

Arts & Entertainment

Enjoy a laser show of a different kind

By Chris McCubbin
Senior Reporter

I check my weapon and move through the door. I don't get more than three steps into the maze before someone takes a shot at me. I return fire and lunge for cover.

I move between the husks of buildings — keeping low, trying not to make any noise. I slide into the poolroom, squeezing off a shot at the guy across the table. As he returns fire he yells something. Suddenly, they're all around me, pouring out of everywhere. A crossfire. I'm trapped. I lunge by one of my attackers and dart through the nearest exit, taking at least a couple hits as I leave.

Lesson One learned. Some of these people have friends. A loner in the maze has to keep low, keep quiet and keep moving.

Keeping to the back-alleys, I slide through the maze....

Basically, Lazer Tag is the logical extension of the video game — you could even think of it as a live video game. You get a gun that shoots a narrow beam of invisible infrared light, then you strap a doo-hickey on your chest that senses this light. If your chest sensor gets hit six times, you out. Dead.

Long before Lazer Tag was available on the market it was being hyped on MTV and in comic books. A Saturday-morning network cartoon show, "Lazer Tag Academy," debuted recently. The copyrighted names for Lazer Tag paraphernalia are "Starsensors" for the chest sensor and "Starlyte" for the gun.

Lazer Tag paraphernalia isn't available locally just yet, and when it does hit the toy stores it will run about \$50 for a basic set consisting of gun and sensor with belt.

If that's a bit much for your budget, or if you just can't wait to get your hands on a Starlyte, Lazer Tag by the game is available at two different places locally: Lazer-Tag, 1227 Q St., and Lazer Zone, 2021 O St.

Lazer-Tag opened Oct. 1. The playing area is a huge room laid out as a maze, designed to resemble a bombed-out urban area ala "Escape From New York" or "A Boy and His Dog," with little rooms labeled as taverns, barber-shops, etc. There's a wide "Main Street," alleys and secret passages. A strobe light flashes intermittently at one end of the room.

You get 10 hits before you're out at Lazer-Tag. It costs you \$3 and you can play 'til you're out. You don't "win" at Lazer-Tag; again, it's like a video game.

Lazer Zone is set up a little differently. You get six hits maximum and games are limited to 10 minutes, but games only cost \$2. If you're the only



Dave Bentz/Daily Nebraskan

This player gets ready to fire at Lazer-Tag, in the Glass Menagerie, 1227 Q St. Another business, Lazer Zone, 2021 O St., also has the game.

person left at the end of a game you win a prize.

Lazer-Tag is co-owned by five Lincolnites. According to Steve Rasmussen, one of the co-owners, most of the owners were friends in high school. A couple of them have day jobs, and one, Scott Kosark, is a sophomore anthropology major at UNL, Rasmussen said. Rasmussen said Lazer-Tag is not part of any chain or franchise, although they wouldn't mind starting one. Lazer-Tag is modeled after the "Photon" chain that has been operating around Dallas for the last couple of years, Rasmussen said.

