

# Writing festival encourages would-be authors

By Sarah Sieler

More than 200 Nebraskans of all ages attended the fourth annual Writing and Storytelling Festival for Older Nebraskans in Lincoln at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education Saturday.

The purposes of the festival were to encourage would-be authors to write and to support the efforts of more experienced writers.

Ten workshops were offered to help people develop their abilities in various types of writing and storytelling. The morning workshops were storytelling, fiction writing, poetry writing, oral history, history writing, journal writing, writing for publication, writing stories of your life, developing a writing group and an author's roundtable. Some advanced workshops were offered in the afternoon.

The workshops were more than lectures. Most of them were set up to involve the participants immediately in the process of creating. Judith Sornberger, leader of the workshop on poetry writing, had each of her participants write rough drafts of poems and

then share them in small groups for encouragement and suggestions.

The workshop leaders were Les Whipp, professor of English at UNL and director of the Nebraska Writing Project; Sornberger, teacher of creative writing and composition at UNL; Nellie Snyder Yost, author of several books about the Old West; Kay Young, folklorist; Lois Broady, teacher of writing at Southeast Community College; Sue Outson, who has conducted several workshops for the Lincoln YWCA New Directions Center; Gene Harding, storyteller, writer, and musician; and Al Pagel, professor of journalism at UNL.

Writing is an activity beneficial to both the writer and the readers, according to one of the festival coordinators, Joy Ritchie. Writing helps an author sort through his experiences and discover the value and meaning of his own life, she said. Encouraging older people to write produces "a group of people who don't see themselves as useless, but who, because they are writing, are actively involved in life," Ritchie said.

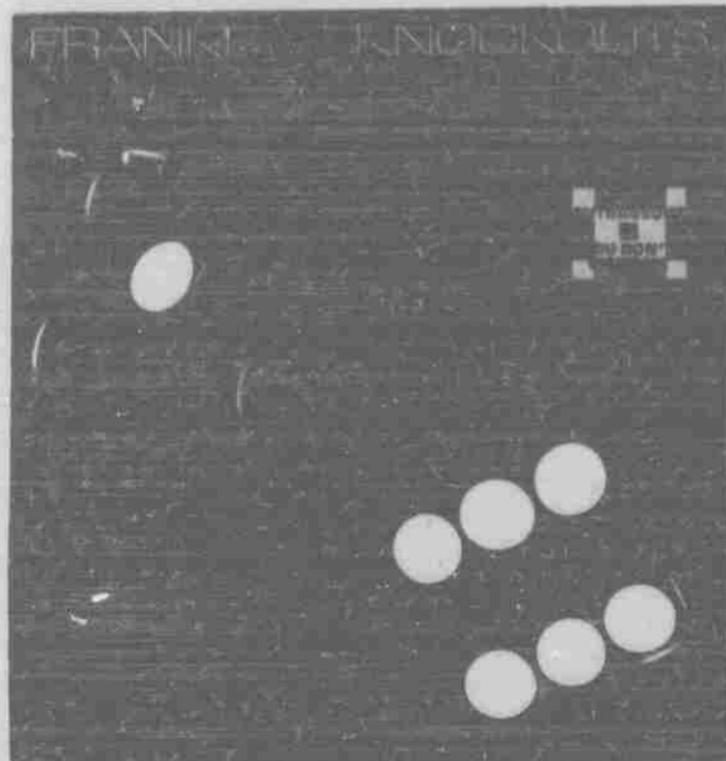
An older person's writings also benefit society in general, Ritchie said, because they are "the record of one individual's past that becomes a part of our heritage."

One permanent outcome of last year's festival is a compilation of the writings of around 400 Nebraska authors titled "A Flowering: A Festival," Vol. IV. The book currently is available for sale to the general public.

The Writing and Storytelling Festival for Older Nebraskans was sponsored by the UNL Division of Continuing Studies and funded by gifts and a matching grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities.

This festival was one of the three such events scheduled in Nebraska this month. The first took place in Scottsbluff on May 12 and the third will take place June 2, at Mid-plains Community College in North Platte. Anyone interested in attending the festival in North Platte should contact the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, Department of Conferences.

## The love song: Never goes out of style



Courtesy of MCA Records.

No matter what happens in the world of music — whether it be a new technological advancement, another "new wave" explosion, or what have you — there will always be a place for that old mainstay: The love song. While some come off as drippy and overly sentimental, others can still be very good after all of these years.

Just when it seems that all of the variations on this theme have been (over)worked, some band manages to do a good job. Two cases in point: Wang Chung and Franke and the Knockouts.

While Wang Chung should definitely not be considered a "ballad band," they do include some songs about relationships on their latest album *Points on the Curve*.

"Don't Let Go" is a bouncy little number that comes across a tad sweet, but the vocals by Jack Hines and the guitar work by Hines and Nick Feldman add a touch to make the song a bit more legitimate. A good dance number, the song broke Wang Chung here in the states.

