

Arts & Entertainment

Bookstore shelters many treasures

By Barbara Comito
Staff Reporter

On my first visit to Bluestem Books, I half expected to find Frodo and Bilbo Baggins there — little hobbits nestled down in the big leather chair, munching on shortbread cookies or snoozing under the open covers of a book of adventure or folklore. At any rate, I'm sure Tolkien's "Hobbit" characters would have liked the place.

Located in the Haymarket district, the store has a teal blue front with light blue trim and a big rust door. Inside, the walls of three rooms are lined with used books ranging from a 1586 copy of letters from a Flemish philosopher to recent editions of "Doctor Zhivago" and other classics.

Under the viaduct at 712 "O" St., Bluestem Books could be overlooked. About 10 to 15 people come in on an average day, so at any one time a browser might have the place to himself, an owner said.

And certainly that browser would find something to his interest. One room is filled with non-fiction: hunting, fishing, architecture, history, medicine, philosophy and more. The second room is largely devoted to Nebraska authors and the third holds a wide variety of fiction from Hardy to Hemingway.

Candy dishes are placed in strategic locations to sustain the serious reader from one room to another.

Owners Pat and Scott Wendt said they wanted to create an atmosphere which would invite people to wander around and enjoy themselves.

"Browsing is not only encouraged, it's the only way to look at the books," Pat Wendt said.

Hence, Bluestem Books offers the coffee and cookies, the comfortable chairs, the quiet location.

Opening the bookstore was partly the fulfillment of a longtime dream and partly a matter of necessity, she said. She had been a book collector her whole life, and when she married, it became a joint hobby. Their two-story house was filled with books, she said.

The Wendts found the vacant warehouse location in July, 1984, but it took four months of cleaning, painting and construction before they could open in early December.

After being open for about two months, Pat said she is "cautiously optimistic."

"Considering that we've been almost a secret, it's a good beginning, I think."

The store is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and while the prices range from 50 cents to \$750 for a first edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the average price is \$5.



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

Antiques such as this old printing press decorate the Bluestem Bookstore. The Haymarket section bookstore caters to a variety of interests, with one room devoted mainly to Nebraska authors.

Silent sci-fi film starts today

Color, music successfully revive Metropolis

By Bill Allen
Senior Reporter

Whether or not you've seen "Metropolis" before, I urge you to see Giorgio Moroder's reconstruction of "perhaps the most famous silent film ever made."

REVIEW MOVIE

Moroder reconstructed Fritz Lang's classic 1926 German film, added a little color, a few recently rediscovered scenes, and more appealingly, a 1984 rock soundtrack, including songs by

Pat Benatar, Billy Squier, Adam Ant, Loverboy and Bonnie Tyler.

What results is a surprisingly tasty blend of classic cinematography with some modern rock sounds that emphasize the theme of the film.

Undeniably, Moroder, the Oscar-winning composer of "Flashdance," is going after a younger audience with this reconstruction because, unfortunately, most of the younger set would rather go see Bo Derek's breasts in an awful movie than try to comprehend a great film.

With the rock music the film caters to many tastes, but "Metropolis" the movie could stand alone as worth seeing.

"The year is 2026... where total oppression and manipulation of the masses is wielded by the unquestionable power of the few. Far below the city of Metropolis is the Underground City where machines are operated by the workers

who live even further below. Day after day, in mechanical routine, they are forced to the limits of human endurance."

It is a film of good versus evil, of oppression and rebellion and love and understanding.

It is also history, a science-fiction film, complete with unprecedented special effects, made fifty years ago that still has intellectual and dramatic appeal. It is interesting to note that you will be viewing it almost exactly in between the time it was made and the time the movie represents.

Like most silent films I've seen, "Metropolis" is grossly overdramatized, a style of the times, but with Moroder's soundtrack, the drama and passion are emphasized and played upon with exhilarating results.

A good example of this is the scene where Rotwang, the evil scientist, chases Maria, the

heroine, through the ancient catacombs. The musical score behind this scene gives it an excitement that is almost breathtaking.

Moroder's soundtrack captured the fright and intensity in Maria and at the same time the stalking patience of Rotwang.

The best use of the rock music was Bonnie Tyler's "Here She Comes" which underscores the arrival of Hel, a female evil robot created by Rotwang. The song is heavy, like the robot, and imposing.

