

Ajaye...

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way he performs is good . . . he comes on real aggressive."

Pryor, Ajaye said, used to come from a "fight" stand. When his popularity zoomed in the early and mid-'70s, he adversely affected other black comedians who tried to follow him.

"I don't know what audiences expected (from other blacks after Pryor's fame)," Ajaye said. "I do know that a lot of young black comedians tried to be like him and I think it hurt them."

"They came out thinking that profanity was the key. But in truth, Pryor's honesty and insight in dealing with his characters made the profanity work. The characters were so real that he could slip the language in and make it seem natural. The other guys figured, 'Hey, I'll talk dirty and that'll do it,' but they didn't have the talent Pryor does."

Bill Cosby's long-time success makes him "someone to look up to," Ajaye said.

"Cosby has become an institution in America . . . a black man has done that," he said. "He's learned how to deal with the business side of being successful, and it's obvious he has learned how to deal with the white man. They're the power structure, yet they're giving him huge chunks of money."

Ajaye said his own characters come from real life and his own memories. Comedy is often instant and spontaneous, as much of his show Thursday turned out to be.

"When I walked out, I knew right away I couldn't do my regular show," Ajaye said. "You need energy from the audience to do comedy, and obviously my act had to change from what I do when 500 people are out there."

"That's why I opened it up to questions and hoped that that would bring some things back to me . . . and it did, with the football and class and so on."

Correction

A front-page article in Friday's Daily Nebraskan, profiling an ASUN senatorial candidate should have identified him as Richard King.



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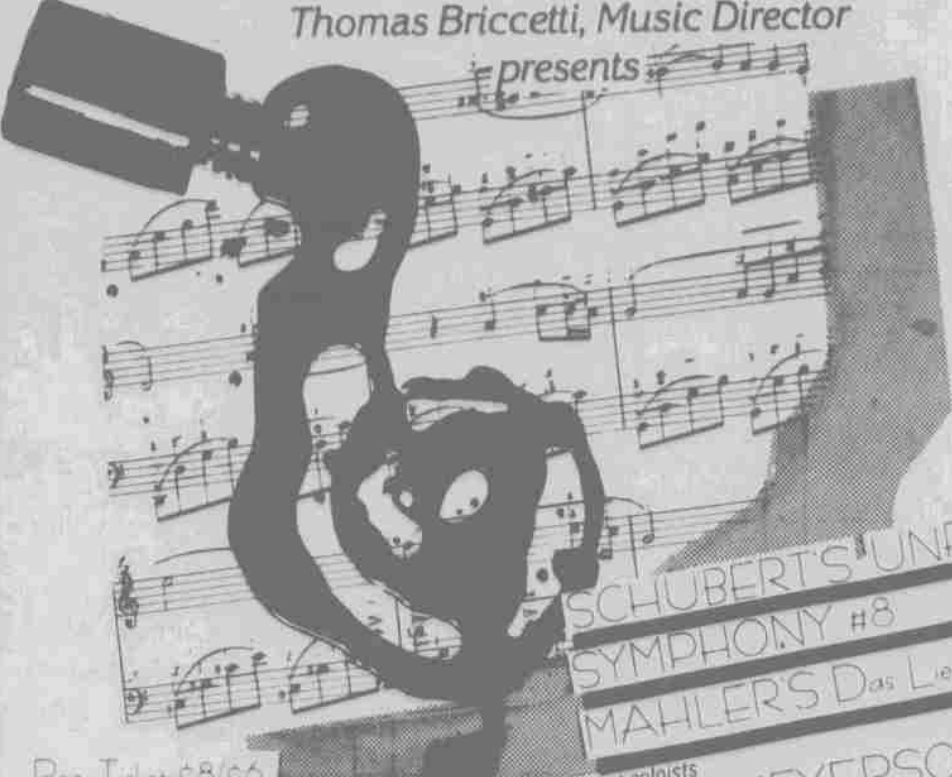

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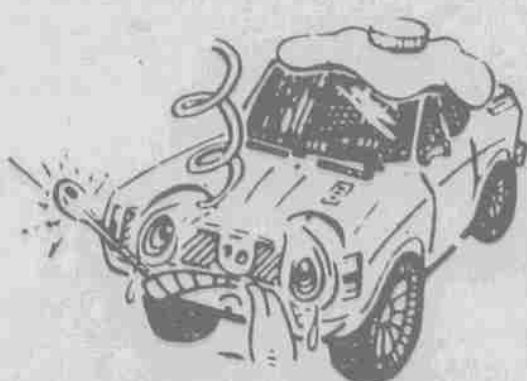
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