers, steaks and other American selections. I ordered the Combination Mexican Dinner for \$6.25. It included Guacamole salad, a taco, tostada, beef burrito, enchilada, refritos and sopapillas.

## Soloists to perform with UNL orchestra

Two senior soloists will perform with the UNL Orchestra at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 16, in Kimball Recital Hall. The concert is free.

Soloists Steve Jobman, Hastings, and Connie Crom, Beatrice, were selected from competition last spring.

Jobman will perform Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor." Crom will sing "Batti, Batti o Bel Masetto" from Mozart's "Don Giovanni." She will also sing Charpentier's "Depuis le Jour."

The orchestra will separately perform "Sinfonia Scara" (Symphony No. V) by Howard Hanson.

While I waited for my order, I had Quesadillos for appetizers. Quesadillos are made of two tortillas, one on top of the other, with melted cheese and chives in the center. They were cut like a pizza and arranged in a sunburst pattern on a plate around a small mound of diced tomatoes and lettuce. They pleased not only my eyes, but my taste buds as well.

The food presentation at La Fonda de Acebo was extremely attractive.

#### Tasted good

The guacamole salad was pretty, garnished with cheese slices, lettuce and nacho chips arranged around it for a pinwheel appearance. Not only did it look good, it tasted good.

The food from the kitchen is bland. The quality is good, but the seasoning just is not there. The hot sauces the waitress gave me at the beginning of the meal helped

but they did not do enough. I expected more zing from Mexican food. I get the impression that if La Fonda de Acebo made jumping beans they would not be able to roll over, let alone jump.

The bar at La Fonda de Acebo features such drinks as a Margarita (which looks big enough to swim in), Tequila Sunrise, Brave Bull, Spanish Fly, Mexican Sunrise and Black Panther. They also had imported Mexican beers such as Carta Blanca, Dos XX, Tecate and Bohemia, a brew by German immigrants who wound up in Mexico.

Aside from the problem with the seasoning, I find it hard to fault La Fonda de Acebo. The atmosphere was pleasant for dining and talking, and the service was exceptional.

When I was at La Fonda de Acebo, it was crowded but the waitress still found plenty of time for my table. My water glass was always filled, (an important consideration in a Mexican restaurant) and the waitress was always prompt and efficient.



The rock group ZZ Top will appear in concert in Lincoln's Pershing auditorium Sunday. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and the auditorium doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets, available at all regular Pershing outlets, are \$7.50 in advance, \$6.50 the day of the show.

# 'Cruising' presents wrong idea of homosexuals

By Pete Schmitz

For the most part, I am not offended by stereotypes if they are grounded in truth instead of prejudice or self-interest. And as much as we may hate to admit it, certain

### movie review

stereotypes are accurate; otherwise they wouldn't exist. After all, each of us, no matter what group we belong to, are conditioned by our surroundings, whether or not these surroundings are favorable.

In light of this, I must say that director William Friedkin's latest movie, *Cruising*, did not bother me because it presented a bleak and stereotypical view of gay men who are oriented towards sado-masochism. No one can deny that an S. & M. subculture exists within the gay subculture itself, and I don't think that any reasonable

person would argue that sado-masochistic behavior (which also exists among heterosexuals) is sometimes dangerous to those who participate in it. Yet I am not going to let Friedkin off the hook.

His movie is disturbing because it is nothing more than a freak show that is inevitably going to give audiences the wrong idea of homosexuality despite the disclaimer put on screen, which states that the homosexuals portrayed in *Cruising* were not meant to be representative of all homosexuals.

Along with showing brutal murders and seedy-looking gays draped in leather, knives and chains, the director and screenwriter would have done well to indicate why some of these men chose homosexual violence as a way of life.

Furthermore, since the few films put out by Hollywood about gay people have dealt with only the dark side of their lives, one would think that by now an American studio could have released at least one picture which showed a gay couple living

happily together. Many do despite the discrimination and societal abuse they face.

If you haven't heard already, *Cruising* is about Steve Burns, a police detective who goes undercover to catch the person who has been slaughtering certain gay men like cows. Burns was chosen for the assignment because of his physical resemblance to the victims, and Al Pacino was chosen for the role of Burns because of his androgynous features and his experience at playing both a cop and a gay in *Serpico* and *Dog Day Afternoon*.

Despite the terrible gaps in the script and Friedkin's lack of guidance, Pacino does well as the initially heterosexual police officer who discovers his latent homosexuality once he goes undercover. It is too bad that the end of the movie leaves Pacino standing in the bathroom rubbing his face aimlessly after shaving, as his girlfriend puts on his leather outfit.

Another oppressive element in the movie occurs when a gay friend of Pacino is murdered after the mass murderer was caught. It really does not matter if the

murder was done by the victim's roommate or by Burns, for Friedkin makes the viewer certain that it was done by another homosexual.

Like I said earlier, it does not disturb me that the disgusting elements of gay communities are presented on film. Gay society, like any other society, does have certain problems that it must face up to and deal with. However, a director and writer, or anyone else for that matter, is not doing anyone a favor by being exclusively fascinated with the weaknesses of a group or individual.

To know one's true weaknesses is to know his or her strengths as well. Therefore, the problem with *Cruising* is not what is in it, but what is not in it.

With directors like William Friedkin and Gordon Willis (who just released *Windows*, a story about a psychotic lesbian), who only pay attention to pathological homosexuals instead of healthy ones, Anita Bryant can sit back and let Hollywood do her dirty work for her.