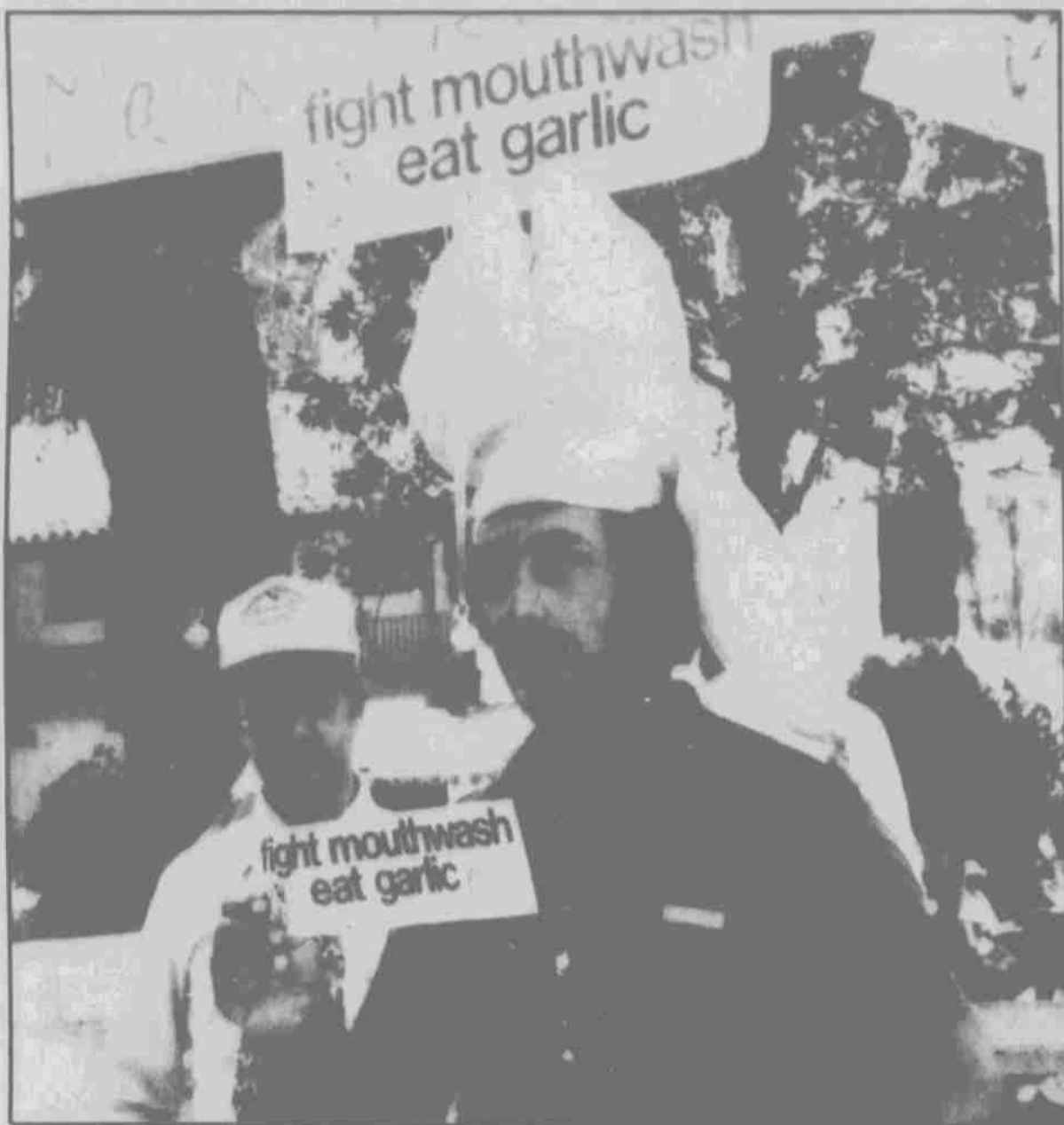


Arts & Entertainment

Sheldon film reflects world according to Garlic



Lloyd J. Harris, author of "The Book of Garlic," at the Gilroy Garlic Festival.

By Steve Abariotes (with inspiration on "Garlic" from Chuck Jagoda)

Werner Herzog sits in the back seat of a moving car, expounding on topics such as life, love and the vampire in his film "Nosferatu." The interviewer is able, at last, to pose the question he has come to ask, the question that should come next

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in the logical direction of a professionally conducted interview. Herzog's reply: „why do you ask me this?" His bewilderment is understandable. Well, what do you think about garlic? C'mon, what do ya think?

Les Blank's documentary film, "Garlic is as Good as Ten Mothers," (the first of a double feature tonight at Sheldon

Film Theatre), reveals garlic, for some, as a political, social and personal life force. We discover that garlic (genus *Allium Sativum*) is not an only herb contemptible to vampires, a bread seasoner, or a maker of breaths afoul. It is a quintessential culinary ingredient of different cultures from all over the world. From Berkeley, Calif. to Morocco, from Spain to Mexico, we are shown thousands of consumptive users for garlic.

One can nearly smell all the cooking, roasting, basting and frying. The film is immersed in the preparation of all the garlic dishes, highlighting texture and transition. The meatgrinder scene is spell-binding.

The film is not serious in a serious way — serious in its loyalty to its subject, yet laughing at itself and finally resorting to lots of fun.

Comedy Shoppe gives chance to Lincoln jokers and wits

By Jeff Goodwin

So you thought the only stand-up comedian in Lincoln was the wisecracking bartender at O'Rourke's. Not anymore.

