



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Preparator Renee Kay, Dennis Vaske and Gregg Lanik move John Chamberlain's "Ivory Joe" steel sculpture on the upper floor of the Sheldon Art Gallery. The sculpture, made from old automobile parts, and Andy Warhol's "Portrait," in the background, are part of the "Private Choices" exhibit that opened Tuesday.

## Annual art symposium to begin today, highlight of program to be held Friday

By Micki Haller  
Senior Editor

The role of institutions in the development of the arts in the Midwest is the topic of the 12th annual symposium beginning Wednesday at Sheldon Art Gallery.

Sponsored by the Center for Great Plains Studies and the Nebraska Art Association, the symposium is not restricted to discussing a certain era, but because most of the speakers are art historians, there will be a historical tendency, said Jon Nelson, curator of the Great Plains Art Collection.

Nelson said tonight's keynote speaker, Howard Roberts Lamar, said there is more of an interest in Great Plains art than many Nebraskans realize.

Nebraska and surrounding states weren't the cultural desert they once

were thought to be, he said.

"Every town had a band at one time," Nelson said.

There were also opera houses, touring groups, musical companies and more live theater in the earlier years of Nebraska than there is now, he said.

Nelson pointed at several examples of institutions helping the arts in the Great Plains.

He said the Nebraska Art Association contributed to the excellence of the Sheldon Art Gallery, and even businesses like the Burlington Railroad bought uniforms and instruments for bands that existed along the railroad.

Certain sessions will be offered free to students. Nelson said he's expecting students, Lincolnites and people from out of town.

Nelson said at least 100 people had

paid registrations for the banquet sessions.

"Who knows how many people will drift in and out of the sessions during the day," he said.

The highlight of the program, Nelson said, comes at a bad time because many students will have left already for spring break.

However, at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Frederick Hoxie, director of the D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian in Chicago, will give a speech entitled "Edward Ayer: Robber Baron as Art Patron."

Nelson said other highlights include "The Amon Carter Museum" by Ron Tyler, the director of the Texas State Historical Association, and "The University Education of the Artist: the Role of the Midwest" by

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## Movie is disappointing, 'masquerades' as thriller

By William Rudolph  
Staff Reviewer

"An heiress. A hustler. A set-up. A murder." And an incredibly disappointing film.

"Masquerade," by Bob Swaim, is a perfect example of how two stars with past big box-office draws — in this case, teen heartthrob and Brat-Packer Rob Lowe and Meg Tilly ("Big Chill," "Agnes of God") — do not necessarily make a good thriller.

### Movie Review

The above promo reveals the movie's plot. Tilly is Olivia Lawrence, the heiress, a sweet little filly with more than \$200 million in the bank and the emptiest head on record. Lowe plays Tim Whalen, the hustler. He races yachts. He also races from one bed to the next. And there is, of course, the set-up. And the murder, which follows it. The ad copy tells us, "It's not a game anymore." That's true: It's an extremely irritating movie.

To be fair, screenwriter David Wolf doesn't insult the viewer's intelligence, at least not intentionally. All the clues are laid before the viewer at the film's beginning. The problem is that smart viewers will be able to figure out the twists before they occur. It's not hard when the plot is the kind of thing you've seen in countless television movies — except then it's usually done better.

The movie might succeed if the acting didn't get in the way. Quite frankly, Lowe is handsome, sports a nice tan and can look evil easily, but that's about it. Tilly delivers her umpteenth variation on her trademark role, the impossibly naive little girl in a woman's body. She stares wide-eyed, she blinks, she looks confused, she speaks in her characteristic 4-year-old voice until you want to somehow enter the

movie and shake some sense into her. Olivia Lawrence is supposed to be innocent. Tilly, however, gives us a woman who seems incapable of reading without moving her lips. The girl's not innocent; she's underwater.

Added to these not-so-sterling performances is John Glover as Olivia's dissipated, perpetually drunken stepfather. Glover wins the audience over by stumbling around exaggeratedly and spitting out slurred phrases like a cat with a hairball.

Curiously enough, the supporting cast does better than the two leads. Doug Savant does well as Mike McGill, the seemingly nice young police officer/local Hamptons boy who's loved Olivia (why I can't imagine) since childhood.

Technically, the film is pretty. Photography director David Watkin gives us properly moody images of the Hamptons. John Barry's music also fits in well . . . except when it creates an intensity the cast doesn't match.

