



Cornhusker State Games file photo

Two sailboats compete at Branched Oak Lake during last summer's Cornhusker State Games.

## Catamaran sailing can be fun, physically demanding at same time

By Chuck Green  
Sports Editor

For Francis "Cal" Calabrese, it was love at first sight.

Calabrese, director of the Midwest Archaeological Center, took his first ride on a Hobie catamaran sailboat about four years ago and has been at it ever since.

"I just fell in love with the sport," Calabrese said.

During the 1986 Cornhusker State Games, Calabrese competed in the Hobie division of the sailing events at Branched Oak Lake just northwest of Lincoln.

In their first race, Calabrese and his sailing partner, Chris Koppel of Gretna and a recent graduate of the University of Nebraska, finished third.

"We were lucky enough to get a good start," Calabrese said of the race. "Getting a good start is the main ingredient in being successful in this sport. You need to get off the line and hold off the boats behind you, but catch the boats in front of you."

Calabrese said that there are good aspects of sailing aside from the fun involved. One aspect he stressed is that sailing is a relatively inexpensive hobby. He said that an aspiring sailor can buy a catamaran for \$2,500 to \$3,000, while maintenance costs are around \$100 each year.

Calabrese said the sport is physically demanding as well as fun.

"You've got to be in fairly good shape to race sailboats," he said. "Sometimes, the wind is light and easy, but sometimes it can be pretty strong. That's when your physical conditioning comes

into play." Fighting a strong wind takes a lot out of a person, Calabrese said, and it can make the difference between winning and losing a race.

The best part about the sport, Calabrese said, is meeting and socializing with other sailboaters.

"It's something to do on the weekends in Nebraska," he said. "This state has a lot of lakes and a lot of wind. The other people who sail are a good group of social people. They're a lot of fun to be around and we try to get together as often as we can."

Calabrese said that he and his friends try to sail together every weekend during the summer if possible. Weekend get-togethers usually revolve around races, he said.

"It's a real lift," Calabrese said. "You just can't beat it."

## 'Dragnet' film dum-de-dum-dum

By Chris McCubbin  
Staff Reporter

"Dragnet" is a funny movie, but it's just not quite funny enough. Funny enough to keep an audience amused — yes. Funny enough to be a parody of the Jack Webb TV show — no.

The original "Dragnet," with its contrived "true" plots, stick-figure acting, and especially Webb's simple-minded political diatribes was one of the juiciest bits of unintentional humor to ever enter the American camp culture. Unintentional humor of this magnitude is the hardest thing in the world to parody, and the movie can't quite make the grade.

Although Dan Ackroyd makes a valiant effort, Ackroyd's Joe Friday (the nephew of the original Jack Webb character) is a masterpiece of character comedy. Friday is every bit as funny as any of Ackroyd's classic "Saturday Night Live" characters. Maybe funnier.

Just watching Ackroyd, dressed in his tight-assed grey suit and silly little hat, walking without ever moving his arms, is almost enough to carry a movie. And when he opens his mouth the Webbesque machine-gun delivery and socio-political rants are guaranteed to have any normal, healthy American who lived in, through or anywhere around the baby-boom prostrate with laughter.

Unfortunately the rest of the film never backs up Ackroyd's virtuoso performance. "Dragnet's" most infuriating flaw is its unforgivable waste of superb talent.

Tom Hanks as Friday's partner, a hip rebel cop in the Axel Foley tradition, at least manages to keep up. But Dabney Coleman and Christopher Plummer are completely wasted as stereotypical, scene-chewing villains. Likewise Harry Morgan, reprising his TV role as Bill Gannon, is given nothing to do except

sit behind a desk and provoke nostalgia. Even Ackroyd is too frequently lured out of character for the sake of some cheap pratfall. The effect is more often sad than funny.

If only somebody would have had the courage to scrap all the car-crashes and dumb costumes and sleazy entendres and all the other mindless slapstick refuse and tired '80s screwball cliches and just do a simple parody of the TV show. Joe Friday is the perfect archetype for all the simple-minded, dangerous ideals and idealisms of the Reagan era. But "Dragnet" lacks the guts to use him for that. Ackroyd would have never wimped out like this on "Saturday Night Live."

"Dragnet" is an enjoyable summer diversion, but I'm waiting for the sequel. Maybe the second time around they'll get it right.

"Dragnet" is showing at the State Theatre.

## NEED CASH?

*Dirt Cheap* Downtown

Highest \$ paid for used records, cassettes and compact discs!

217 No. 11th

477-6061



THE FINNSTERS

CHESTERFIELD'S PRESENTS . . .

THE FINNSTERS

TWO HOT NIGHTS  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
JULY 17 & 18

Chesterfields . . . 13th & Que

CHESTERFIELD'S

## THE HAPPY TIME



A COMEDY OF LOVE  
BY SAMUEL TAYLOR  
BASED ON THE STORIES BY ROBERT FONTAINE

A NEBRASKA REPERTORY THEATRE Production

Starring David Landis as Papa

July 16, 17, 18 and 21, 22  
at 8pm

on stage

Studio Theatre

12th R Streets

Lincoln, NE

Box Office PH: (402) 472-2073

Tickets: \$6.50 Regular or, save with a season ticket  
\$3.00 children under 12