Wednesday night marked the first night of The Comedy Shoppe at Larry's Showcase. The Shoppe, scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month, features local comedians and groups. Even a few acts from Omaha braved the weather Wednesday to appear.

UNL senior Kirk Benson one of a group of six former and current UNL theater students who performed Wednesday night, said he was surprised at the size of the audience.

"I never thought we'd have this big a crowd for the first one," Benson said, "especially with the weather like this."

Benson said he and his group, which includes students Todd Hambrick, Dave Broughn, Jon Ratliff, and Chris Wineman and Chris Darga had been considering the idea for a long time.

"We came down and talked to Larry Boehmer (owner of Larry's Showcase) about it and he fell for it head over heels," Benson said. "The only problem was that we wanted to do it the last Wednesday of each month and he said, 'How about the first Wednesday?' So we only had two weeks to throw it together."

Benson said his group, which is still unnamed, knew most of the other comedians who performed from similar events in Omaha and a series of Comedy Nights put on by O.G. Kelly's.

"We'd met everybody before and had mentioned to them the possibility of putting this on," Benson said.

Other performers included UNL senior T. Marni Vos, a renowned expert on Mexican cuisine; the indescribable Rolling Ray; and Bud Anderson and John Menzies from Omaha.

Benson said this was the first time his group had performed publicly, even though the members have known each other for about three years.

The group's humor is very topical, Benson said.

"We get a lot of our ideas from reading the newspapers, watching TV, things like that," he said. "We get a big idea and then weed it down. We just sit down, turn on the tape recorder, grab a few beers and start rambling."

The group's emphasis on topical humor was amply displayed Wednesday night in several of its skits, including a takeoff on movie reviewers Roger Ebert and Gene Siskel and another satiric skit based on ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network).

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The annual Gilroy Garlic Festival zestfully celebrates this healthful herb, which can even be applied as a special suntanning mixture. Few people know the instrumental role of garlic during the construction of the pyramids or its place in past presidential administrations.

The film features Lloyd J. Harris, author of *The Book Of Garlic*, as well as a jumping, hand-clapping soundtrack that includes a wide variation of ethnic music.

Mirana Hirsch did the research for the film. "Garlic is as Good as Ten Mothers" was produced, directed and photographed by specialty filmmaker Blank, in English with questionable subtitles.

The second documentary film is "John Heartfield: Photomontagist." Filmmaker Helmut Herbst breathes cinematic life into the work of this enigmatic, antifascist Heartfield, a German refugee who anglicized his name, first attacked the German Weimar Republic with his Dadaist-influenced photomontages. Later, his cut-and-paste caricatures of Nazi leaders were published in "Workers Illustrated Magazine (AIZ)," to the disgust of the German leaders who, ironically enough, found it difficult to locate a word low enough for Heartfield.

The film examines the three elements of Heartfield's artistic and revolutionary process: aesthetics, politics and mechanics. Old newsreels of Weimar leaders are also incorporated into the film.

Nothing about the photographic process is left to question — even the silver particles on the surface of a piece of film are suspect. Hitler became glorified somehow when photographed or filmed. The camera created an aura around him, encompassing him, creating a presence that was not necessarily there. His fiery, clenched-fisted speeches were certainly responsible

for many of his reactionary followers.

When Herbst slows Hitler down, running the film in slow motion, this impassioned, stormy speaker, this insane orator, becomes a monster. His shrieks evolve into one low, dull, horrifying screech, and he is transformed into pure evil.

Heartfield's intentions were political; his assault on the Weimar Republic was first priority. He collaborated with cartoonist and expressionist George Grosz, who expressed extreme hatred for the German middle class by depicting them in his own grotesque and nightmarish fashion.

Heartfield collected thousands of photographs to use in his clever, and many times grim collages, recalling a specific photo out of an entire stockpile of prints with his precise memory. He combined completely unrelated photos in his collages, just as Sergei Eisenstein combined unrelated "shots" together in a film, creating an abstract message as well as visual impact.

The painstaking, technical process of developing and printing a photomontage was of great importance. The collage prints had to be of very high quality to ensure that all the subtleties would survive the printing and publication of the magazine. Only then could it be effective. The print developed in the demonstration depicts Hermann Goering putting a torch to the entire earth.

The film stretches it just a bit, purporting to show other examples of oppression and violence in other parts of the world — and using photomontage, perhaps with television as the medium, as a possible option or solution.

"Garlic is as Good as Ten Mothers," and "John Heartfield: Photomontagist" show tonight at Sheldon at 7 and 9:15. The running length of the two films totals two hours.



Photomontagist John Heartfield used his creations and images to further his anti-fascist campaigns. At left is a reproduction of a Heartfield work that appeared on the cover of AIZ magazine in Germany.

KZUM sets plans to celebrate its happy birthday marathon

By Jeff Goodwin

KZUM, Lincoln's only non-profit community access radio station, will be celebrate its fifth birthday with a marathon starting today and running through Feb. 14. KZUM first went on the air on Feb. 14, 1978.

Because of the positive response KZUM received to their live performances that were aired last fall, the station will once again broadcast live for their fifth birthday marathon.

Bill Stoughton, chairperson of KZUM's programming board, said the station hopes to appeal to a broader audience

through the live broadcasts.

"The live performances are sort of like featured specials during the marathon," Stoughton said. "As far as I know, no local radio station has done this before, at least not for a long time."

All of the live performances will be broadcast from Larry's Showcase.

Among the performances are concerts this Saturday featuring Kansas City jazz great Claude Williams and a performance Thursday by the Crap Detectors.

Another performance a week from today features the reggae group Caribe.

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