

Former student receives artist award

By Lisa Donovan
Senior Reporter

Wendy Lueth, the 1988 recipient of the J. Edmunds and Thelma Miller Young Artist Competition and University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate, may be walking in the footsteps of her former college professor, Richard Drews.

Ten years ago, Drews, also a UNL graduate, won the Young Artist Competition. He was the last UNL graduate to win the award.

Like Drews, Lueth is spending her first year out of school teaching. Lueth is instructing elementary music and physical education classes in the Lincoln Public Schools.

What's really ironic, Lueth said, is that he was her voice instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Irony may be instrumental in Lueth's singing career.

According to Lueth, Drews continued on after receiving the award to do some of the things she hopes to do some day.

Drews went on to become an apprentice and recently signed on with the New York Metropolitan Opera, something the 26-year-old Lueth wants to do, eventually.

Although Lueth enjoys teaching, she said she would like to pursue a professional opera career.

"I'd like to try out for an opera chorus," she said. She said she would like to go to a larger U.S. city.

"I've also been thinking about an apprenticeship," she said.

An apprentice plays the smaller roles in operas, but they are larger than chorus parts. According to Lueth, one can learn a lot from an apprenticeship because it's like going to school again.

While learning French, German and other foreign languages, the apprentice is awarded a small stipend while he or she works for the opera company.

It's important to learn the lan-

guages, she said, because music isn't the only thing that makes a good opera.

"You need to make sure you know where you're at in a plot and know the language and translate it," she said.

The opera as a whole is in the process of changing, she said. Lueth said directors are looking for singers who can act.

"It's important to be believable," she said. "People hear with their eyes."

Obviously, music is a very important part of Lueth's life. Lueth said there were three things in life that mattered to her.

"I never could be without music," Lueth said. She said family and religion were very important to her, also.

In fact, the Minnesota native started singing when she was 4. During grade school and high school, she sang with the church choir and developed an interest in vocal jazz. Lueth said her choir teacher was a jazz fan, so the group sang a lot of jazz.

After high school, Lueth attended Eau Claire where she studied under Drews.

During the 1983-84 school term at Eau Claire, Lueth became a member of the jazz quartet, "Hot Jazz."

Performing in the upper Midwest and the Minneapolis, St. Paul area, Lueth said, the group played at a variety of events including parties and various hotel engagements.

"That's how I made money for tuition and other expenses," she said.

A lot of the money, Lueth jokes, went towards her long-distance phone bills. Lueth was in the middle of a long-distance relationship with her boyfriend, Bill, who was attending UNL.

A graduate of Eau Claire, her boyfriend attended UNL to work on his master's degree in opera (performance) theater. Lueth admits that her boyfriend's interest influenced her.

"We had some shows together," she said.

In her first operetta, Lueth sang in the chorus for Noye's "Fludde."

It wasn't until she sang in some operas that she developed a liking for it.

"The grandeur of the opera -- the casting and ensemble of characters -- is very exciting to me," she said.

Lueth said that the plots are especially interesting. Sometimes "they're kind of silly, others are very complex," she said.

But it's definitely the beauty of the music that Lueth found attractive and wanted to pursue as a possible career, she said.

After marrying Bill in 1985, Lueth decided to come to UNL and finish school. Since the two had married, Lueth didn't want to be separated from her new husband.

Lueth said her best year was when she came to UNL. Aside from playing the lead in Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," Lueth received the Pamela Lehr music scholarship.

Lueth said she has won few awards since and was surprised that she won the Young Artist competition.

Although she is confident about her singing ability, Lueth said, she was shocked and surprised to win the award.

"I was so flattered, but thrilled," she said.

Lueth was awarded a cash prize and a performance with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra.

The performance will be Tuesday, Feb. 7. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. at Nebraska Wesleyan University's O'Donnell Auditorium. Lueth will perform selections from "Romeo and Juliet" by Gounod, Puccini's "La Boheme" and "Candide" by Bernstein.

Tickets are \$18, \$15, \$10, \$8 and \$4. For more information contact the Lincoln Symphony offices at 474-5610.



Courtesy Lincoln Friends of Chamber Orchestra

The Alexander Quartet

Alexander string quartet to play at Sheldon tonight

By Micki Haller
Senior Editor

The Alexander Quartet, a relatively new string group, will play at 8 p.m. tonight at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

According to Paul Yarbrough, violist, the group started in New Haven, Conn., in the summer of 1981. Although the quartet has undergone personnel changes, the average age of the members is more than 30. Other members include cellist Alexander (Sandy) Wilson, Eric Pritchard, first violinist and Frederick Lifstiz, second violinist.

The quartet has won critical praise here and abroad, and honors, including being the first American quartet to win the jury's highest prize and the Audience prize in the Portsmouth (England) International String Quartet Competition in 1985.

How does such a young group

accomplish so much?

"We've taken the time to really build a quartet," Yarbrough said. "I think it's (the group's success) mainly being committed to the ensemble."

Part of being a good ensemble is a feeling of unity among the members. Yarbrough always spoke of "we," never of what "he" had done or was doing. Decisions, he said, are made by the group.

"It's absolutely democratic," he said. "We're all hard-headed, but you can't let the majority rule in a four-person unit."

Yarbrough said the group has patterned its career after several famous quartets, including the Budapest Quartet, the Amadeus Quartet, the Quarteto Italiano and the Juilliard Quartet. He said the group takes what they like best from the others.

"It's a very traditional art in a way," he said. "We try to be part of that tradition."

