

# Arts & Entertainment

## New humor magazine ridicules Playboy

By Ward W. Triplett III

If you dare to peek through that dark zone of the magazine rack where the slick glossy periodicals (loosely termed, men's magazines) are kept, you might find a surprise in one that looks oddly like the latest issue of Playboy.

The interview, the "other" main stock of Playboy's magazine is with none other than Jesus Christ himself. The centerfold is a 34-22-37 lass named Chrispie Hepner. The celebrity breast-of-the-month is a chest X-ray of Princess Diana, and the bunny on the cover (with a familiar-looking pipe stuck through his muzzle) molests the cover girl inside. But this isn't Playboy enterprises throwing in the towel. It's Playbore magazine, the first product of the nation's first professional parody magazine, American Parody and Travesty of New York.

"As far as I know, we're the first and only professional humor publication in the business," said Robert Vare, editor and publisher of Playbore. "There is the Harvard Lampoon, but that's student run."

Playbore is the brainchild of Vare, a graduate of Chicago University who has been involved in comedy writing for television and motion pictures, newspapers and magazines. He was one of the main writers for "Off The Wall Street Journal," which earned enough notice to win a cover on Newsweek magazine.

### Newsweek didn't help

"I don't think the Newsweek bit helped us a whole lot," Vare said. "I think whenever Newsweek puts something on its cover and says it's the latest trend, that's the last you hear of it."



Photo courtesy American Parody and Travesty

Playbore Magazine, written in New York, printed in Lincoln.

But, Vare said, time has proven that people will buy "good, well-executed parody," trend or no trend. In the wake of the "Wall Street" success, Vare founded the American Parody and Travesty Corporation last spring.

"I really wanted to set up a publication that could do one-shot parodies of existing publications," Vare

said. "We named it American Parody and Travesty somewhat grandiosely, but we have aspirations of getting on the Wall Street board, and having Phillip Johnson design a small building for us, say about two or three stories."

It took nine months before Playbore actually came into being. Six months were spent arranging financing for the project, Vare said, while the last three months were spent creating, writing and editing editorial copy and bogus ads. Playbore hit the streets two weeks ago, and already has sold out in New York City, Vare said.

### All bases covered

The magazine itself is 96 pages long, and copies each of Playboy's traditional columns and features. Aside from the Chrispie Hepner centerfold and the Jesus Christ interview, there is a new fiction piece by John Update titled, "Rabbit is Dead".

Other Playboy staples attacked include the investigative piece ("Is Wrestling Fixed? A Shocking 13-year Investigation"), a fashion section (where nude women are draped around snappily attired gentlemen in the form of neckties and shoes) and a health column (investigating...never mind.)

The Playboy adviser, forum and grapevine also are ridiculed, right down to the same typefaces and page layout for each section. But the hit so far, Vare said, has been the two-page spread mocking actress Natassia Kinski and her famous snake picture.

In the original ad, Kinski was shown lying nude on a bare floor as a giant snake wrapped himself strategically around her. In the Playbore version, the snake has swallowed all of Kinski, except for her face.

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## HOTSPOTS

### Television

• Nicol Williamson and Jane Lapotaire play the world's most famous husband and wife team in "Macbeth," which airs on Nebraska ETV network tonight at 9 p.m. The show is the season premiere of "The Shakespeare Plays," a project produced by New York PBS outlet WNET. Goal of the series is to eventually televise all 37 of the Bard's plays.

• Last year's network TV season was widely regarded as, well, a dud. One bright spot was Bob Newhart's return to the realm of situation comedy. Tonight, Bob and the gang return for the season premiere of "Newhart," at 8:30 on channels 6 and 10. Stella Stevens will guest star as a movie star seeking lodging in Newhart's Inn. Bad news for "Hi, Bob" fans: Newhart's name in the show is Dick. However, with minor alterations, one can still get easily soused playing "Hi Dick."

