

Finally, predictions that really matter: Things that are sure to happen in '88

Jan. 1, 1988, 12:01 a.m.

As I silently sat in a corner at Perkins, observing the passage of the old year, I meditated over the traditional New Year's dish, a Belgian waffle, and tried to imagine what this new year can hold in store.

After days of wracking my very soul, I found the answers rather obvious. It would have been easy to com-

Trevor McArthur



piled a list of predictions by well-known psychics, even easier to have made things up myself. But this is not that simple.

Following is a list of things we all know will happen in the Year of Our Lord, nineteen-hundred and eighty-eight. Some will be obvious, some you may question, but if you look deep in your heart, you will realize the truth and inevitability of every item on this list.

THINGS WE ALL KNOW WILL HAPPEN IN 1988

1. Another Garfield book will come out. It will sell a jillion copies.
2. 500 blocks of beautiful fields, interesting architecture and general character will be turned into more tract housing and empty office space (growth and development will continue) in Lincoln.
3. The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska will pass a bunch of new resolutions, and its members will say a bunch of things aimed at improving this university. Nothing will happen.
4. Another crappy Jackie Collins book will come out. It will sell a jillion copies.

5. The athletic department will ask for yet another huge new building. The stated purpose will be "worship center for Moslem athletes." For some reason the floor will be covered in Astroturf.

6. The Reagan Cabinet will be hard at work trying to beat its old record of screw-ups, scandals, embarrassments, cancers and hoof-in-mouth disease outbreaks before it is replaced with another Cabinet which will try very hard to set its own records in these categories.

7. Congress, the White House, the presidential candidates and Bobo the Wonder Dog will bitch and whine about the federal deficits. Nothing will happen.

8. At least three more stars will release books on special diets and/or exercises. Combined, at least 3 jillion copies will be sold.

9. The diet (eat less) and exercises (walk or ride a bike, take the stairs instead of the elevator) you learned in high school health class will still be the best way to control weight.

10. David Letterman will become more Carsonized by the day.

11. The Lincoln Police Department's search for "Buffalo" Bill Allen will end in a gun battle at O'Rourke's. Bill will express his sincerest regrets about the tragedy in a letter from the Virgin Islands, where he is a slave at the feet of Jimmy Buffett.

12. Everyone in this town will make a big deal and try to prove himself or herself hip because of David Letterman's "home office," now supposedly based here. (This doesn't matter — see No.10.)

13. People will continue to throw verbal and real stones at the few progressive voices in this town and state (Ernie Chambers, Ron Kurtenbach, etc.).

14. Super-rich celebrities will join several times to help end whatever social problem is hip that month. In the end, each will have given about .01

percent of his or her income, everyone will go away feeling real good about themselves, and those in distress will be in the same hole, maybe deeper.

15. Michael Jackson will continue his transformation. It will be revealed that David Cronenberg's film "The Fly" was not so fictional; only the names (Jackson) and the animals (elephant and chimpanzee) were changed to protect the weird.

16. Mars will explode. Its inhabitants will immigrate to Billings, Mont., where they will not be able to find work because of the new immigrant employment law — six arms or no six arms. The Immigration Service will round up all the aliens, but won't know where to deport them to. NASA will be no help.

17. NASA will, however, have its biggest success in a long time, launching a ball of collected aluminum foil from a huge slingshot made of a string of rubber bands half a mile long. This arrangement will guarantee against explosion, but on the third launch the bands will break, killing two and giving one a nasty sting.

18. The Cure will get even worse. (And more popular.)

19. The United Nations will move closer to bankruptcy, proving it does accurately represent and reflect all the countries of the world. They will try to find some way out of it, probably by selling Amway. This will probably convince Congress to nationalize Tupperware to reduce the deficits.

(Think of it: We allow women into combat zones, invade weak island nations like Grenada and force the local populations to attend Tupperware parties.)

20. The UNL Good News will continue to be fairly tame, even mildly interesting to moderate Christians, but with flashes of brilliant insanity such as Paul Harvey's "If I Were the Anti-Christ" (isn't he?) and their statement of objectives from issue #1.

UNL students' films to be shown at Sheldon

By Micki Haller
Senior Reporter

Four short films produced by students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are being paired for the first time with feature films at the Sheldon Film Theater.

Film Preview

"We have shown these films by students before," but now they have been paired with feature films so they can reach a greater audience, said Dan Ladely, Sheldon Film Theater director.

Ladely said students' works have been exhibited at the Sheldon Art Gallery for years, and the film theater has included student cinema ever since the art department added filmmaking classes.

The series starts Jan. 20 with "When Dead Eyes Open," a film shot, directed, produced, written and edited by Daniel Hoffman.

Wheeler Dixon, a film studies professor who supervises student productions, said the film is a "one-person project." He said it took two months to shoot.

Dixon said the project, about the conflict between primitive tribes and contemporary society, was chosen by a PBS independent film series as one of the best student films of the year.

Hoffman worked on an earlier UNL film studies project, "The Farm: Nebraska, 1986."

"When Dead Eyes Open" will be shown with "Tampopo" until Jan. 29.

