Thursday, March 11, 1982

Daily Nebraskan

# Belushi...

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are willing to release extremes of appetite or behavior that most of us keep bottled up.

TOMMY: But what does that have to do with Richard Pryor and John Belushi and drugs?

MR.WIZARD: Well, Richard Pryor's burning himself and John Belushi's overdose, if that's what it was, may both be results of the dark side of that same drive. An artist's stock in trade is the depths of his or her thoughts and feelings and actions. He or she is always listening for them, exploring them, pursuing them. Anything can be overpursued. There are penalties for going too far. There *is* such a thing as too much fun.

TOMMY: But Mr. Wizard, are you saying you can't be an artist without courting death?

MR.WIZARD: No, Tommy. I'm just saying that when your job is to live life to the fullest, death is an occupational hazard. Artists probably overindulge more than anyone else. Maybe less, because they have outlet through their art. But there is the tendency. You can see it in Belushi's model, Jackie Gleason.

TOMMY: Jackie Gleason is John Belushi's model, Mr. Wizard?

MR.WIZARD: Well, he never said that, but it's just like Robin Williams admiring Jonathan Winters and Johnny Carson admiring Jack Benny. You can see it in their comedy. You can hear or see the older comedian delivering the line in a way that resembles the way the younger one does. Just look at any *Honeymooners'* rerun and watch Gleason ranting and raving and it's not very different from the way Belushi used to.

TOMMY: OK, but what has that got to do with courting death?

MR. WIZARD: Well, Gleason has been famous for his food, alcohol and sexual appetites. That's courting your own destruction as surely as using drugs to excess.

TOMMY: But he loved music. He was always down at CBGB's.

MR.WIZARD: Punk music has a strong, destructive streak in it.

TOMMY: I guess there is such a thing as too much fun. Charlie Daniels lied.

MR.WIZARD: Everybody does sooner or later. What do you want to talk about next week, Tommy?

TOMMY: Gosh, I don't know Mr. Wizard. I've got

## Three Bogart movies await NETV viewers

to think about all this. I'll let you know.

TOMMY: But Mr. Wizard!! Doesn't his life mean anything?

MR. WIZARD: Of course it does, Tommy. He gave the greatest gift of all to people – the gift of laughter. Of all the arts it's the most important. He had a rare gift for it.

TOMMY: Maybe his death won't be in vain if all the people who loved him learn something from his death.

MR. WIZARD: That's the spirit, sprout. (Next week Chapter Three: Why Administrators

Get Paid More Than Teachers.)

John

Belushi

1949-82



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A trio of vintage Humphrey Bogart films awaits Nebraska Educational Television Network viewers during the Network's Festival Nights celebration, March 6 through 21.

Bogart portrays a war hero who is tired of killing, and Edward G. Robinson is Johnny Rocco, a brutal gangster, in the 1948 classic *Key Largo*, airing Friday at 9:40 p.m. Based on a Maxwell Anderson stage play, the film places the pair in a hotel on a Florida Key during a hurrincane, and the ensuing conflict between them leads to a death. Claire Trevor won an Academy Award as Gaye Dawn, Rocco's alcoholic mistress, and Lauren Bacall is a dreamer who falls for Bogie.

Bogart plays a skipper of a small fishing boat who is hired to smuggle a French underground leader and his wife into Martinique in *To Have and Have Not*, Sunday at 9:15 p.m. The 1944 film, based on a novel by Ernest Hemingway, introduced Lauren Bacall in the role of a stranded American with whom Bogie carries on an affair. The film also stars Walter Brennan.

One of Bogie's finest films, *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, is the evening's highlight Wednesday at 8:05 p.m. Appearing in the 1948 epic motion picture, which captures stark images of greed as men turn to distrust, hatred and murder to survive, are Tim Holt and Walter Huston. Huston won an Academy Award for his performance as an old man who realizes how gold corrupts men. Bogie's character, Fred C. Dobbs, is a complex creation of a born loser who has no potential hope.

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