

Thursday, October 15, 1987

Yes coming to Civic

Popular art-rock supergroup Yes is starting a national fall tour and will make its first Omaha appearance since 1984 at the Civic Auditorium Arena on Nov. 14.

Yes has just released a new album, "The Big Generator," and the first single from the album, "Love Will Find The Way," is on Billboard's Top 100.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance

are now on sale. Tickets are general admission and cost \$16.25. Ticket outlets for the show are the Civic Auditorium, Younkers ticket centers, Tix, Pickles and Homers. Charge orders can be made by phone at (402) 342-7107. Mail orders, accompanied by a money order, may be sent to the Omaha Civic Auditorium, P.O. Box 719, Omaha, Neb. 68101.

For further information, call the Civic Auditorium at 444-4750.

Exhibit explores human head

The Richards Hall Art Department Gallery has announced an exhibition entitled "Looking Ahead," which opens Sunday.

Included are two works each from 17 artists exploring the subject of the human head. A variety of media, combined with personal style and technique, are used to present the artists' unique vision of the head.

The artists have selected various angles and attitudes on which to focus, from frontal views and profiles to enlarged facial features. Styles range from traditional to expressionistic.

The exhibition runs through Nov. 11. The gallery is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. There will be a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 30.

A romance? or a fantasy?

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that engage him. After all, the hero and heroine are daffy, flower-smelling air heads who would have been laughed off any serious playground in America.

"The Princess Bride," from a best-selling novel by William Goldman ("Magic," "Marathon Man," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"), has a meager storyline. Buttercup and Westley fall into a medieval swoon over one another, Westley goes a-sailing and is apparently killed by pirates, and Buttercup is chosen from the women of the fair kingdom of Loren to marry the evil Prince Humperdinck.

Buttercup resists, probably because she realizes she'll have to go through the rest of her life as Buttercup Humperdinck. But since she thinks she has nothing to live for since Westley's death, she gives herself over to morose somnambulism and becomes engaged.

Westley returns, is taken from her again and after a few unlikely plot twists of the fairy-tale variety, they are forever reunited. With a storyline this stock, the cameos, beasts, rogues and minor heroes are crucial.

But the beasts in this movie are third-rate, and the characters who are to help Buttercup and Westley realize their thwarted love are, for the most part, only cute and tend to leap to necessary conclusions before they are given enough information to do so. This would be funny if the movie were built to accommodate such absurdities, but it isn't.

At one point, Mandy Patinkin, as the soddy Spanish swordsman who initially kidnaps Buttercup from the

evil Prince Humperdinck, realizes that Humperdinck's henchman Count Rugen (played with gleeful seriousness by Christopher Guest) is the man who killed his father. From all information given the audience, he couldn't possibly know this when he does. It's a large flaw in a whole reel of flawed celluloid.

"The Princess Bride" suffers from not knowing what it wants to be when it grows up — an adult romantic comedy or a Walt Disney fantasy. And then there's that Mel Brooks strain. There's nothing wrong with creating a unique genre of film, but this is just too much of a hodgepodge.

To be fair, "The Princess Bride" has its moments. Andre the Giant and Patinkin are perfectly lovable as outlaws with hearts of gold, and Christopher Guest plays a six-fingered medieval sadist without ever once giving himself away as a comedian. No winking. No mugging for the camera.

It would be nice if the same could be said for Billy Crystal, Carol Kane and Peter Cook, who go for the cheapest gags just to make sure the camera recognizes them.

It's hard to say just where Reiner could have gone with this movie to make it succeed. Any further into medieval satire and you step on the classic toes of "Monty Python's In Search of the Holy Grail." Any further into medieval romantic comedy and you compete against films like "A Lion in Winter." A little further into fantasy land and Reiner would have been better off tacking a "G" rating on this and selling it to the kids.

This precious paean to painlessness might have made for some great movie tie-in Christmas toys.

Shorts

The next Joslyn After Hours art program will tour the Union Pacific Historical Museum's permanent collection of art and artifacts, and a traveling exhibition of photographs.

Joslyn After Hours is the Joslyn Art Museum's art appreciation group for business and professional peers. After Hours sponsors programs that dis-

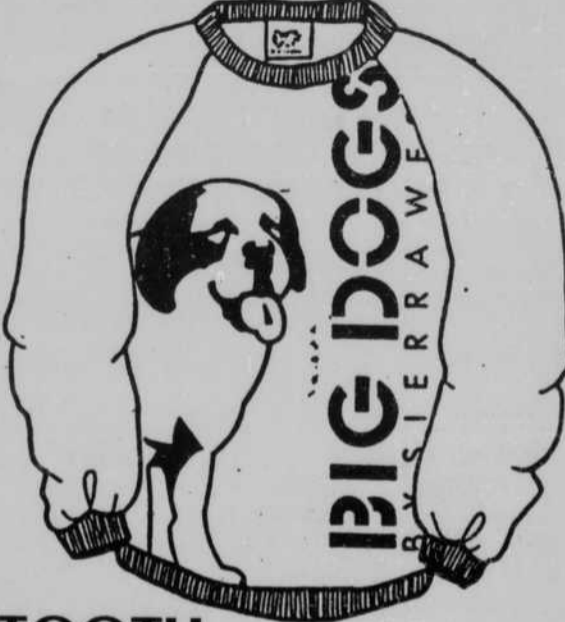
cover art collections and exhibitions at the Joslyn and at local art centers and corporations.

The October 22 program runs from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Union Pacific Railroad Co.'s headquarters building is located at 1416 Dodge St. Reservations can be made by calling 342-3300.

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