

Arts & Entertainment

Fine wining and dining... in class

By Kathy Shults
Staff Reporter

The instructor stood in front of captivated eyes and pounded the calf's flesh with a cleaver.

"Veal cordon blu," said Sivert R. Haddal, who has been teaching fine foods and wines for 13 years.

His textbook is his kitchen. There are no tests. There are no notes, only recipes accompanied by fine wine.

The class averages 100 students per semester. Students must be 21 or older. However, when the course began in 1974, the age requirement was unnecessary.

"It may well have been coincidence that we had a different liquor law in which you could drink at age 18," he said, his Norwegian accent evident.

Haddal said he has never agreed with the age requirement. He explained that he has never perceived wine as an intoxicant, especially in the quantities that are served. Each student averages two ounces of wine per class.

"The class promotes moderation because if you're half looped you're not going to enjoy fine food and wine," he said with the distinctive laugh that his students know well.

Another must for the class is \$100 up front. For this semester's class of 138, Haddal's largest class yet, that leaves \$13,800. The money buys the wine, ranging anywhere from \$5 to \$30 per bottle, as well as the food, which

includes taste tests of crab stuffing, veal, steak Diane and cherries jubilee.

The fee also includes two \$36 dinners at the University Club, where Haddal was general manager for 18 years. He retired last year.

The fee has always been \$100. Haddal said he thinks it should be a little more because students today aren't getting the same quality and variety of wines that they did a few semesters ago.

"There is simply insufficient money, and I think it would be worthwhile for the student to pay another \$25 or \$30 for the quality," he said.

Haddal said he enjoys teaching the class because it enables him to stay informed with his profession, to perpetuate his profession, and to be around young people.

Haddal said he hopes students look at the class as more than just "three credits."

"There may be a number of students who see the class as three easy credits," he said, "But I'm hoping that when the semester is over, the credits will be insignificant to the benefits of the class."

Some students seem already to agree with Haddal's philosophy.

"Sure this class is an easy three credits, but it's fun and interesting, too. It's a valuable class that everyone can use when dining in a fine restaurant or preparing a gourmet meal at home," said Dave Hoeft.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Sivert Haddal prepares one of the many delicacies in the fine foods and wines class at UNL.

Julie Valdrighi appreciates the class for different reasons.

"Since I'm getting married this summer, this is a great class to impress my fiancé and in-laws with," she said. "Before I took this class I couldn't even boil water."

Haddal's experience in the field

goes back to World War II when he was a cook and chief steward on troop transports. After the war, the transports became cruise ships — merely a conversion of the same vessel, he said. Haddal returned to Norway, finished his hotel apprenticeship and completed the Hotel Academy.

Once in the United States, Haddal worked in many restaurants and hotels. In 1968 he came to Nebraska to manage the University Club. Since then he has received numerous awards for his talents, including an international medal of honor for his culinary expertise.

Silber's film chronicles Contra plight Movie 'relevant'

By Geoff McMurtry
Staff Reporter

Noted documentary filmmaker Glen Silber presided over a showing of his "Who Are The Contras" Friday at noon in the Nebraska Union. The event, sponsored by the Latin American Student Association, was the first time this documentary had been shown outside of Washington, D.C.

Silber has made award-winning documentaries on related subjects like El Salvador. Along with friends who had done similar projects, he made "Who Are The Contras" as a presentation to Congress in January 1981, two days before Reagan took office. Scheduled to coincide with the first key congressional vote on sending military aid to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, the film makes no mention of the Sandinistas because Silber felt that had been done enough, but was instead designed to increase what little congressional knowledge of the Contras there was then.

"Who Are The Contras" is a 14-minute documentary on the Nicaraguan Democratic Front, or Contras, whom the United States support with military assistance, advising and weapons. The Contras' purpose is to overthrow the Sandinista government currently ruling in Nicaragua. The video includes interviews

with Contra leaders, footage of their training, activity in base camps in Nicaragua and neighboring Honduras, as well as documentation of illegal American involvement.

The video charts the growing American involvement from the beginning, the gradual public admittance by Reagan of the war in Central America, and the gradual admittance of the Contras of their goal to overthrow their own government. It also mentions that most of the United States' actions in this region are illegal under the Neutrality Act.

