

# Arts & Entertainment

## Winter Festival

Walpurgisnacht brings food, fun here Friday

By Kathy Shultz  
Staff Reporter

UNL's 12th annual Walpurgisnacht Winter festival, or "witch's demonic orgy" as defined by Webster, will be this Friday from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Twelve years ago, the University Program Council created the festival, which encompasses a variety of talent, Angela Swantek, Walpurgisnacht chairperson said.

The festival was dubbed Walpurgisnacht in honor of the English nun, Saint Walpurg, who once aided people in warding off witches' power.

"We'll be utilizing the entire Union for the event," Swantek said.

The activities include vocalists, bands, Karate demonstrations, comedians, belly dancers, a marriage booth, a cake walk and jello eating contest.

"A large percentage of the talent is local, but there will be two national acts — juggler Chris Bliss and hypnotist John Ivan Palmer," Swantek said.

Bliss choreographs his act to lights and music. He has opened for musical groups such as the Jackson's Victory Tour, Loverboy, Asia and Eddie Money. Bliss will perform "A Concert for Your Eyes" at 10:45 p.m. in the Centennial Ballroom. Palmer, known as the "World's



Chris Semmler/Special to Daily Nebraskan

Fastest Hypnotist" will perform in the Centennial Room at 9:30 p.m.

The local dance band Jagg will also perform, Swantek said.

Swantek said this year's new acts were chosen by audition and some previous festival performers will be returning.

Aside from the singing and dancing, a variety of food will be served including hot pretzels, polish hot dogs and baklava.

About 4,000 people are expected to attend the event, she said.

"We're doing a lot of new and fun publicity this year," she said, "definitely more than last year."

This week frisbees, helium balloons and suckers promoting Walpurgisnacht will be given out. On Friday, a search light will be outside the union to attract patrons.

Many of the events require tickets, which cost 50 cents each. Each event specifies the number of tickets needed. There also will be passes available which cost \$5 for students with UNL ID, and \$6 for non-students.

"These passes get you into every entertainment event, and since each main act cost \$3, a pass is a really good deal," Swantek said.

## 'Twice' not worth price

By Charles Lieurance  
Senior Reporter

Here's a new story idea: A middle-aged, middle-class, middle-brow steel worker (Gene Hackman) is going through a middle-life crisis rendezvous with a lovely widow (Ann-Margret). He then leaves his wife (Ellen Burstyn) of many long, sedentary years for this new love and is forced to leave all of his old life behind. He enjoys his newfound youth and his ex-wife enjoys her new freedom after a brief bout with post-separation melancholy.

Bud Yorkin's "Twice in a Lifetime" treats this tired scenario as if it were a gem of imagination.

him from below staring up at the skyscrapers of Seattle, his hands full of flowers and the makings of a romantic meal for two. He spins around like Mary Tyler Moore. I was waiting for him to toss his handkerchief up in the air and kick his leg up.

All of the characters are dull with the exception perhaps of Amy Madigan as the hot-headed daughter who is trying desperately to hold her economically-strapped marriage together. Her feverish performance is alarming, and in the face of all the cliches, one you hope the camera will follow more closely. But the script not only fails to recognize its many weaknesses, it doesn't even know its strengths.

## Movie Review

Hackman's daughters make a split decision. Amy Madigan as the hot-headed one who takes after her father, won't speak to him anymore. Ally Sheedy as the youngest daughter has a relationship with her father that borders on incest. She accepts anything Daddy wants to do.

There's also an eldest son, but nobody knows what he thinks. He walks in from nowhere and accuses everyone in the family of being old-fashioned and prudish, hangs around to smile and act worldly and then disappears.

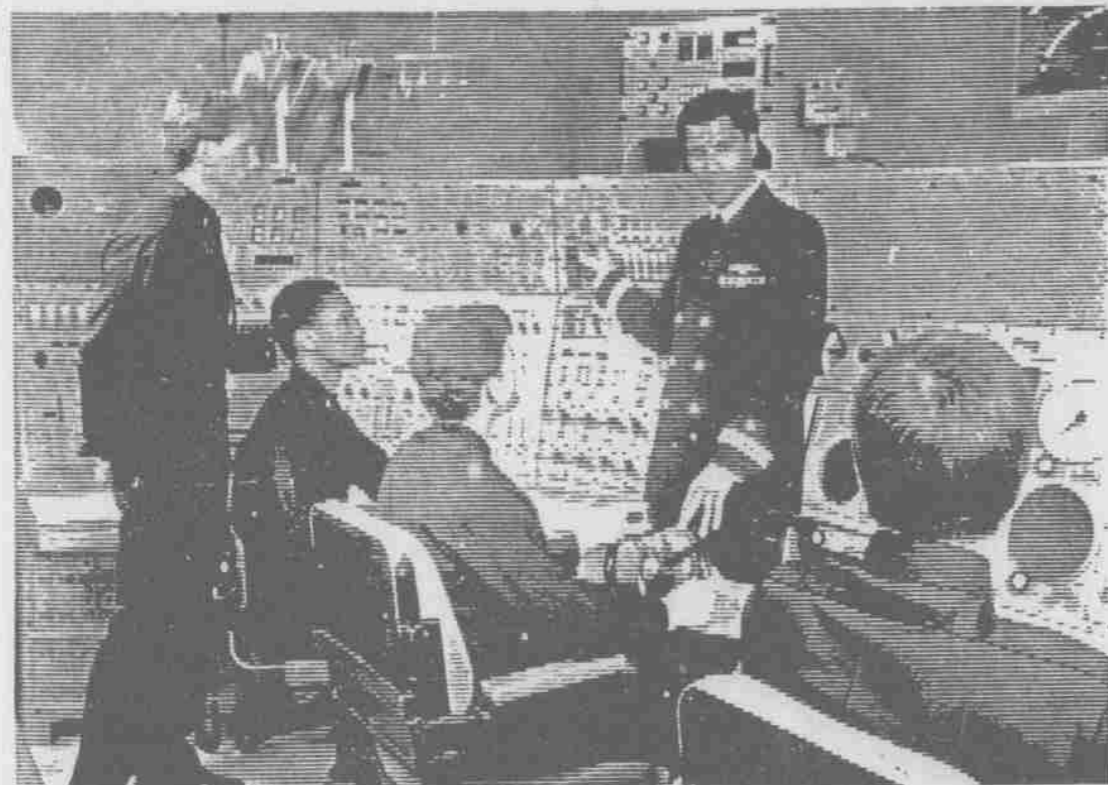
For all the great reviews stacked up on top of each other in the advertisement, this film is a massive disappointment. Yorkin's ("Start the Revolution Without Me," "Cold Turkey") direction submits to every cliché the domestic melodrama allows him. Just after Hackman breaks up with his wife and leaves his suburban prefab home for an inner city love nest, Yorkin films

Hackman, Burstyn, Ann-Margret and Sheedy are all utter bores. If this is a film about how boring and dead-end middle class American existence is, it succeeds brilliantly. Unfortunately, most film audiences want to go places they've never been before and meet characters whose lives differ from their own. Nothing about this is even remotely engaging.

If this were the film's only flaw, it could be forgiven. We could simply say, "Well, real life is dreary, why shouldn't films be dreary?" But Yorkin tries hard to be sentimental, to make us feel for everyone in the film while resolving nothing.

Yorkin can't even give us a clear chronology of events. There is no sense of time, no clear idea of economic circumstance, no character development.

I can't see any reason to go see this movie. If you're the sort of person who would pay \$4 to see an "ABC Movie of the Week," here's your chance. For anyone else: yawning is something you can do comfortably at home, for free.



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