### Radio

• KUCV (90.9 FM), 9 p.m. Zubin Mehta conducts the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in a program featuring Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins, Sibelius' Swan of Tuonela, Schumann's Konzerstück, Nielsen's Flute Concerto and Liszt's Les Preludes.

• KZUM (89.5 FM), 11:30 a.m. Part one of "Afro-American Culture, Literature and Social Order," examines the status of Afro-American writing and the changes in the attitudes toward black writings during the last 25 years. Part two airs Tuesday at the same time.

### Homecoming

• The fun continues with "Just for the Fun of It," on the Memorial Plaza at 11:30 a.m. Among today's frivolities are a car stuffing contest, a Jell-O eating contest and street theater by the UNL Theater department. There also



Photo courtesy Nebraska ETV

Nicol Williamson and Jane Lapotaire in "Macbeth," which airs tonight on the Nebraska ETV Network.

will be music by the Plain Label String Band.

### On the Town

• Despite a number of recent financial setbacks, the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., continues to feature some of the finest bands in the country. Tonight and tomorrow, the Cobras from Austin, Texas, will perform. The Cobras' sound is probably best described as Rhythm and Blues, although this is one of those groups that defy specific description. This is the outfit that Stevie Ray Vaughn used to be with. Cover charge for the event is \$3. The Zoo needs our help. This is a great opportunity to support a local landmark as well as hear some great music.

## 'Lavender Moonlight': A Mannequin Romance



By Pat Clark

Last week: Acting on a tip from an anonymous senator from Nebraska, who happened to be in the elevator with them, April, May June and Walker Treadmill decided to search for Randall Hitler and Babe Ruth at the Cape Town harbor. Acting on a tip from the Otis Elevator Co., they also decided to wait until the doors opened before getting out of the elevator.

The elevator doors opened like a secret entrance to the Tunnel of Love, and April and Walker hightailed it for the Cape Town harbor. As they dashed out the hotel doors and Walker scanned the street for a taxi, April couldn't help but stop and consider her good fortune.

"I'm really quite fortunate, she thought, taking her cue from the omniscient narrator. Left to my own devices, I don't know how I would have ever found Randall, or even where to begin the search. But who should come along but Walker Treadmill. He's been so patient, she thought, so very patient. He has no particular stake in any of this; well, sure he might be executed by Dante Lavender if any harm comes to me, but he doesn't have any real stake, like... love.

No, she doesn't think the thought. Walker Treadmill was a nice, incredibly nice man, and not exactly unattractive, especially in the upper body, so obviously powerful and compelling, but what the heck, she decided, lots of guys had strong upper bodies. And great eyes; great, huge brown eyes that reflected every sun that had ever set without a pair of goofy lovers ever stopping to notice how majestic it was. It just wasn't fair that those eyes had to look upon life as just a series of jobs.

I wonder if those eyes have an opinion about me, she thought, then just as quickly banished the thought. No, she thought, concentrating on the word as though she were going to be quizzed on its meaning later. I have Randall Hitler, and we have a relationship as solid as real estate. And their relationship would be just as solid as ever, as soon as she managed to get even the foggiest idea where he had been the last four days.

Was it four days already? The time had flown so fast, and she had spent the whole time with Walker Treadmill. He certainly was a charmer, even in these rather awkward moments.

"Hey you, quit daydreaming and get in the cab," snapped Walker. "Whattya think, cab drivers got nothing better to do than sit around and watch you make mooneyes about Randall? If the C.O.W.S. are at the harbor, chances are they're having the conference on Mr. Lavender's yacht, in which case we have to get to the dock before they ship out."

"Well what are we waiting for then?" April said.

"For you to get in the cab." "Oh," she said, sliding into the back seat next to Walker as the inscrutable cabbie shut the door.

Walker sure has command of things, April thought. Sitting next to Walker while he looked casually out the side window, she wondered why the cabbie was driving to the harbor so fast.

Next week: Reach the Beach