

# Arts and Entertainment

## Conservator restores painting's original hues

By Toger Swanson  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

The genius of an artist may live on forever, but unfortunately time often deals harshly with art. Putting the original "life" back into a work is the job of art conservators such as Anne Rosenthal, who is working on an Elizabeth Dolan painting at the state Capitol.

"Spirit of the Prairie" is painted on the lunette above the entry to the Nebraska Supreme Court library on the third floor. The work features striking pastel colors of a prairie sunset. But unfortunately the colors have been dimmed by 50 years of dirt and neglect.

Rosenthal has been hired by the Building Division of the Department of Administrative Services to restore the painting's hues to their original contrasts and to touch up any spots that have been badly damaged. Rosenthal said that she will only bring back what time has taken away, not repaint the entire picture as many restorers have done.

She praised the state of Nebraska for its concern about art, which is only beginning to be expressed by other public institutions. Private collectors also have taken an interest in the condition of their art works. Common sense and a few precautions against harsh conditions lengthen the life of any artwork. Many museums require a listing of all environmental controls and precautions before they will release any of their works for display. Facilities without adequate controls are not allowed to exhibit the art.

The process of restoration begins with some research into the original paints, varnishes and

other materials used. Next the conservator must decide what damage has been done to the work and how it can most easily be repaired. Chemistry knowledge is essential for choosing the proper solvents and cleaners to use. Any retouching must be made with paints carefully mixed in order to match the original. Finally, a conservator prepares a report of exactly what was done to the work and what techniques and materials were used.

Rosenthal is a fine arts conservator with a bachelor's and master's degree in art history and a master's degree in conservation and preservation of historic and artistic works. The latter degree was obtained at a special graduate program offered at the State University of New York at Cooperstown. This master's level program, which is offered at two other U.S. universities, prepares specialists in preserving all types of art works. Rosenthal specializes in paintings and other works of art on paper such as etchings and drawings. Those interested in becoming conservators should specialize in one of three undergraduate majors: studio art, art history or chemistry, Rosenthal said.

The next project for the California-based conservator is an 1,100-square-foot group of frescoes in Los Angeles. Rosenthal, a free-lance conservator, often works with museum staffs and other free-lance conservators on larger projects like this.

"Getting rich is not the motivation behind restoring art," Rosenthal said. "You really have to love it, or you can go crazy."



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Anne Rosenthal, conservator.

## Webster stays put; world exhales

The summer months were difficult for me. Fun, friends and other diversions barely held my attention. Each glance at the darkened television screen was a nasty rap on very tender wounds. Back then I would have given all the lymph nodes in my body to find out just who would get possession of Webster.

The world can exhale and sit

badly and has a sissy wardrobe. So there.

But "Webster" has the makings of a good show. Web himself is cute (I'll admit grudgingly) and the characters of George and Mamie are mildly entertaining. If it weren't for the efforts of Ben Vereen, "Webster" might be a little more than just a nice, average, harmless little sitcom.

That was Friday night. My Saturday night was equally uncluttered by social engagements; I had the very distinct pleasure of seeing "Cover Up" in all its rouged/cleft-chinned glory. Jennifer O'Neal and Erik Hexum lead a troupe of mindless bimbos in this latest good-looking-folks-fight-crime series. Using the backdrop of a high-fashion modeling agency to camouflage their true intentions, their job is to criss-cross the globe, showing thighs and catching bad guys all in one swoop. This episode showed the capture of the only psychopath who kills gorgeous women on record in television history. The producers of this show were obviously intelligent enough to realize that viewers' minds needn't be crowded with new plots or ideas.

The ultimate insult for any show is to be laughed at when it is not trying to be funny. I needed a laugh Saturday night and fortunately "Cover Up" had just such a scene. Watch the drama unfold.

The bad guy has raised his knife to hostage Jennifer O'Neal's throat, and Erik Hexum stands nearby, ready to defend her with his Daisy .357.

