

Arts & Entertainment

Honduras trip fuels 'ContrAddiction'

By Chris McCubbin
Divisions Editor

The Nebraska Air National Guard's trip to Honduras has provoked vocal opposition, and some local activists are expressing their views in song.

Bluegrass musician Dave Hardy began working on the song "ContrAddiction? Just Say No!" on April 15, at the suggestion of his wife, Dawn Watson, an employee of Nebraskans for Peace, Hardy said.

The song was first performed April 18 at a rally at the airport Air National Guard complex when the guard unit shipped out, he said.

Along with Hardy on guitar and vocals and Watson on mandolin were Joe Itunev on fiddle and Jim Pipher, bass player for Lincoln's Bluegrass Crusade.

"ContrAddiction" is a bouncy bluegrass tune with lyrics like:

*So if Bereuter asks for your support, JUST SAY NO!
It's just not your idea of*

*sport, JUST SAY NO!
Intimidate and then invade.
We'll call it economic aid.
And hire the refugees as maids, JUST SAY NO!*

The group has recorded a cassette of "ContrAddiction." The first run is almost gone, and it may be awhile before more are available because the company that produced the cassette, Cruise Music, has gone out of business, Hardy said. But a few tapes are still available, and Hardy said he'll try to get more as soon as

he can.

The tape has been sent to several Lincoln radio stations, and has received airplay on KLIN and KZUM.

Larry Zink, state coordinator for Nebraskans for Peace, said his group plans to use the single as a resource. He said his group is aware of the value of entertainment as "an alternative way to reach out to people."

Watson is the coordinator for the 1st Congressional District for Nebraskans for Peace.

Hardy said the band was "tossed

together" on the spur of the moment. But he said he wouldn't be surprised if the group played together again for a different project. The group has planned no further projects.

Hardy also sometimes plays with Poultrygeist, a band that plays only "chicken songs, ghost songs and dead chicken songs," he said.

Copies of "ContrAddiction? Just Say No!" are available for \$1.50. Write Dave Hardy at 345 W. Rio Rd., Lincoln, NE 68505.

'Down by Law' a don't-miss flick

By Stew Magnuson
Senior Reporter

Zack is an unemployed disc jockey, framed for murder when a stolen car he agreed to drive across town turns out to have a corpse in the trunk. Jack is a small-time pimp, set-up by his enemies for child molestation.

Movie Review

They're both innocent and meet in the same New Orleans jail. Enter Roberto, the energetic Italian tourist who *did* kill a man. He threw a pool ball at a gambler's head and killed him instantly.

"Down By Law," playing at Sheldon Film Theatre this weekend, is director Jim Jarmusch's latest film and a superb follow-up to his best-known work, "Stranger Than Paradise."

It's difficult to put a finger on what kind of film Jarmusch makes. If I had to narrow it down to one genre, I'd say "comedies."

No, they're not conventional comedies. There aren't too many belly laughs, but there are some. And the characters don't tell formal "jokes." But Jarmusch can elicit humor without these traditional methods. He creates humor out of situations, a quick change of camera angles or a funny conversation that totally goes over the heads of the characters.

Most of all, Jarmusch depends on his characters. He's not only the director, but the writer. And he has a knack for picking out the perfect actors for each role. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits plays Zack, the disc jockey who sits looking sheepish as his girlfriend throws all his belongings out into the street.

Lounge lizard sax player John Lurie, also the star of "Stranger Than Paradise," looks perfect as Jack, the slimy pimp.

"My mamma always said America is like a big melting pot," one of Jack's prostitutes tells him. "When you bring it to a boil, all the scum rises to the top." She points a gun at his turned back, but decides not to shoot.



Courtesy of Island Pictures

John Lurie, Tom Waits and Roberto Benigni in the comedy "Down By Law."

Both actors/musicians provided music for the sound track, which blends into the film perfectly.

The two losers wind up together in jail, constantly bickering, spending time totally without imagination until the dreaded pool-ball killer, Roberto, winds up in the same cell, leading the

whole prison in chants of "I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!"

Roberto, played by famous Italian actor/comedian Roberto Benigni (famous in Italy, not here), can get laughs just with expressions on his face. He carries a notebook full of incorrect

English phrases and tells the two miserable conficts, "Ef looks could keel, I am dead now!"

The three escape jail into the Louisiana swamp, and the real adventure begins.

The black-and-white photography of the New Orleans ghettos and murky

swamps is stunning, and the acting and script are excellent and entertaining.

"Down By Law" is a "don't miss" film. "Down By Law" plays Friday through Sunday with screenings at 7 and 9 p.m., a Saturday matinee at 3 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 and 5 p.m.

DC's perennial superstars thrive

By Chris McCubbin
Divisions Editor

Here's the long-overdue conclusion on how DC Comics is overhauling its long-term superstars.

"Shazam! The New Beginning," Roy and Dan Thomas and Tom Mandrae

Technically the original Captain Marvel isn't a DC character. He's actually a creation of the defunct Fawcett company. During the '40s and '50s Captain Marvel rivaled and sometimes surpassed Superman in popularity.

The Fawcett Captain Marvel books were chaotic, nonsensical, a little frenchy, unapologetically juvenile, and amazingly good fun.

I was scared when I heard that DC was reviving the character to fit into its new "realistic" universe but the four-part "New Beginning" series was much better than I ever expected.

DC dropped the talking tigers, kid sidekicks and other silliness that made the first series such a delight, but somehow writers Roy and Dann Thomas managed to retain the innocence and charm that have

always been part of this character without becoming precious or swamy.

Much of the miniseries' plot was stolen from the first four issues of

Comics Now

Alan Moore's "Miracleman." But that's OK, because "Miracleman" is just the American version of the UK's Marvelman, an updated version

of a '50s character, which was a rip-off of Fawcett's Captain Marvel. (See why I love comics?)

Maybe the best thing for Captain Marvel right now would be an honorable retirement, but at the end of "New Beginning," I found myself wanting more in spite of myself.

The Green Lantern Corps, Steve Englehart

After the Cris's shook up the DC Universe, Green Lantern came home with six of his buddies, all of whom have the same powers as he. These seven, four of whom are space aliens,

have inhabited Earth as crime fighters.

I can't really get into this series, because a Green Lantern has the power to do just about anything he wants, and it seems like seven of them on one planet could easily make all other crime fighters redundant.

Englehart solves this problem by ignoring it. Instead he concentrates on the characters, mostly the slightly goofy aliens. The Green Lantern

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