Over \$500 million has been spent already, another \$450 million is committed and \$100 million is on the way to an organization that didn't officially exist two or three years ago. Some estimate Contra manpower at 6,000 to 7,000. Their own estimates are no higher than 18,000.

Narrated by Mike Farrell of "M*A*S*H," "Who Are The Contras" is not meant to be a complete film. It was made as a one-time only presentation to a specific audience; many things like dollar amounts and exposing "covert" activities that have since been admitted are out of date. However, it is still relevant today in light of what is happening in Central America, and increases the American public's knowledge by identifying the Contras, what their goals are, and how American taxes fund them.

Kooky family, weird neighborhood; 'Radio Days' delights and amuses

By Stew Magnuson
Senior Reporter

Long gone are the days when families sat by the radio listening to their favorite shows. Now, as someone said at the end of Woody Allen's "Radio Days," no one remembers the stars of the bygone era before TV. The voices are fading. But not for Woody Allen.

"Radio Days" is a hilarious tribute to the days before television, when families crowded around the radio. Allen narrates the experiences of a mundane family whose lives are made a little more bearable through radio's fantasy world.

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Set in Rockaway, Queens, at the beginning of World War II, Allen tells slices of life revolving around the radio. Joe (Seth Green, the "I" in the first-person narrative), schemes to raise cash for Captain Avenger secret ring. He looks for Nazi subs off the coast as her hero Biff Baxter tells him to.

Some of the stories about the poor, Jewish family are just remotely connected to radio. Some tell the inside story of radio personalities, including the perils of Sally White (Mia Farrow, the blonde Brooklyn ditz who makes it on the high-class radio gossip show. Some of the stories are hilarious; some of them are just interesting. One of the stories is just sad.

While Allen narrates his love for



Courtesy of Orion Pictures

Tony Roberts and Dianne Wiest in "Radio Days."

radio, he's also making a beautiful portrait of a kooky family in a weird neighborhood. The Communists next door play music on the sabbath and eat pork. Aunt Bea is perpetually looking to get married. Uncle Abe (Josh Mostel) has an unnatural obsession for fish, and Cousin Ruthie relies on the party line instead of the radio for her entertainment.

Allen again uses a solid group of character actors and former leads to make these people come alive. Jeff Daniels and Diane Keaton make cameo appearances. Wallace Shawn, the great-

est character actor of the 80s, is an unlikely Captain Avenger. Dianne Wiest, one of the Hannah's sisters, is great as Aunt Bea. Tony Roberts (Play It Again, Sam) and "Annie Hall") is a game show host.

Allen only narrates, but his punchlines will satisfy all the people who don't normally go to his movies when he only directs. He keeps up the comedic pace throughout the film, never stopping to get too serious as he did in "Hannah And Her Sisters."

"Radio Days" is rated PG and is showing at the Douglas Three.

The Phones to ring at UNO concert

UNO's Student Programming Organization will present the Phones as part of the Rising Star Series Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The concert will be in the ballroom of UNO's Milo Bail Student Center.

Formed in 1979 at Moorhead State University in Moorhead, Minn., the Phones have traveled throughout the Midwest, building a large, fanatic, loyal following. They have released two sin-

gles on their own label.

In 1984, they released their second album, "Blind Impulse," an experimental recording for the band. It received rave reviews across the country, including Robert Palmer's comment in the New York Times: "stylistic originality; this is a band to watch."

The Phones performance at UNO is free and open to the public.

Kronos Quartet and BCR tonight; replace and outweird the Wallets

The Wallets once again have cancelled a Zoo Bar performance. But those waiting to see one of the weirdest bands around along with a free saloon seminar featuring the Kronos String quartet, absolutely the weirdest string quartet around, won't be disappointed.

The Wallets' substitute band is the outrageous Kansas City group BCR, billed as the "Afro-nuclear-

wave-funk-swing-reggae-tango band." These guys make the Wallets look like absolutely normal certified public accountants. They outweird them by far.

BCR's music is a mix of just about everything danceable, and the collective members play nearly every instrument that has ever appeared on the Zoo Bar Stage.

BCR members also are known for

their "Weirdrobe," a collection of garage-sale oddities and second-hand adornments, usually bright and clashing.

The Kronos Quartet and BCR might just make one of the strangest Monday nights of your life. The Saloon Seminar with Kronos is free. For those wishing to hang around for BCR, the cover is \$3. The show starts at 8:30 p.m.