

arts/entertainment

Individual taste is deciding factor in Zangari poll

Well, it could have been worse—the whole campus could have answered en masse about what they've been doing in the dark all these lonely years. Then I might have had to really work. As it was, the results of the first Zangari poll (the "Where do you go when there's no San Francisco" poll) were entirely manageable and polite.

I only had to tango with 22 of you. Probably the best cross section of UNL ever assembled in one card board box.

michael zangari

Most of the answers fit into five categories. Three of the five were within three votes of being the top category. On top with whipped cream and a cherry was the private business sector, who rally the time and money of our poll-bearers. Bars and restaurants are it. Forget ethnic clothiers. My alma mater, the Zoo Bar, tied one on with the Village Inn with a deafening two votes. Everyone else came in second. No losers in this poll.

The others, with one vote each were The Cellar, The Underground, Neilsen's Restaurant, Country Kettle, Brannigan's, Soul Food Kitchen, The Green Frog, and Spaghetti Works. Customers of these places generally refrained from making any comments. Not so for the other categories.

The second category by a nose, was the private sector. Favorite places to be include: bed, the bathroom, home, apartment, my basement (even the roaches respond) and one's own head (where else can you watch the sun rise or Delphi?) Lest you think all respondents are heathens, the family is well represented with votes for brother and sister's house and grandmom's house. The former because "one of them will usually have dope to smoke so we can all get stoned, watch the tube and mellow out." The latter because "Grandma makes a wicked pork chop."

University third

The university inches in at third with some information the NU Board of Regents should take note of next time they are budgeting. The Sheldon Gallery gets the most votes (three) followed by Memorial Stadium on a football Saturday (One comment—The stadium is not too much fun when there is no game"). Other hot spots on campus include Abel ("the Zoo") Hall, Andrews Hall, the Ferguson Hall computer room, and Broyhill Fountain.

Lincoln (or part's thereof) gets a vote of confidence in the next category. Places include the bus stop at 14th and O Streets, any street downtown on a Friday night, and the Lincoln Municipal airport.

Finally the last category, (do I hear champagne corks popping?) those whose favorite place is not in Lincoln. They where else. One individual poses a question that might be suitable fodder for a follow-up poll when they ask "Why do all of you wear 'feed lot' caps?" Where do you hang out?

At any rate, there you are, and you deserved it too. Incidentally along with a comment on the Zoo Bar, I got this review of San Francisco.

Zoo unique

"When I went to S. F. I couldn't find anyplace like or similar to the Zoo Bar. Then again, if I had spent more time outside of the hotel (and Chinatown) I'd have found a few good places. Actually, after seeing the places that we did, I'm relieved to find nothing like them in Lincoln.

"One example is the Blue Lamp Lounge on the 600 block of Geary Street. You walk in and its dark, dim. There is a cop in a corner, crouched by the fireplace. It seems very relaxing. The blue lamp is an Organ bar. "Joyce on Wurlitzer," it says outside the door. Go inside and there's Joyce, a sultry faggot who is pounding out a steamy version of "Mood Indigo" on the mighty Wurlitzer to absorb the Radio City bass effect the management covered the ceiling with what looked like 10-foot long Hostess Hos-Hos.

"Our waitress for the evening was a pretty young Oriental girl in a skintight fire-engine red dragon-lady dress. What topped the evening off was the lady who brought her laundry into the place and threw it on the floor by the mighty Wurlitzer. Oh. Yes. The mirrors in the ladies room were waist high."

I guess it all depends on personal taste and chance where we end up. All answers, those tongue-in-cheek and those waving freely out of cheek were most welcome. The poll box remains open for comments and ideas.

'A Confederacy of Dunces' rich in characters, wit

By Pat Higgins

A Confederacy of Dunces by John Toole, is quite likely to become an instant cult favorite, particularly among collegians chiefly for two reasons.

The first reason is that this richly-comic and well-written novel that can favorably be compared to the efforts of Vonnegut and Brautigan. It resembles *Catch 22* in its excellence of characters and sharp wit. The wit of course, does not diminish the seriousness of the work.

enough for mass hysteria to break out; he is quite obese and dresses in a totally ridiculous manner.