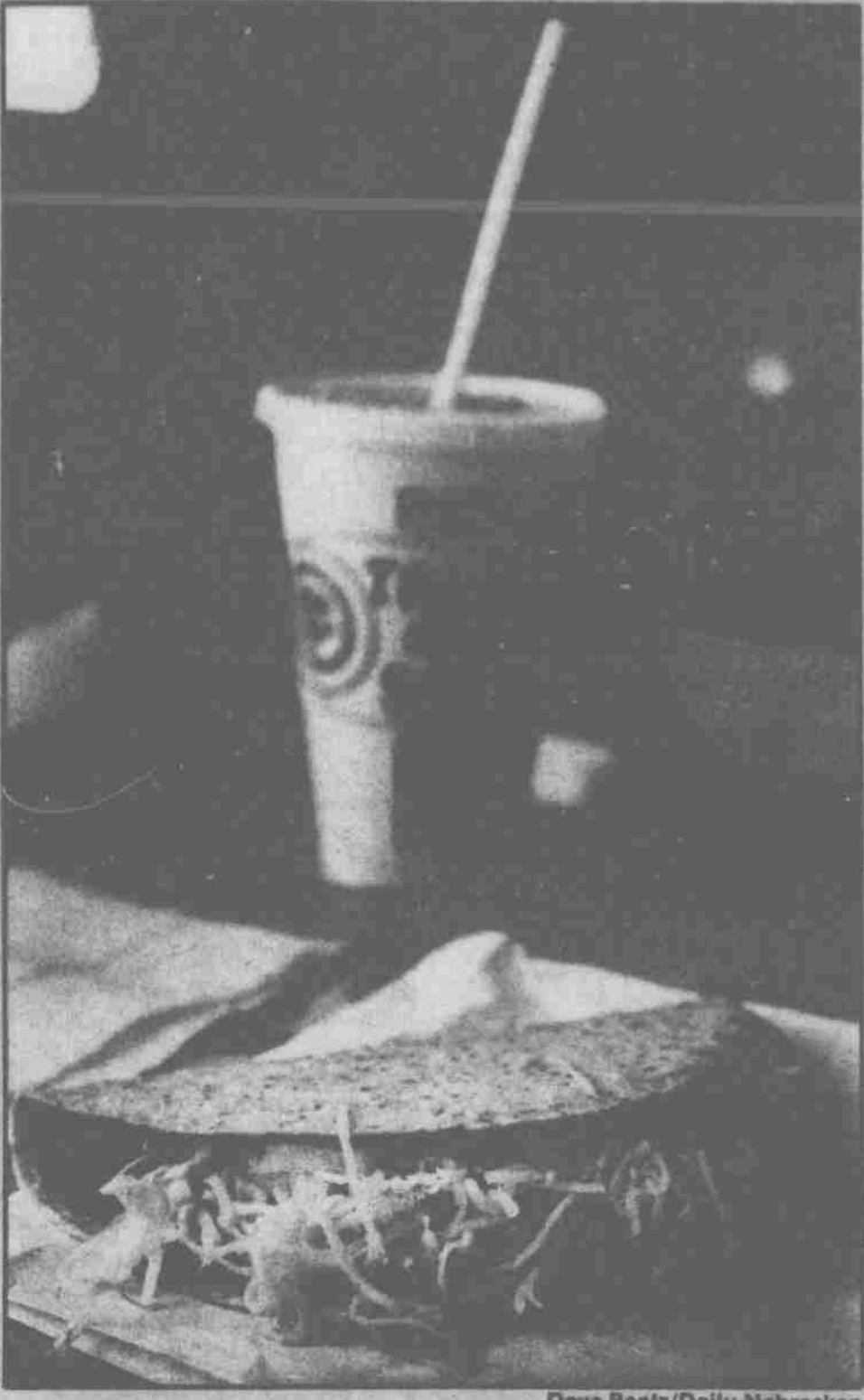
Lazer-Tag is open from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Wednesday and from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. People of all ages can play Lazer-Tag. Rasmussen said this has been no problem, although some kids have been known to hide out in kid-sized places of concealment and ambush the big folk, and some of the

ambushes have been known to pick up their small assailants and hold them suspended off the floor while they pump five shots into their sensors.

If you don't want to deal with the kids, patrons under 16 are discouraged after 8 p.m. In return, Lazer-Tag is reserved for under-16s on Sunday afternoons until 5 p.m. Rasmussen said Sundays have been particularly successful because fathers will bring their kids in, settle down to watch football in the lobby, and keep paying for new rounds until the game is over.

Rasmussen said that future plans for Lazer-Tag include regular changes in the maze pattern and singles and team tournaments — the first to be held around Halloween.

They're considering ways to make the maze's interior more durable and they're trying to come up with a time-card system that will allow individual prizes without a time limit, Rasmussen said.



Dave Bentz/Daily Nebraskan

Taco del Sol unlike other fast-taco joints

By Scott Harrah
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Taco del Sol, 10th Street and Cornhusker Highway

If you're hungry for some good Mexican food at fast-food prices, check out the new Taco del Sol restaurant in north Lincoln.

Unlike most fast-food joints, Taco del Sol food doesn't have that cheesy, pre-fab taste. The tacos, enchiladas and burritos are comparable in taste and quality to more expensive sit-down restaurants.

Aztec tiles on the walls.

If you're only slightly hungry, your best bet is probably one of the a la carte items like the Taco Supreme or the Super Sancho. But the dinner combinations offer a sampling of each type of Mexican food and all are priced under \$4. With each dinner, you get a scoop of refried beans and chips. The Sancho Dinner for \$3.65 offers a tossed salad with choice of dressing instead of beans.

