



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Computer porn exists for mature customers

By Micki Haller
Senior Editor

Despite newspaper tales of computer pornography, Lincoln software merchants say they don't think there is a problem.

"There's a game on the market called Leisure Suit Larry," said Ed Moss, corporate accounts manager at Connecting Point.

He said the game has an adult theme with some graphics, but "really it's not that bad at all."

Larry is a 40-year-old character who has been thrown out of the house by his mother and tries to pick up women.

Moss said Larry gets slapped a lot.

Adults are the primary buyers of the game, Moss said, but he said one woman bought Leisure Suit Larry for her son in junior high school.

"Other than (Leisure Suit Larry), there's really nothing else," he said.

Moss did mention a Dr. Ruth/Good Sex game for computers that asks questions like the talk show and tests the player's knowledge.

Moss said there are more adult-themed computer programs on underground bulletin boards, but nothing really marketable.

Six games of Leisure Suit Larry have been sold since December, Moss said.

Leisure Suit Larry seems to be one of the most popular computer sex games in Lincoln.

Gary Mays, manager of Hobbytown at East Park Plaza, said the game is one of a few sexually oriented programs.

"The one that gets the most requests is Leisure Suit Larry, because it's a funny game," he said.

Mays said the game is bought by people one would never suspect would purchase it. He said sometimes wives come in and buy the game for their husbands.

Hobbytown also sells strip-poker games. Mays said the game has strippers of both sexes, an "equal opportunity stripper."

"If you've got a good relationship, it's nothing that's going to interfere with that relationship," Mays said.

Computer programmers might invent the games for the challenge, Mays said. An attractive representation of a human needs extremely good graphics or an extremely good programmer, he said.

"And some of the computer guys are introverts who like to look at a nice body," he said.

Mays said the store does not sell explicit materials to anyone under 18.

By that age, he said, "they've at least seen some health films."

Overall, kids simply aren't interested in the games, Mays said.

Mike Adams, a salesperson at the Computer Swap Shoppe, said the store has sold eight games of Leisure Suit Larry in one month.

Most customers who buy the game are 25 or older, Adams said, and the store won't sell the game to younger people.

Paula Schach, a bookkeeper at Nordic Software, said the company didn't sell any sexually oriented programs.

Nordic Software, which also designs software, might make such a program for a customer, she said.

"It depends — they would have to discuss the costs and all that," she said.

Bev, a salesperson from Computer Systems who refused to divulge her full name, said, "I have not seen any (explicit games). We try to cater to businesses and families."

Don Borer from the computer department at Nebraska Bookstore said the store carries no pornographic computer programs.

'You too can be a non-conformist'

OK, OK, so I bought a Banana Republic Israeli Paratrooper Briefcase like a million other students. Trendy or not, I just plain like it. It was quite a thing for me, spending money on such a luxury. You know, the die-hard anti-system guy sells out and all.

Anyway, now Banana Republic sends me catalogs full of wonderfully trendy articles of clothing and oh-so-hip travel stories — liberal escapism at its best. It reads like a prescription to soothe post-Yuppie angst. Tired after a hard day of pushing numbers? Slip into your Walter Mitty shirt and dream in the comfort of your own condo.

Just what bothers me so much about such a benign little catalog? I opened it up to a "Save the Crocodile Bag" — imitation croc skin made of leather. They have the gall to "appeal to consumers of conscience" to save crocodile hides by buying cow hides. Why bother maintaining the idea that crocodile skin is somehow exotic? Oh well, I am wearing my leather shoes at the moment.

Then I found "Existential Trousers." ARGH! Sartre, Nietzsche, Camus — they all wrote of nausea. If only they had known this would come about. It is supposed to tie in with "Being and Nothingness" somehow, but I do not quite follow. And

for women, Banana Republic offers "Empirical Trousers," which, in accordance with John Locke, recreate the "original happy state of nature" by harkening back to the idea that "all knowledge is derived from the senses." Yeah.



Bryan Peterson

And what a spirit of rebellion the folks at Banana Republic possess! It begins with 100 percent cotton jeans that are recommended to "rebels without a pause." Then there is the "No-Horse Shirt." Yes, you too can be a non-conformist. Revolt against knit sport shirts with pictures of animals as logos by wearing your own knit sport shirt without a logo.

The "Populist Pants" are supposed to tie into traditional values of durability and workmanship. Fine, but pants are pants, not some celebration of the "raise less corn and more hell" slogan. And of course there is the "newly amended ERA Skirt," which is "a full eight inches shorter than its antecedent" and has "equal opportunity pockets." That's really

stretching the theme.