Authority figures

Authority figures, such as policemen, seems to be magnetically attracted to him. This leads Reilly to threaten the police with his (non-existent) high-powered legal

hot shots. Reilly decides to subvert from within, on the job. He appears to be a zealously-loyal robot to his employers while sabotaging the firm. He obtains a position of authority at a factory.

There he remembers his days as a liberal academician and decides to rally the black factory workers into a proletarian revolution against the management that

becomes a hilarious fiasco. His next job is as a hot dog vendor. He dresses in ridiculous pirate garb that causes no little amusement to onlookers. After his failure to lead a black revolution, Reilly decides to move to another oppressed minority, gays, and lead them into a demented and perverse plan to undermine the military.

The supporting characters have their moments also. Patrolman Mancuso is forced by his sergeant to stake out a bus terminal bathroom on a daily basis, it leads him to near psychosis. Jones, an underpaid black janitor, interested in sabotaging his employer and Reilly adds the key ingredients. Reilly's radical girlfriend is also pleasantly ridiculous.

Newsweek and *Rolling Stone* have already extravagantly praised this novel and deservedly so. It is a quite impressive effort and it is a tragedy that the author is dead.

Omaha Ballet opens season

The Omaha Ballet will open its season with performances tonight and tomorrow at the Orpheum Theater. Feature guest artists will be Leslie Browne and Patrick Bissel in two *pas de deux*.

Leslie Browne joined the American Ballet Theatre as a soloist in 1975. Her debut movie performance in *The Turning Point* earned her an Academy Award nomination as Best Supporting Actress.

Browne, daughter of former American Ballet Theater dancers Kelly and Isabel Browne, received her early training at the Phoenix School of Ballet. Her studies continued at George Balanchine's School of American Ballet in New York, generally viewed as a training ground for the New York City Ballet.

In addition to her performance in *The Turning Point*, in which she co-starred with Anne Bancroft, Shirley MacLaine and Mikhail Baryshnikov, Browne regularly performs roles such as Clara in *The Nutcracker*, Moyna in *Giselle*, Prayer in *Coppelia*, and the *pas de trois* in *Swan Lake*.

Patrick Bissel joined the American Ballet Theatre in May 1977 and has performed major roles in *La Bayadere*, Mikhail Baryshnikov's full-length productions of *The Nutcracker* and *Don Quixote*, and George Balanchine's *Theme and Variation*.

Tickets for the performances are \$12, \$9 and \$6, and are available at Brandeis or the Civic Auditorium or call the Omaha Ballet at 551-7968.

book review

The second reason for conferring cult status are the circumstances surrounding the publication of the novel. Walker Percy, a noted literary figure, describes how he personally ensured that *A Confederacy of Dunces* was able to come to the attention of the public, in a forward to the novel. The author committed suicide several years ago. His mother began badgering Percy incessantly to read the work. Percy said he expected nothing and was totally shocked to discover the quality he had stumbled upon and quickly found a publisher.

The novel is set in New Orleans and Toole seems to have captured the manner in which people speak there. Humor is rampant throughout the book, there is a guaranteed guffaw on virtually every page. However, this is definitely not a light-weight comedy, but a statement on what the author feels are the authentic horrors of the modern world.

Characters are highlight

The characters are the real highlight, chief among them is Ignatius J. Reilly, who is an unemployed, 30-year-old dead-beat freeloading off his mother's social security. Reilly is not the most sympathetic figure the literary world has produced. He is an utter bore, alternating between complaining and threatening. His life consists of consuming prodigious amounts of junk food, viewing TV and composing a treatise on the absurdities of modern civilization.

Reilly is an educated person who spent a decade in college and subsequently became a teacher, but his outrageous behavior quickly led to his ouster.

After enjoying a leisurely period of unemployment, Reilly is forced to rejoin the working class. He holds a succession of jobs that becomes a ridiculous disaster. Reilly's mere appearance on the street is



Cover photo courtesy of Ed Lindlof/LSU Press

A Confederacy of Dunces is the recently-released novel of John Kennedy Toole.