Most people prefer to have Mexican food made to order, and Taco del Sol makes its food in that manner. You can choose extra ingredients like sour cream and black olives. The restaurant also has extra "gravy," which is its hick Nebraska term for Mexican salsa. I suggest that Taco del Sol should stop calling its salsa "gravy" to avoid confusion. Some people might think that their enchilada would be covered with brown beef gravy. Retch!

The restaurant also serves Mexican desserts like crispitos, which are tortilla chips sprinkled with brown sugar, and apple tartas, which are soft flour tortillas stuffed with a light cinnamon apple filling.

The food is, overall, above average for a fast-food Mexican place, although it doesn't quite compare with my favorite Mexican restaurant, Tico's. But the next time you happen to be up in north Lincoln, you won't be disappointed if you stop at Taco del Sol and give the food a try.

Dining Review

DN Diversions Editor Charles Lieurance and I ate at Taco del Sol last Thursday and had the "All You Can Eat" Mexican dinner special. It's merely \$3.99 and is only served on Thursday evenings. You get a large Taco Supreme, a burrito, and enchilada, tortilla chips and a generous scoop of refried beans. That's easily enough to fill you up, but gluttons can go back for seconds... and thirds... and even fourths. There's no limit. And they also serve alcohol. On Monday evenings they have Corona for just 89 cents.

However, if you're in the mood for a fancy, epicurean atmosphere, this isn't the place to go. Like I said, it's a fast-food place, so the decor is simple. Pastel, Mediterranean shades of blue, beige and pink adorn pseudo-

and will receive a \$500 cash prize. Two alternate awards of \$200 each will be presented. Past winners may not compete again.

All applications must be endorsed by the current teacher. Teachers are urged to enter only students of outstanding ability.

Only music with available orchestral parts can be used as repertoire. Instrumental contestants are required to perform three arias or the equivalent, preferably of contrasting character.

Young artist contest soon

The Lincoln Symphony Orchestra announces its annual Young Artist Competition, which will be Saturday, Nov. 8.

Solo instrumental students between the ages of 17 and 26, and solo vocal students between the ages of 17 and 28, who are currently studying in Nebraska or who have studied with a Nebraska teacher, are eligible to compete.

The winner will perform with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra in its regular subscription series on Jan. 27

State of the Arts

Compiled by Stew Magnuson
Staff Reporter

At Little Bo's:

Although it's an odd venue for them to be playing, E.T.C., a soul-funk band from Omaha, is jamming all this week at Little Bo's. This booking completely shatters every stereotype I've ever had about Little Bo's. The members of E.T.C. are great entertainers. I haven't seen them for several years, but I'm sure they've only gotten better.

At Elder Gallery, Nebraska Wesleyan University

A retrospective of the artwork of Gail Butt will be shown in Elder Gallery on the Nebraska Wesleyan campus next Sunday through Nov. 19. The public is invited to the opening reception given

in the artist's honor by the Nebraska Wesleyan Art Council, next Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Butt has exhibited his watercolor paintings in Kyoto, Japan; Allahabad, India and throughout the United States. His works are part of the permanent collections of UNL's Sheldon Art Gallery, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Nelson Art Gallery in Kansas City and the City Art Museum in St. Louis.

At the Zoo:

All this week at the Zoo, Lincoln favorites, Magic Slim and the Tear-drops, will bring their south Chicago blues to their local, fanatical fans. As everyone says, "He ain't slim, but he sure is magic!"

Cover is cheap early in the week and gets higher towards the weekend. But

it won't ever be more than \$3. All shows will start about 9 p.m.

On TV:

Atlanta's WTBS and Lincoln's Big 8 channel continue their weekly "Dueling Elvis movies"; tonight Elvis shakes it with Ann Margret in "Viva Las Vegas" at 9:25 p.m. on WTBS. Only three hours later at 1:30 a.m. Big 8 will show Presley in "Kissin' Cousins." You can use the spare hour between movies to play your "Clambake" soundtrack.

If you know of an event you would like us to announce, send press information to:

State of the Arts
c/o Daily Nebraskan
34 Nebraska Union
1400 R St.
Lincoln, NE 68588