

King's latest falls short

By Andrew Robinson
Staff Reporter

"The Tommyknockers,"
Putnam Press, \$19.95

Book Review

"Late last night and the night before,

Tommyknockers,
Tommyknockers,
knocking
at the door..."

The children's rhyme from which the new Stephen King novel takes its name and premise is the first thing

that greets the eye when one opens the first page and starts the story. Hauntingly ambiguous, it becomes a central metaphor through which the story unfolds.

"The Tommyknockers" is typical King fare, which should delight the billions of "Kingers" in the world. It works slightly better than King's recent forays into the world of fear.

The story is about Bobbi Anderson, a popular Western author (King just loves to write about authors), who stumbles upon a buried secret Thingy in the woods of her Maine

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14th Walpurgisnacht starts Friday

By Mick Dyer
Staff Reporter

For the past 1,200 years, Walpurgisnacht has been celebrated in Germany on April 30, in honor of St. Walpurgis, an English missionary in Germany.

Legend has it that the first Walpurgisnacht consisted of witches gathering on Brocken mountain for a demonic orgy.

The European-Christian heritage is full of fascinating bits of lore like that.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln also has a Walpurgisnacht tradition, however mild in comparison.

Friday, from 7 p.m. until 2 a.m. in the Nebraska Union, the 14th annual Walpurgisnacht will include a wide variety of events.

Jill Keiderling, a senior finance major, is chairing the UPC Walpurgisnacht committee.

She said Walpurgisnacht has changed and grown since it began at UNL in 1974. Originally, it was an event to showcase the versatility of the Nebraska Union, with little emphasis on entertainment.

"It was more cultural when it started — now it features more popular events," she said.

Popular is an accurate word to describe Walpurgisnacht: 3,500 people attended Walpurgisnacht last year. Committee members and union officials expect more this year.

Campus Life, a national magazine aimed at college students, listed Walpurgisnacht as one of the top 25 parties on college campuses during the 1986-87 academic year.

It was one of four parties on the list that was alcohol-free.

Keiderling said that although alcohol cannot be consumed at the event, many people drink before they come. But the crowd is generally well-behaved, she said.

"We've never had any major problems with drunkenness or violence," she said.

Keiderling said this year's Walpurgisnacht will be a little different. There will be more sponsored booths, such as a 24-hour marriage booth and a hermit crab race booth, and fewer games, she said. This year's Walpurgisnacht will also feature more bands, she said.

A variety of foods will be available throughout the evening. Burger King and the Union Bakery and Dairy Store, will all be open as well as a funnel cake stand.

Admission to events ranges from free to six tickets. Tickets may be purchased for 50 cents each at three locations in the union throughout the evening. Some of the events will offer discounts to UNL students with ID.

Here is a list of events to be featured at the 1988 Walpurgisnacht:

Model United Nation Security Council, Georgian Suite A, 7 p.m., free.

Rockin' Billy and the Redhots, Crib, 7:15 p.m., two tickets.

Ho Ho the Magic Clown, Main Lounge, 7:15 p.m., free.

Homecoming Talent Show Singers, Harvest Room, 7:30 p.m., free.

"Experience the Magic of the Dream Weaver" hypnotist/illusionist magician, Regency Suite, 7:45

p.m., two tickets.

Scarlet and Cream, Centennial Room, 8 p.m., four tickets for UNL students, five tickets for non-students.

International Folk Dancers, Main Lounge, 8 p.m., free.

Brain Hammer, Crib, 8:30 p.m., two tickets.

Society for Creative Anachronism, Main Lounge, 8:30 p.m., free.

Mother's Big Band Jazz, Harvest Room, 8:45 p.m., three tickets.

Gayle Becwar, comedian/magician, Regency Suite, 9 p.m., two tickets.

Trash Can Alley Five-Man Vocal Experience, Centennial Room, 9:15 p.m., five tickets for UNL students, six tickets for non-students.

Mike Zadra, juggler, Main Lounge, 9:15 p.m., free.

Polynesian Dancing, Main Lounge, 9:45 p.m., free.

Mark Gross, comedian, Regency Suite, 10 p.m., one ticket.

Lie Awake, Crib, 10 p.m., four tickets.

Laurie McClain, folk singer, Harvest Room, 10:15 p.m., two tickets.

Karate Exhibition, Main Lounge, 10:15 p.m., free.

Vic Henley, professional comedian, Ballroom, 10:45 p.m., three tickets for UNL students, four tickets for non-students.

"Experience the Magic of the Dream Weaver" magician/illusionist hypnotist, Regency Suite, 10:45 p.m., one ticket.

Belly Dancing, Main Lounge, 10:45 p.m., free.

The Confidentials, Centennial Room, 11:45 p.m., four tickets for UNL students, five tickets for non-students.

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