The above examples may be matters of personal taste, but I think just about everyone is upset by getting a catalog with SOLD OUT stamped across the picture of some product or another. In this case, it is the suddenly revived leather flight jacket. At least they didn't sell it with prefaded patches already attached.

Dotted through the catalog are bits of wit and wisdom from current popular figures like Berke Breathed. I can imagine Tama Janowitz plugging a "Distracted Author Hairspray Case" in the next catalog. But to keep in line with more mundane readers, Banana Republic offers the traditional T-shirt, billed as a 100 percent cotton jersey, for only \$20.

The extravagant prices do not bother me nearly as much as the imaginary travel stories. Products are sold as travel accessories with cute little names and stories — pure form over function. The Banana Republic catalog comes across as imaginary escapist drivel rather than an interesting alternative to the usual catalog fare. I can dream up better stories drifting through second-hand clothing shops anytime.

Peterson is a sophomore philosophy and psychology major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

'Psycho,' 'Book of Imaginary Beings' presented by Music Now! Sunday

By Micki Haller
Senior Editor

From the fanciful "Book of Imaginary Beings" to the frighteningly familiar "Suite" from Alfred

Concert Review

Hitchcock's "Psycho," Music Now!, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Twentieth Century Series, presented modern pieces of music Sunday night at Kimball Hall.

The first piece, "Chamber Concerto II" by Elliott Schwartz, was seemingly a futile search for meaning, directed by Harold Levin and guided by Ed Love, solo clarinetist. Instruments took turns conversing, interrupting and sometimes erupting into a cacophony of sound.

Sounds were not fluid and beautiful, but they weren't supposed to be. A fluttering of the wind and brass instruments warped the usually clear tones and elicits a sense of despair.

"The Book of Imaginary Beings (after J.L. Borges)," a piece for harpsichord by Randall Snyder, seemed like the Addams family revisited. The 15 short movements, played by Harvey Hinshaw, were based on character sketches of mythological creatures. "Kraken," an "enlargement of an octopus," sounded like a mysterious creature of the deep sea, and "Peryton," a half-deer, half-bird creation, moved with a light, airy, yet monstrous gracefulness.

However, the music often failed to evoke the creature. At least, my mental musical images of a roc or a unicorn were nothing like the sounds

that were played.

After intermission, members of the Lincoln Youth Symphony Orchestra played "Charybdis," written by UNL graduate David Dean.

Starting with an ominous presentation of dread, the piece turned into a rich, easy swirl of sound. A siren song played on the trumpet ended the piece.

From the loudest, grating screeches of "The Murder" and "The Knife" to the pianissimo of "The Cellar," the symphony displayed excellent control of dynamic ranges.

While most people's exposure to modern music has been movie soundtracks and slick crime shows, it's a pleasure to hear it performed live, and maybe this is the whole point of the Music Now! series.

Cult film star Divine dies, female roles brought fame

By Geoff McMurtry
Senior Editor

Underground film star Divine was found dead Monday from asphyxiation in his/her Los Angeles motel room. Divine had apparently died the night before. An LAPD investigation was still underway at presstime.

Born Glenn Milstead, the 350-pound transvestite actor had been active in film for 24 years, landing his first feature role in 1966's "Roman Candles." It took him until 1985 to get his first male role in "Trouble In Mind," with Kris Kristofferson and Keith Carradine.

Divine rose to cult prominence through female roles in trash filmmaker John Waters' movies, in-

cluding "Eat Your Makeup," "Mondo Trasho," "Pink Flamingos," "Female Trouble," and the recently released "Hairspray." Starring Debbie Harry, Sonny Bono, and Pia Zadora, among others, "Hairspray" is Waters' first mainstream feature, and is expected to make household names out of Waters and Divine.

The name Divine was bestowed upon Milstead by Waters, who took it from a transsexual character in French surrealist poet Jean Genet's novel "Our Lady of the Flowers."

While known in America mostly for his underground films, if at all, he was well known in Europe as a cabaret singer, and was a member of the nightclub drag act "The Cockettes."

KZUM trying for \$20,000

From Staff Reports

KZUM, 89.3 FM, began its biannual over-the-air fund-raiser Sunday and will continue it through March 13.

This spring's goal is to raise \$20,000. Coffee mugs and T-shirts

will be given to certain contributors.

The non-commercial public radio station is celebrating its 10th year. KZUM's mix of alternative music and information is the work of volunteers. Programs include jazz, comedy, blues, folk music, soul, reggae, salsa, women's music, progressive rock and informational

features.

KZUM finished fourth in a Sunday Journal-Star reader's poll for favorite radio stations. The number of KZUM listeners has grown in recent months since a power increase from 10 to 1,500 watts. KZUM now broadcasts to all Lancaster County.