Beasts and blood highlight gaming convention in Reunion

By Bryan Peterson
Staff Reporter

Ogre. Diplomacy. Star Fleet Battles. Bloodbowl. Warhammer 40,000.

All of these games and more will be played this Saturday in the Reunion during a gaming convention hosted by Hobbies, ETC.

The convention, Wintercon 1989, will be the first in a series of free gaming conventions in the Reunion.

The convention is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. Rick Kohn, owner of Hobbies, ETC., said it will likely run late Saturday and begin again at noon on Sunday.

The biggest event will be a Bloodbowl tournament. Kohn compared the game Bloodbowl to a sort of fantasy football in which the ball never goes dead.

One wins the game by knocking the other persons' players out of the game. A trophy and certificates will

be awarded to the winners.

Anyone is welcome to attend the convention, Kohn said. Visitors can play scheduled games or bring games of their own. Other events will include the testing of a new game being developed by a Lincoln resident and an "Ogrethon," based on the game Ogre.

'I'm a sore winner. I cackle a lot and enjoy it . . . It's better than going out and drinking beer and shooting pool.'

--Kohn

Kohn said he hopes to have a good day of gaming for everyone involved and to find people willing to run

games in upcoming conventions. He said he expects "anywhere from seven to 700" participants.

Because Hobbies, ETC. is located in the Reunion, there is no charge for gaming space. Thus, there will be no fees or charges for participants in the convention, Kohn said.

Gaming seems to be a way of life for some people. The motivations are different for everyone involved. Kohn said he enjoys the competition and excitement.

"I'm a sore winner," he said. "I cackle a lot and I enjoy it. Gaming is like any other hobby, it is an exercise of your imagination in different roles. It's better than going out and drinking beer and shooting pool."

Hobbies, ETC. opened in September in the Reunion and has since built a diverse group of customers in a short time. Kohn chose the Reunion as a store site because it is close to the UNL campus, he said. Many of the customers are of college age, he said,

although some are in their 30s and 40s.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Kohn said the store sells mostly gaming-related items. This includes dozens of board games, role playing games and historical battle games.

Hobbies, ETC. sells games from most well-known game companies like Avalon Hill, Steve Jackson, TSR and Citadel.

The store also sells such gaming accessories as miniature lead figures, plastic models and dice.

The store also rents and sells comics, magazines, posters, books and computer games. Most of the items are oriented toward science fiction and fantasy.

Every Sunday, Hobbies, Etc. sponsors open gaming from 1 to 6 p.m., although the sessions often last longer than scheduled, he said.

Dave Barber, store employee,

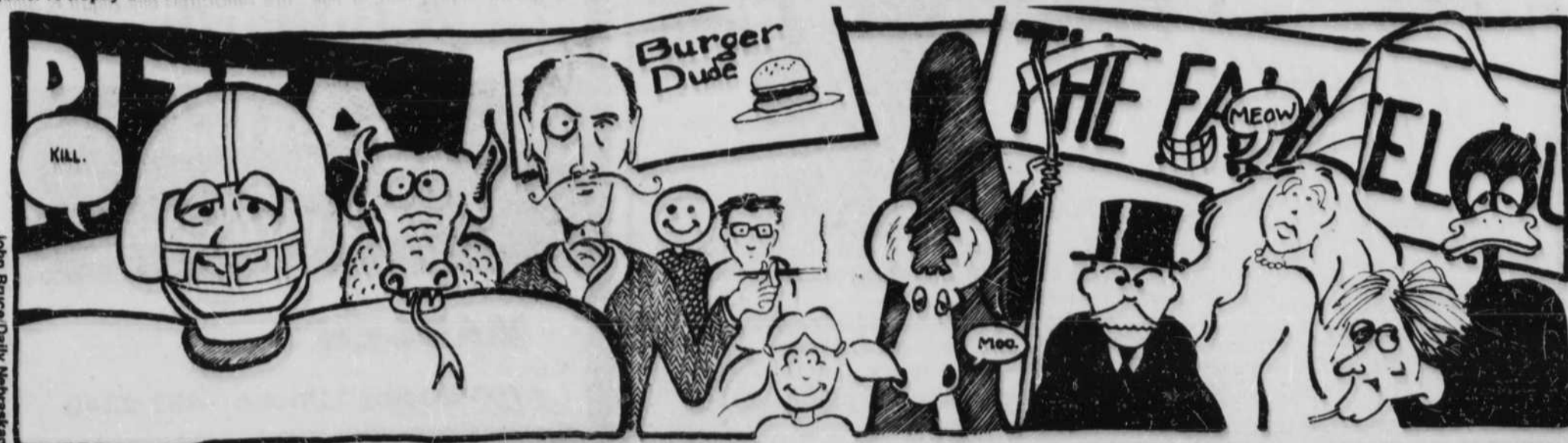
started a group called "Gameplayers" about six years ago. The Gameplayers now play in the Reunion. As with the convention, anyone is free to play any of the scheduled games or to bring games of his or her own.

Kohn said the group shifts games frequently to learn new games. The group does not often play role playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons because there is another campus group oriented toward such games.

In the past month, the gameplayers have played Diplomacy, Sky Galleons of Mars and Bloodbowl. Kohn said Diplomacy, a game based on World War I intrigue, is one of the best board games on the market.

More traditional games like chess are also played during the Sunday sessions, and card games also make an occasional appearance. On most Sundays, 20 to 30 people stop by, Kohn said.

"It's just for fun," he said. "There is no admission."



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