

# Sentimental 'Harvey' uneven, 'pleasant'; leave unseen

By John Heuertz  
Staff Reporter

Remember that one Sunday afternoon when the realization slowly dawned on you that you had the TV all to yourself? Mom and Dad went to Omaha for the day, your brother—master of "dibs"—just left, and your sister had that thing that kept her in bed all day? Some old black-and-white movie came on with Jimmy Stewart. It was about a guy whose best friend was a 6-foot invisible rabbit named Harvey. Remember the feeling of losing yourself? And remember being able to hang on to that feeling most of the afternoon?

If you've had a secret desire since childhood to relive that Sunday afternoon in a live theater

production of "Harvey," you may want to reconsider your plans to call up the University Club and make reservations. Lincoln Ensemble's version of "Harvey" is just unpolished enough to interrupt the luxury of forgetting reality. There were probably a dozen spots in last Friday's performance where an actor choked on his lines. None of the performances were particularly outstanding, but one or two were a bit weak.

Lita Sheldon Zimelman plays Veta Louise Simmons, the sister and supporter of the gregarious Elwood P. Dowd. She is relatively convincing as a nervous social climber concerned about the threats to her and her daughter's reputation that her pooka-loving brother poses. By the end of the

performance I almost believed Zimelman's character, but it took until the end of the performance to be convinced. She seemed to understand her character, but her physical actions were stiff and the bulk of her deliveries sounded only like an outstanding first reading.

The best performance came from Tom Martin, a local dentist, who played the leading role of Elwood P. Dowd (Jimmy Stewart's role). The character doesn't have a lot of depth; he's not supposed to. Dowd's description of himself is "pleasant." His mother always told him that a person could either go through life being smart or being pleasant. Elwood tells us that he tried smart for a while and now he prefers being pleasant. Martin is properly pleasant as Dowd.

Good casting was involved in giving the role of Mr. Wilson, the sanitarium orderly, to John C. Will. Will is big and mean looking. It's too bad he diminished his intimidating quality by stumbling on so many lines. Part of this may be because he was cast after another actor was injured a few weeks into rehearsal and could not continue the role.

If you love the theater and you love "Harvey," maybe your love can see past the crudeness of this production. If your aesthetic sensitivity is on the prudish side, or if you're looking to relive that one Sunday afternoon of your childhood, you might want to hold off on this one. But keep in mind that local theater, if you want to see it thrive, depends upon your support.

The contract between Lincoln Ensemble Theater and the University Club is an effort to give Lincoln a dinner theater. A lot of the same critics who raise their noses at imperfect theater are the same ones crying about the cultural inferiority of Lincoln to Omaha. One of the main points of their argument lies in the success of Omaha's dinner theaters. Lincoln is still struggling to raise its dinner theater out of infancy and onto its own two feet.

"Harvey" continues performances beginning Thursday and plays through Saturday. Reservations are required and cost \$20 per person for dinner and the show or \$5 for just the show. The University Club is at 13th and P streets on the top two floors of the Stuart Building.



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Chrissy: I know you dreamed about me over break, see me at the WELCOME BACK DANCE Thursday. Signed?

Annie: Get ready to dance in the smoke from the New Brass Guns in the East Campus Union, Thursday, 9-1.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Know Who Your State Senator is January 19, 20 Nebraska Union Booth Sponsored by Government Liaison Committee

#### INTRAMURAL DEADLINE

Tuesday, January 19th is the entry deadline for the Intramural Snow Softball Tournament and for Table Soccer Doubles. Inquires: 472-3467

#### STUDENTS FOR DUKAKIS

Big semester kickoff meeting - Tuesday, January 19, 5:30-6:30 pm at Chesterfields (13th & Q). Let's Win One for the Duke!

See the NEW BRASS GUNS at East Campus Union-Welcome Back Dance, Thursday 9-1.

#### GRAND OPENING

NEBRASKA'S LARGEST AND NEWEST LAUNDROMAT LAUNDRYLAND 1340 NORTH 27TH FREE DRYING M-F THE REST OF JANUARY OPEN 8 AM-MIDNIGHT EVERY DAY

#### UNL RUGBY

First organizational meeting. New players welcome!! Wednesday evening, 6:30, at Cook Pavilion (Indoor Practice Facility). Please wear warm-up clothes.

#### GYMMES

Important meeting, 6:15 tonight

#### PRE-LAW CLUB

Semester organizational meeting Wednesday. All members please be there! New members welcome! 8:00 pm, Nebraska Union, room to be posted.

WALPURGISNACHT COMMITTEE Important meeting! Thursday, 3:00 pm in the City Union. Please be there!



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