But it is the second single "Dance Hall Days" that has brought the trio further into the spotlight. The image of the bad as slick and fashionable comes through in their own lyrics.

*We were so in phase  
In our dance hall days  
We were cool on craze  
When I, you, and everyone we knew  
Could believe, do and share in what was true*  
A lot of parallels between Wang Chung (which means "perfect pitch" in Chinese) and The Fixx can be drawn musically, lyrically and visually — except

Wang Chung doesn't go as far to the left.

"Wait," "True Love," "The Waves" and "Talk It Out" are very strong cuts on a very good second album.

On the other end of the scale we have a five-man band from Philly called Franke and the Knockouts. These guys get dangerously close to cliché, but manage to save themselves with solid musicianship and the strong vocals of front-man Frank Previte.

The songs on *Makin' the Point* follow closely along the lines set down by their previous three albums that included hits like "Sweetheart" and "Without You."

While both of these songs were slow and melodic, the first single off of *Makin' the Point* is a little edgier and more upbeat. "Outrageous" is not a bad song except that it's nothing new for this band and the words are again a little soft.

*'Cause you're so outrageous  
Now, you're ready to ignite  
You're so outrageous  
You're like a double dose of dynamite  
You're so outrageous  
Now, it's time to make your move tonight*

"You Don't Want Me (Like I Want You)," "Come Rain or Shine," and "You're all That Really Matters" are not bad songs at all, but you could probably hear them in various other forms by any number of bands recording today.

Expected releases by Bruce Springsteen, *Born In The USA*, out June 4 and a new offering from Rod Stewart called *Camouflage* with a guest appearance by Jeff Beck are two of the major summer releases to be watching for in the near future.

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## Going for broke on the campaign trail

As the spring semester ended, Celeste Underwood, presidential candidate, had just finished hosting a dinner for President Reagan. After the clean-up, she rushed back to Lincoln just in time for the primary. Disappointed, but not daunted, she and her friends are now sitting on their front porch, drinking whisky sours and plotting their next move.

"Celeste, I think we shall have to increase the scope of our campaign activities if we are to capture the White House," said Addison Steele, her campaign manager.

**Mary Louise Knapp**

"Thus far, we have exactly 2½ delegates, all of them under the age of four."

"Well, we cannot neglect the younger generation," Celeste said, fanning herself with a copy of the *National Intruder*.

"What we need now is money," grumbled her roommate Harley Davidson. "Do you have any idea how much that dinner cost? Edwin Meese's soup alone was more than our month's rent."

"Speaking of rent, did we ever pay ours this month?" lazily inquired Otis P. Davenport, who also shared Celeste's abode. "I seem to remember several angry letters from our landlord, but I think I used them to light my cigars."

"We have exactly \$13.75 in our slush fund," Harley said, doing a bit of quick figuring on the back of a Jack Daniels crate.

"Great! Let's all go to the Dairy Queen!" Otis exclaimed.

"I myself am in debt to the tune of at least 400 pounds," Addison said. "Oh, don't let me forget the two dozen orchids I ordered for Celeste's party

tonight. I must have a new tuxedo, as well. This one's been seen altogether too often."

"There's always Antoinette's diamond," Harley murmured. "That might bring at least \$100 at Dirty Dick's."

"My dear Otis," Addison remonstrated, laying a manicured hand on Otis' sleeve, "Never even think of such a thing! If you pawn the Hope Diamond, you are pawning the very soul of the campaign! Do you want us to go about in drab blue suits like the rest of those misguided contenders? No, in matters of grave importance, to paraphrase dear Oscar, style, not economy — well, you know the rest."

"Oh, I'm sick of arguing. Let's have another drink," Harley said, throwing his pen aside in disgust. "One thing's for certain, I won't be drinking any more of this cheap hooch once I'm a high-ranking presidential adviser."

Celeste stared at him. "You're the last person I'd want to advise me! If I listened to you all the time, I wouldn't have a penny to my name!"

"How much loot do you have stored away now, Celeste?" Harley asked.

"Well, none, of course," she admitted. "But the expenses of being a public figure are so high . . . especially all the payments I made to *The Plagiarist* so they wouldn't say bad things about me."

"I heard from Bernina Kenmore Singer today," said Antoinette Chateaubriand, steak heiress and vice-presidential candidate. "She's presently trying to funnel money from her parents' company to help our campaign."

"How successful has she been?" asked Celeste.

"So far, not very," said Antoinette. "They're sending us 100 used sewing machines with complimentary thread."

"Maybe we can make banners with them or something," Otis said.

Addison rose languidly and pulled on his gloves. "I'm off to my club now," he said. "I shall try to resolve our financial problems over several glasses of cognac, which Pierre is still willing to let me have on credit."