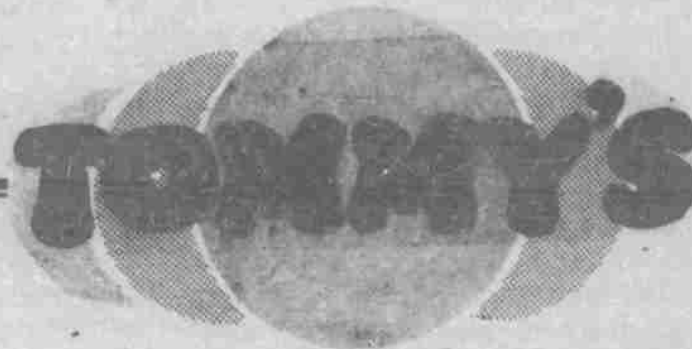


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Climber...

Continued from Page 13

We hiked about half a mile on a flat road to a short path. There we encountered our first climb. It was about 12 feet high, but it didn't worry me because there was a tree halfway up to grab hold of. After my ascent I felt triumphant. I smiled and looked at my comrades, but they weren't smiling. I walked toward them and found that we seemed to have come to a drop-off of some sort. I looked down, grabbed my breakfast and tried to act as macho as possible without crying. I volunteered to go last.

It seemed to me that before you go down a 60-foot drop-off, you should climb it. But climbing it looked out of the question too. I guess our guides figured that if you couldn't go down, you shouldn't be going up.

I was informed that to repel (descend) a cliff is perfectly safe. You tie some knots, put the rope between your legs, lean backwards perpendicular to and over

the cliff, and go down.

The rope seemed strong and the person holding on to the rope (the belayer) seemed confident that all was safe, yet I envisioned falling 60 feet to my death.

Being the last to go down was comforting. Mostly I was inspired by Bobbie Wisniesky. She went right before me without even breaking into a sweat. Then she had the nerve to wave at me while she was repelling.

My first step off the cliff was straight down. I fell about 600 feet to a small ledge four feet below the edge of the cliff. I was terrified.

Then from somewhere I pictured myself going down. It was like watching a movie. The person in the movie seemed to be experienced, and just as he stepped on solid ground, I realized it was me. I can't explain the rush I had at that moment. I know that if I could bottle it, the substance would be illegal. The next thing I knew, I was climbing

right back up the cliff for a second run. I was addicted.

The rest of the first day is hard to remember. I was like a child with a new toy. Our guide, "Doc" Van Heuvien, was all smiles. Van Heuvien gave up his job as a dentist to become a skiing and rock-climbing instructor. He is a courageous, dedicated, loving man. He knew all our first names, and we were all attracted to him. His 65-year old eyes reflected his love for nature. I envied him greatly. Doc led us to the cliff and said, "descend." Without much hesitation we followed — he had a way of making the hardest climbs seem attractive. Once, I fell from a hard climb, but a simple smile from Doc told me that I would do it again and again.

Before long we had packed the van and were back on the prairie. I knew that my fear of heights had transformed into great respect and that I would be in the van again, soon, looking forward to my next trip to "The Wall."

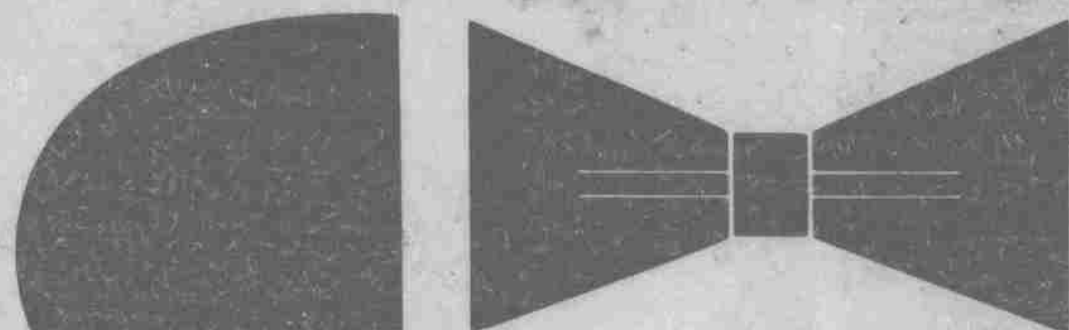
BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



Setting it Straight

The Monday Daily Nebraskan story on the "Urban Open Places" exhibit should have said the exhibit is in the Architectural Hall Gallery. The rest of the information was correct.



BETRAYAL by Harold Pinter
October 4, 5, 6 & 8 thru 13 at 8:00 p.m.

THE HOSTAGE by Brendan Behan
October 25, 26, 27 & 29 thru November 3 at 8:00 p.m.

THE FOX by Alan Miller
November 8, 9, 10 & 12 thru 17 at 8:00 p.m.

AMADEUS by Peter Shaffer
December 6, 7, 8 & 10 thru 15 at 8:00 p.m.

THE RULES OF THE GAME by Luigi Pirandello
February 14, 15, 16 & 18 thru 23 at 8:00 p.m.

GREASE Music and Lyrics
by Jim Jacobs & Warren Casey
March 7, 8, 9 & 12 thru 16 & 20 thru 23 at 8:00 p.m.
and March 9, 16 & 23 at 3:00 p.m.

THE DINING ROOM by A. R. Gurney, Jr.
April 4, 5, 6 & 8 thru 13 at 8:00 p.m.

MACBETH by William Shakespeare
April 25, 26, 27 & 29 thru May 4 at 8:00 p.m.

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