There are no speaking roles. All conversation is carried on in subtitles, but viewers will be talking aloud about this reconstruction of a classic film.

"Metropolis" plays today through Saturday, except Thursday, at the Sheldon Film Gallery. Times are 7 and 9 p.m. with matinees today at 1 p.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m. Admission is \$3.

Unusual, fiery Del Fuegos aim to set Drumstick ablaze

By Kyle Foster
Staff Reporter

The Del Fuegos, a critically acclaimed rock and roll band from Boston, Mass., currently is touring America and will perform at the Drumstick tonight.

Del Fuegos is a grammatically incorrect Spanish term meaning "from the fires." If the critics are right, this band just might set your dancing shoes ablaze tonight at the "stick." The cover charge is \$6.

Stop. Are they really worth \$6? Many critics claim they are.

The Los Angeles Weekly called *The Longest Day*, their debut album, "fun disk of the year" in 1984. The Los Angeles Times called the album a "great rock 'n' roll record." The St. Petersburg Times called the album the "best new group rock record of the year," etc., etc., etc. You get the point. The Del Fuegos are currently one of the hottest new bands in America.

The quartet formed in Boston in 1982, quickly developed a cult following, signed with Slash/Warner Bros. records and recorded its debut album in 1984.

The band has opened shows for several well-

known bands, including X, The Blasters and The Plimsouls.

The Del Fuegos sound is most often compared to early Rolling Stones and Buddy Holly. An unusual combination at best but one that has propelled the band from obscurity to the brink of national recognition in two short years.

Speaking on the band's sound, Dan Zanes, lead guitar and vocals for the band, told a Boston newspaper, "Not too drunk. Not too sober. Just drunk enough."

In reality this might be close to the truth because the band has been criticized for drunken performances. However the band claims that it has cleaned up its act and is ready to take on America.

Zanes said to a Boston rock publication, "We're going to play all over the U.S. to support our record. It can only be to our advantage to put on massively entertaining live shows. And to get people to dance because we're really just a dance band."

The quartet from Boston may not be interested in Spanish grammar, but it is interested in creating its own style of rock and roll music.

And just in case, bring a pair of fire-resistant dance sneakers.

HOT SPOTS

At the Kimball

● The UNL Jazz Ensemble I, which was recently the featured college jazz band at the Nebraska Music Educator's Association annual convention, will present a concert of big band jazz at 8 tonight in Kimball Hall.

Those who have enjoyed the band's concerts in the past will again be treated to music never before performed by the ensemble. Among the works to be performed in the concert are several arrangements by Rob McConnell of the Boss Brass. The band's commitment to traditional big band music will be reflected in its performance of "Pressure Cooker," originally written for the Count Basie Band.

The concert is open to the public without charge.

At Westbrook

● Cellist Richard Slavich and pianist Alice Ryback Slavich, a performing duo for the past six years that has been featured in concerts throughout the Midwest and Rocky Mountain region as well as on both coasts, will play tonight at 8 in Westbrook Music Hall.

Slavich is soloist, recitalist and teacher at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. Alice Slavich has made solo appearances with the Denver Symphony, the Denver Chamber and the Colorado Philharmonic Orchestras.

The concert is open to the public without charge.

Television

● Live from Lincoln Center tonight at 7:30 on NETV Channel 12 will feature works by Scarlatti, Schubert, Chopin, Gershwin, Debussy and Ravel performed by master pianist Andre Watts.

The program will be stereo simulcast by Lincoln and Omaha public radio stations KUCV 90.9 FM and KIOS 91.5 FM for viewers in their broadcast area.

● The current pay-equity issue is discussed, both pro and con, on this week's *Dateline Nebraska*, airing tonight at 8:30 on NETV Channel 12. Pay equity proposes that jobs of the same value should be compensated the same — equal pay for equal value, not necessarily equal pay for equal work.

● *Murder with Mirrors* premieres tonight at 8 on Channel 6, starring Helen Hayes and Bette Davis. Amateur sleuth Miss Marple investigates murder at an elderly friend's ancestral home, an ancient castle that now serves as a rehabilitation center for juvenile delinquents.

● *The Wild One*, a 1954 film starring Marlon Brando and Mary Murphy, airs tonight at 11 p.m. on Channel 2. The movie is about a motorcycle gang that stirs up trouble when it invades a quiet town.