"Let her go," Hexum says, his gun trained on the villain's head. "I'm a fourth level marksman in the Marines. I don't know if you know what that means, but do you see that zero on the sign next to your left ear?" (He neatly shoots out the middle.) "That's your temporal lobe. You will be dead in seconds."

Hexum delivers this with all the conviction and emotion of a dead carp, and the villain drops his knife and falls into a fetal position. I was on the floor, too.

I hate being the bearer of bad tidings, but if my subject is bad, then shred I must. As custodian of the screen it is my duty to keep viewers abreast of the networks' good, bad and ugly, and if a few shows like "Cover Up" have to fall in the process, then so be it. But don't think I don't enjoy it.

## Mark Holt

back in its chair now. Emmanuel Lewis of ABC's "Webster" saw Uncle Phillip the slipshod single parent that he is and chose to stay with George and Mamie. Wise choice, Web. Not only do George and Mamie need the work, but to hand the show over to Ben Vereen's Uncle Phillip would be like having Benito Mussolini host the Miss America Pageant. I realize that Ben Vereen is a name-brand star and he makes a convenient wall for Emmanuel Lewis to bounce his cutesy singing voice off of, but the guy is nauseating. He is pushy, overbearing, sings

## Cards & Letters

Once again you biased newspaper has contained an article that cuts down a fine heavy-metal band. Your latest victim was found in Thursday's article by Randy Wymore that brutally criticized the group Kiss and their new album *Animalize*.

Wymore begins by stating that Kiss makes its yearly "feeble" attempt at success. Wymore, where have you been? Kiss has been a formidable force in the heavy metal ranks since I was a sixth grader. I wish I had their money and their talent! You also said the album could have been saved by some semblance of talented musicianship. Boy, you're real informed Wymore. Didn't you know Gene Simmons placed third as an all-time rock bassist on MTV? Incidentally Paul Stanley, guitarist for Kiss, is also extremely talented and he has a great voice. I do believe Kiss has had better albums than *Animalize*, but nonetheless, it didn't deserve the thrashing it got from Wymore. As to his closing comment on how he hoped radio airplay wouldn't encourage Kiss to do another album; I hope Kiss comes out with 10 more albums!

The Daily Nebraskan seems to have a history of bigotry when it comes to heavy metal. Last year Quiet Riot was voted worst group of the year, *Pyromania*, by Def Leppard was the worst album, and (get the barf bags ready) Spandau Ballet as best group of the year. Best? If I wanted to waste the \$7 for a good laugh, I'd buy a Spandau Ballet album and use it as a frisbee. I also remember

a derogatory review on Judas Priest's *Defenders of the Faith* last year. It seems there is this heir of snobbishness whenever your "sophisticated" staff members comment on a new heavy metal release, as if it is an inferior form of rock.

Inferior? Most of the world's greatest guitarists are or were head-bangers: Randy Rhodes, Edward Van Halen, Jimmy Page, Pete Townshend and Jimi Hendrix, just to name a few. How can anyone think that these legends play an inferior brand of rock?

Now, so you don't think I'm closed-minded: I have a wide variety of musical tastes. I love the Rolling Stones and R & B. I like southern rock, Bruce Springsteen, Prince...I even like David Bowie! But none of the above (except the Stones) can rock me like a good metal tune by AC/DC or Van Halen or Krokus or Motley Crue or...the list goes on.

To close, I would like to say that in the future, the Daily Nebraskan should have someone who's "in" to heavy metal review HM albums. Who better can distinguish good heavy metal from bad than a head-banger? Otherwise, you get a shallow, uneducated and "feeble" review such as the one done by Randy Wymore.

Troy Park sophomore news-ed P.S. Thumbs up to the guy who did the good review on the Ratt concert.

Editor's Note: Randy Wymore reviewed Ratt. He says, "Thanks."

## BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed

