

Academy to judge films

By Trevor McArthur
Staff Reporter

For most people, the Academy Awards are over. But for some students, they are just starting.

Four Midwestern films will move on to Beverly Hills, Calif., to be judged in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences student film awards competition. The films were chosen at the Region Five semifinals at the Film Center Theater at the School of the Art Institutes of Chicago last Saturday.

The films are:
• "Cat & Rat," by James Richardson from Columbia College of Chicago, for animation.

• "The Geometry of Love," by Rafael Wang and David Allison from the School of the Art Institutes of Chicago, for dramatic.

• "Norma Jean," by John Behnke

from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, for documentary.

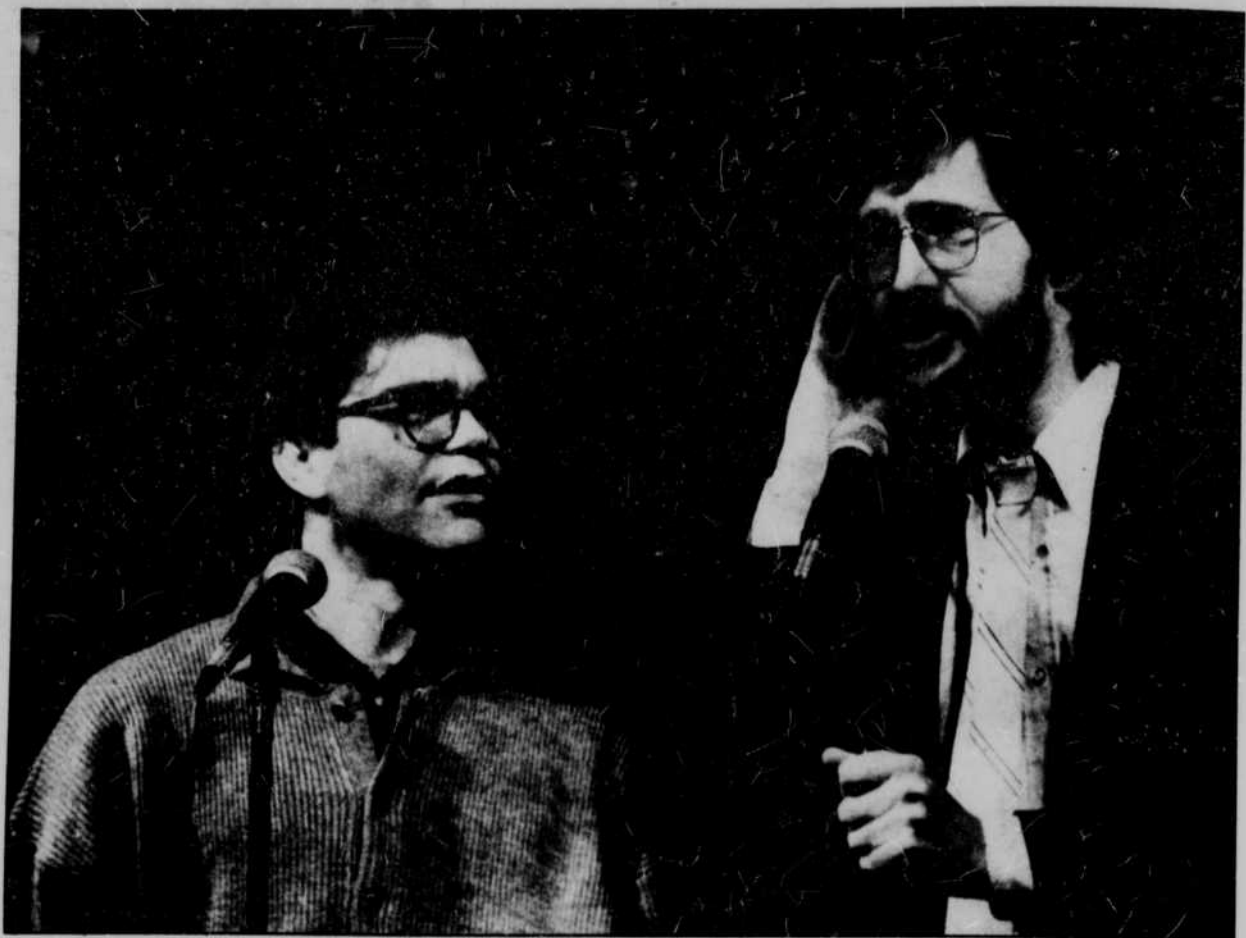
• "Special Feelings," a videotape by Dirk Eitzen from the University of Iowa at Iowa City, tied with "Norma Jean" for documentary.

No experimental films from Nebraska will go on to the finals because none made it to second-round screenings at the Sheldon Film Theater April 2.

"Whose Kids Are These?," a film produced by the 1987 University of Nebraska-Lincoln 16mm filmmaking class, was sent to the semifinals but didn't advance.

This was the first year videotape entries could be submitted with films. Barbara Scharres, coordinator of the event in Chicago, said videotapes had a disadvantage because they lacked film quality.

"Even the most inept film would look better than video," Scharres said.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Franken and Davis

Franken and Davis successful

By Tom Lauder
Senior Editor

About 700 people made their way to the Centennial Ballroom Monday night to witness the Franken and Davis Show — Nebraska Edition.

Comedy Review

"Saturday Night Live" senior writers Al Franken and Tom Davis are pros when it comes to working a college crowd. The comedy team has played at colleges for more than a decade and has developed an excellent sense for the college mindset.

The show opened with a talk-show sketch on what to do if you're really drunk and you absolutely have to drive.

"First, get a big American-made car . . . No riceburners — put something really solid between you and whatever you're going to hit."

Through sheer outrageousness they pointed out the stupidity of one of our country's common social ills. And the audience responded enthusiastically from this first sketch on through the entire show.

"The drunk-driver piece was probably the oldest piece in there," Davis said after the show. "You see why we use it."

Subsequent sketches touched on subjects from bulimia to anti-crack commercials ("Take half a toke").

In a Central American version of Bonus Password, the host (Franken) prompted a member of the secret police (Davis) with a clue, such as "wire." Davis promptly replied with "testicle." The clue "piano" triggered "wire," "toenail" triggered "pliers"

and so on.

Some sketches were regionalized for the Lincoln audience. A Lincoln man opens a not-so-fancy French restaurant in town or a down-and-out farmer resorts to male prostitution in "the gay areas of Wahoo" to feed his family.

The duo also performed some of their classic skits like "An Human Echo" or "Placenta Helper." Franken demonstrated his ability to draw the continental United States in "around two minutes," a bit he has done on "Late Night with David Letterman."

The show had a few technical glitches, most noticeably with the microphones. Peggy Peterson, chairperson of the University Programs Council Talks and Topics Committee, said the usual ceiling sound system wasn't used, leading to a few audio problems.

But we're talking about Franken and Davis, who have done their act for more than 15 years and who work on "Saturday Night Live," a show whose origins are in improvisation. The microphone problem just added more material for their show.

And it was their improvisation and ad-lib that provided the show with some of its funniest moments. Franken and Davis aren't afraid to throw themselves into situations that most stand-up comics would fear. They did one sketch in which audience members could ask President Reagan (Franken) questions over the telephone. Pure improvisation, and their "lecture" segment consisted of the duo fielding questions from the audience about Saturday Night Live, the Grateful Dead, Monty Python and Kurt Vonnegut.

The show closed with a scathing parody of television evangelists. Franken, impersonating Pat Robertson, was the host of PTLTGIF (Praise the Lord, Thank God It's Friday). With guest Davis, as a fellow evangelist, the two compared notes on various sexual escapades with teen-age girls and boys.

Both comics complimented the audience at the show.

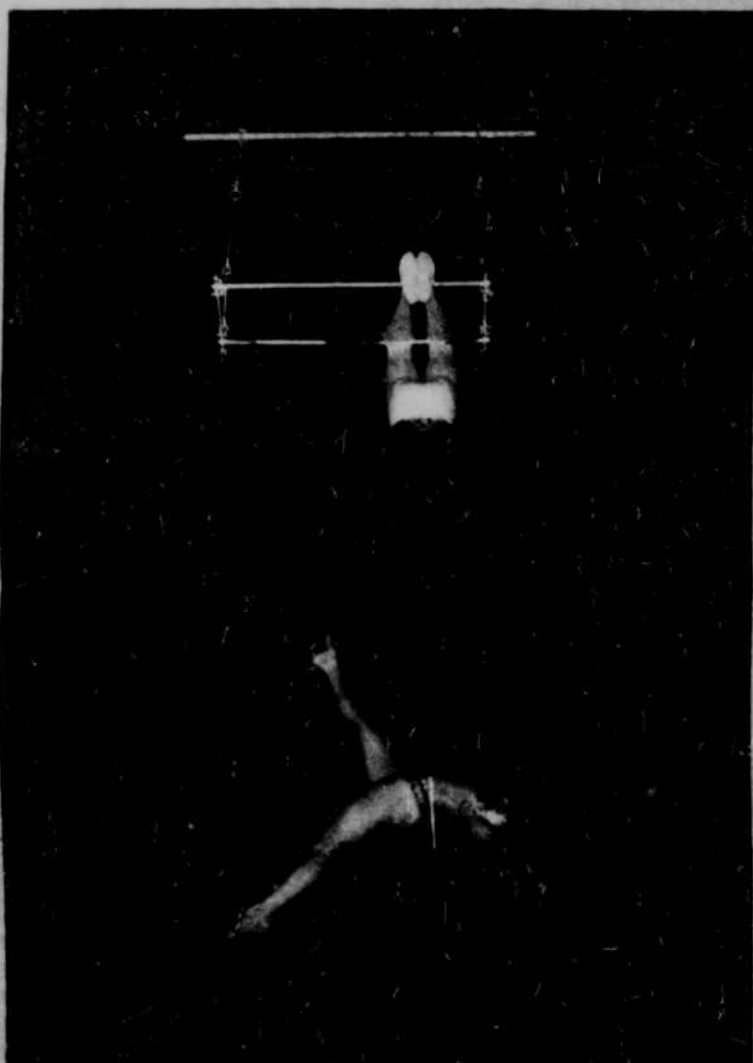
"It can't get any better than that," Davis said after the show. "They got everything."

Shortly after the show, Franken and Davis returned to the stage to pack up their gear. They loaded their few props (a cowboy hat, telephones, a scarf, etc.) into a black trunk. A UPC worker told Franken some fans were waiting outside the ballroom for autographs. She wanted to know if he would like to go out and meet them or if, Lord forbid, he would like them to come in.

"Let it be chaotic," he said indifferently.

So a dozen or so fans wandered in to have Franken and Davis sign posters, "Saturday Night Live" memorabilia, a raquetball, even a Gideon Bible. All the while, the pair chatted and joked with the hangers-on as the twosome got all their gear packed away. Someone gave them their check. ("I think you're supposed to send it" — Davis. "If someone gives you a check, keep it." — Franken.)

Davis put on a dark overcoat and a scarf, Franken put on his faded purple Minnesota Vikings jacket, some UPC guy picked up the trunk, and they were off, back to New York, to vote in Tuesday's primaries and wait out the writer's strike.



Courtesy of Swanson Russell Associates

The Kneisleys

Shrine Circus thrills, amazes young and old

By Micki Haller
Senior Editor

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls: it will amaze and astound you, thrill you and fill you with that special joy only a circus can bring; yes

folks, it's the 43rd Annual Shrine Circus.

At the State Fair Grounds Coliseum, this circus certainly filled the bill. It dazzled, excited and awed.

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Reunion food court has a large selection

By Trevor McArthur
Staff Reporter

The food court has come to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The new Reunion alternative student center at 16th and W streets, roughly between Nebraska Hall and the Harper-Schramm-Smith residence halls, has opened its doors for business, and while many of the spaces for businesses are still vacant or under construction, six fast-food stands are open to provide students with a wider variety of eating choices.

The court might be said to have a theme — something like "Lincoln entrepreneurship on display." Most

of the businesses were begun in Lincoln, and several are chains or aspiring chains moving out to the rest of the world. The food ranges from Americanized Mexican and Italian to a seemingly more authentic, but fast, Chinese to good old pure-bred American. Desserts are in good availability as are a few breakfast items.

Cinnamon Sam's offers cinnamon rolls sold individually or in packs, muffins, sandwiches (Sam-wiches), cookies, raisin bread and drinks. Hand 'em a buck and they'll hand you a darn good roll and a penny. Sam's is the only stand representing a national chain not from Lincoln.

Yogurt Sensations, continuing

clockwise in the food court, is owned by the same partners who took out the franchise for the neighboring Sam's, but is of local origin. The stand offers

But the best item is the cookie dough. I'm told they are not the first to offer this, but they are one of the few. Many desserts made with yogurt instead of ice cream: shakes, "Smoothies" (like shakes but with fruit), waffle cones, root-beer floats and "specialties" like yogurt pies and hot fudge sundaes. Take-out quantities are available as well as plain and flavored popcorn. New York Seltzer and other sodas, punch and drinks are available to wash it all down.

Hamburger Patty's is the good,

American burger joint of the place. It's a nice place offering hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, french fries and a few other things. Soda and other drinks are available, as well as a few breakfast items until 11 a.m.

If you've baked cookies before with a group of people nearby or remember your mother baking them when you were tiny, you know the dough needs to be protected jealously from hungry fingers or you won't be left with enough to cook. For 4 cents less than the price of a cookie (they pass on the savings of not heating the oven to their customers) you can buy a small amount of dough to eat there, share in class or cook back in your illegal

dorm toaster-oven. It's just an experiment, according to an employee of Patty's, but I hope it won't be dropped. I tried chocolate with white-chocolate chunks and a Toll House-type dough with M&Ms. Both were good, but remember what eating too much of such sweet stuff can do to the stomach.

This is Patty's first location, but the owners hope to become big players in the franchise game.

Amigos, the fast-expanding, semi-fast Mexican food chain with local roots, has yet another Lincoln location. This one has the same basic

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