"Whose Kids Are These?," a punk-rock fantasy with script and lyrics written by Geoff McMurtry, runs Feb. 17-27.

Dixon said the film was shot entirely at The Drumstick, one of

the premiere rock clubs in the Midwest, before it closed last August. Dixon said it is a slapstick comedy about a night in the life of a typical bar band as it prepares for a disastrous gig. The band battles groupies, an immigration officer trying to deport the bassist and inner tensions when the lead guitarist makes a play for the aggressive lead singer, he said.

The film was shot by Rick Olderbak, who is now working as an independent filmmaker in Los Angeles.

David Stilwell directed and Sean Newman was the lighting director. Dana Ware was the assistant director, and Elizabeth Snuttjer designed the costumes.

Dixon said the film made people laugh when he showed it in New York.

The film will run with "The Mozart Brothers."

"Milk and Honey," produced, directed and written by David Stilwell, will be shown with "I've Heard Mermaids Singing" on Mar. 2.

Dixon said the film was finished just before Christmas, and this will be its first public screening.

"Milk and Honey" starts out as a simple story about a summer picnic, then gradually becomes a much darker examination of a young man's deepest fears.

Greg Kubitschek was the director of photography.

"Watershed" will also be shown with the two films. The film, written and directed by David Boles, deals with a young minister's crisis of personal faith.

Photographed by Kubitschek, Dixon calls it an "extremely slick production."

The films will run at Sheldon until March 12.

Eight-part series included on ETV's latest schedule

Television cameras cover first 50 years

The world's most influential medium will turn its cameras on itself in "Television," an eight-part series probing the first 50 years of the world's "electric fireplace."

The series, which begins Jan. 29 at 9 p.m., will examine the growth, history, glitter and impact of the gigantic global industry built around the small screen.

The premiere program, "Live Pictures," provides an introduction to the series and a look at what television perhaps does better than anything — the live presentation of sports and spectacular events, from royal weddings and presidential inaugurations to space shots and political conventions.

Future programs in the series will cover "Comedy," "The Race for Television," "The Power of Pictures," "Point of View," "Drama" and "Fun and Games."

"Television" is broadcast with closed captions for hearing-impaired viewers.

'Live from the Met'; Zeffirelli's 'Turandot'

Eva Marton and Placido Domingo star in a monumental Metropolitan Opera production of Puccini's fairytale opera "Turandot" when "Live From the Met" returns Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

Glorious melodies, fantastic settings and powerful human emotions abound in this Franco Zeffirelli production of Puccini's final opera, which is sung in Italian with English subtitles.

Set in ancient Peking, the 2 1/2-hour opera is the exotic tale of the beautiful princess Turandot, who has rejected love and cruelly slays those who try to win her. Her suitors must answer three riddles; if they fail, they must accept the penalty of death. An Unknown Prince solves the riddles

and awakens Turandot's capacity for love.

Conducted by James Levine, the cast features Marton as Turandot and Domingo as Prince Calaf, with Leona Mitchell as the devoted slave girl Liu and Paul Pliska as Calaf's father, Timur.

'Frontline' examines fall of PTL's Bakkers

Other upcoming programs of interest on the Nebraska ETV Network are:

• Benjamin Britten's operatic adaptation of a provocative Henry James story is recounted in the opera film "Turn of the Screw," starring Helen Donath, Robert Tear and Heather Harper. The musical drama, featuring Sir Colin Davis conducting the Chamber Ensemble of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, airs Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. on "Great Performances."

• The award-winning "Frontline" series officially begins its sixth season on Jan. 26 at 9 p.m. with "Praise the Lord," an examination into the rise and fall of televangelists Jim and Tammy Bakker. The premiere episode focuses on why government agencies failed to vigorously investigate charges of corruption in the Bakker empire. "Frontline" is closed-captioned.

• In the final episode of "Blake's Seven," airing Jan. 29 at 10:30 p.m., the lawless planet of Gauda Prime is seeking re-admission to the Federation and bounty hunters are appointed to establish law and order. Could one of them be the long-lost leader Blake? Avon and the others risk everything to find out.

• A uniquely American story of a hundred years of progress which revolutionized health care the world over is told in "Health Century," a new four-part series airing Saturdays at 8 p.m., beginning Jan. 30. The premiere episode traces the story of microbe hunters of infectious diseases, from cholera to polio and AIDS.

Kimball Hall's performance series opens 1988 with dance company

Kimball Hall's UNL Performing Series opens the new year with a performance by one of the most acclaimed new dance companies quickly rising on the modern scene. In its nationwide debut tour, the David Parsons Dance Company will perform at Kimball on Jan. 23 at 8 p.m.

Dancer and choreographer David Parsons, the lead dancer with the Paul Taylor Dance Company since 1978, has finally taken a big step on his way to becoming one of the brightest stars in the modern dance world. The Parsons Company began its new life well, with a residency at Jacob's Pillow last August.

Just as he was with Paul Taylor, who created many memorable roles specifically for him, Parsons is much in demand as a highly acclaimed dancer. His dancing has taken him to every continent except Australia. The expressive moods he creates in his movements range from speed and wit to a fluent lyricism.