Along with the scenery and score come some very racy sex scenes between Lowe and Tilly that border on an X rating. But no matter how many times and from how many angles we see Lowe's bare posterior attacking Tilly while lacy shadow patterns caress it, it doesn't make up for "Masquerade's" defects: listless leads, all-too-obvious twists and an absolutely flat ending.

"Masquerade" certainly lives up to its title: It's a glossy disappointment masquerading as a riveting thriller. If its big-name leads and tightly edited TV promos (not to mention the lure of seeing Lowe's derriere not once, but several times, ladies) fool you into spending money to see it, then it's accomplished its purpose.

"Masquerade," rated R for language, love scenes and what cable TV would call "adult themes," is playing at the Cinema Twin.

## University of Texas music prof to present lectures, classes at UNL this week

Amanda Vick Lethco, head of piano pedagogy at the University of Texas-Austin, will present a series of lectures and master classes today through Friday at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Lethco is an authority on teaching music to children and teachers of children.

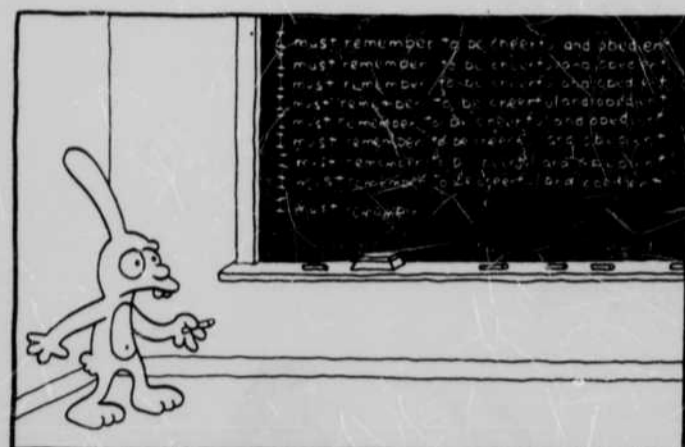
Lethco will give two lectures open to the public. Interested persons also are invited to observe master classes that she will teach today and Thursday. The lectures will be at 10:30 a.m. both days, and the master classes

will be 3:30 p.m. both days in Westbrook Music Building 9.

On Friday, Lethco will offer a master class and lecture from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for piano scholarship students from Nebraska high schools who are attending Career Day activities at the School of Music. The Friday master class and lecture are also free and open to the public.

During her visit to the campus, Lethco also will work with UNL pedagogy students and will conduct private lessons and master classes with UNL piano students.

## SCHOOL IS HELL



A CARTOON BOOK BY  
MATT GROENING

Courtesy of Random House

## Binky the rabbit portrays college life as 'hell' in new cartoon compilation

By Joseph Bowman  
Staff Reviewer

"School Is Hell," Matt Groening (Random House)

Good morning, class, it's time for "School Is Hell." So, can the chatter, you little monkeys, and listen up.

### Book Review

Is school hell? Find out the astonishing answer in "School Is Hell," the latest mini-jumbo compilation of hellish cartoons by Matt Groening.

The hero of the strip is Binky, a crudely drawn rabbit. His outstanding characteristics include big ears, bulging eyes and an overbite. He's also socially inept and terribly alienated from his fellow students.

See BINKY become more alienated

with each cartoon. Watch Binky suffer crushing boredom and heart-breaking disappointment. Learn from Binky how to survive college by being incessantly mediocre, by carefully avoiding originality and by writing volumes of spineless papers.

Laugh, while Binky's integrity goes down the tubes. Notice that Binky soon learns to enjoy having his imagination crushed. Just don't be too surprised if Binky reminds you of yourself. But, of course, that makes it even funnier.

Learn the tell-tale "flipping out warning signs." Things like: In the middle of a lecture, you leap to your feet, point accusingly at the teacher and shout, "Au contraire, mon frere!"

Meet the most bitter person in the world, the graduate school dropout. He has spent four long years living wretchedly, plowing through thou-

sands of tedious books, repressing all anger, working late into the night, having a series of degrading low-paying jobs and finally giving up after being unable to finish his thesis.

Find out "The Horrible Secret of Adulthood." The bullies, cheaters and tattletales who tormented you in school are now trying to sell you insurance, explaining why a pay raise is currently impossible, informing you your tax return is being audited and telling you why your country has just declared war.

This small yet meaty cartoon contains other subjects, like "Junior high school: The deepest pit in hell," "Grad school: Some people never learn" and "Trouble, getting in and weaseling your way out of."

He addresses sibling sadism with

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