What sets Parsons' dances and dancing apart is the intense power of his work. In "Caught," which Parsons will perform at Kimball, he dances in pitch black, illuminated only by short bursts from a strobe light. Parsons gives his audience an electrifying experience when they watch a body "caught" in midair by a brilliant flash of lighting, then reappear after a split second in another part of the stage.

But Parsons is as much a choreographer as a dancer. Raised in Kansas City, Mo., Parsons has been inventing dance since the age of 17. His works have been created for such companies as the American Ballet Theatre, the Paris Opera Ballet, the Feld and Harkness Ballets, MOMIX, and Israel's

Bat Sheva Dance Company. Parsons has performed with both Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rudolf Nureyev, and he has also set for them new works included in their international tours.

A trademark of Parsons is his ability to combine elements of the funny, the beautiful and, at times, the grotesque. His choreography also seems to have a sense of satiric humor. This undercutting irony is shown in his dance "Envelope," in which scuttling, bent-over creatures clothed in black with black swimming caps and goggles hurry about, handing back and forth a letter which never gets read and which they cannot seem to get rid of. The music by Rossini has a

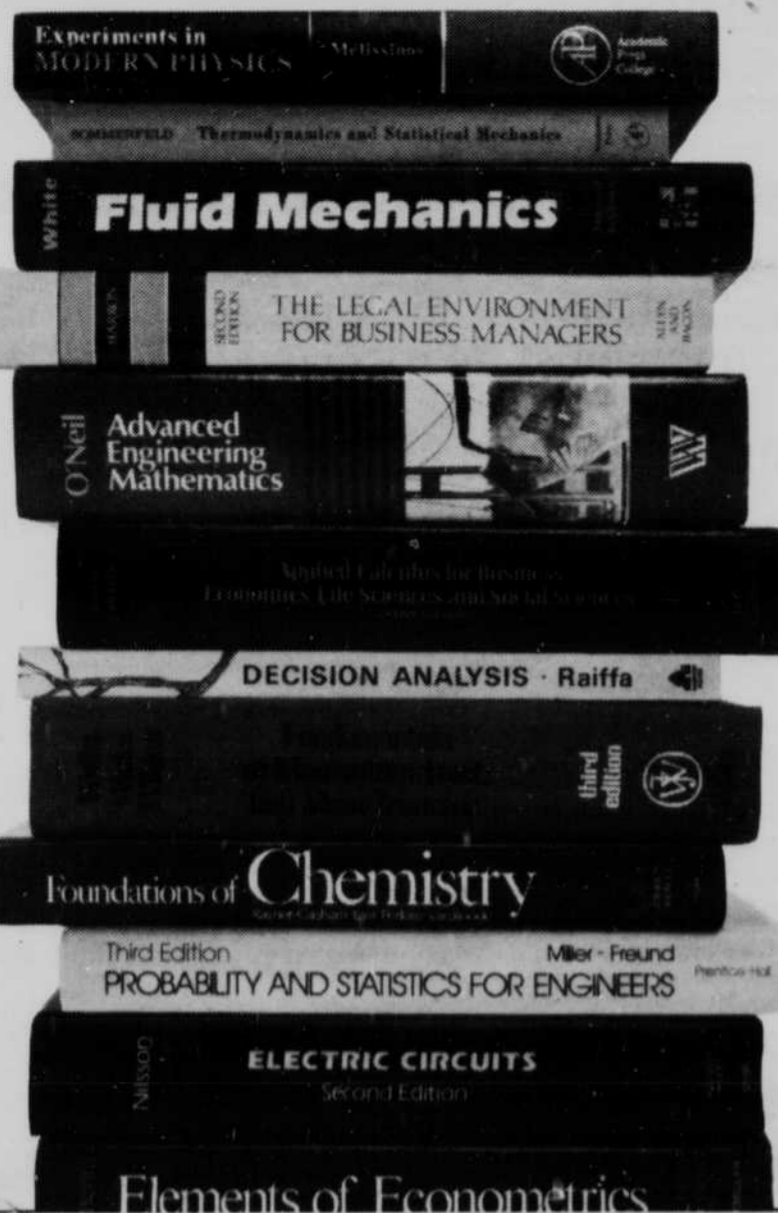
slightly grandiose and epic mood, which is contrasted with the humorous scurrings that take place on stage. Parsons' innate theatricality can be seen in "Envelope" as well.

The UNL Performance Series event is made possible with support from the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Nebraska Arts Council. A half hour before the 8 p.m. curtain, the audience is invited to a pre-performance talk in Westbrook Music Building 119. Tickets are now on sale for David Parsons and cost \$10 and \$8. UNL students may receive a half-price discount with a current UNL ID.



Photo courtesy of Sheldon Soffer Management
David Parsons' dance company will perform at Kimball Hall Jan. 23.

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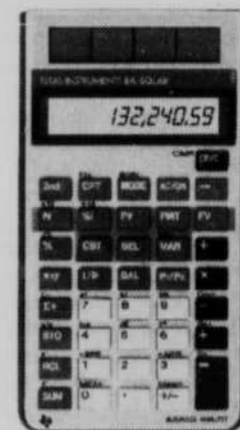
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