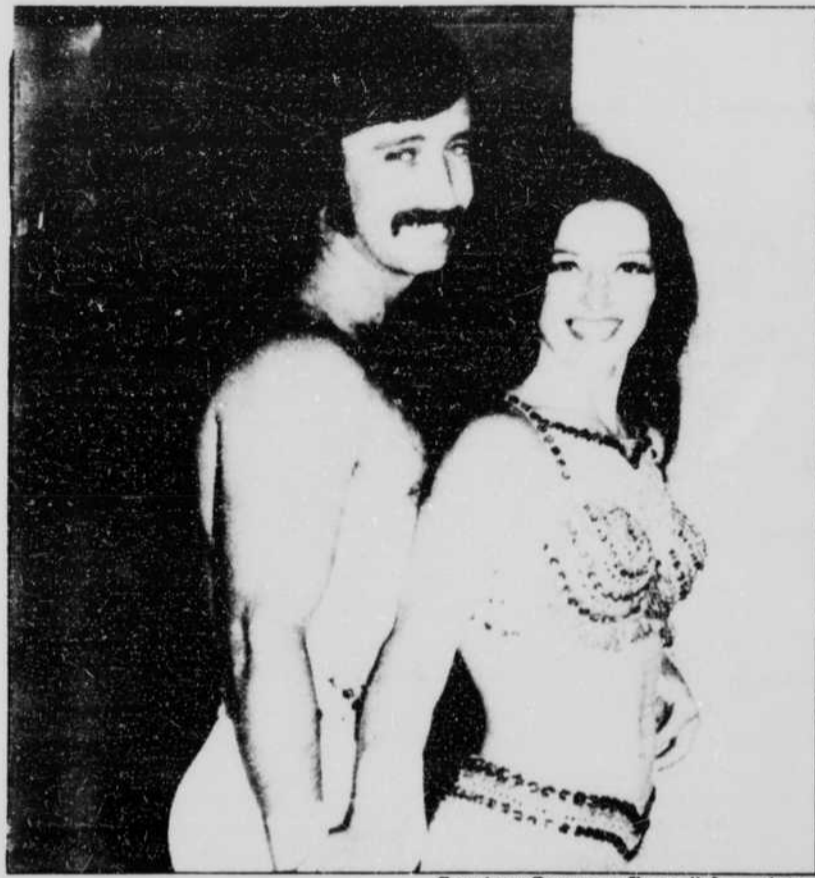


# Circus tradition remains a family affair



Courtesy Swanson Russell Associates  
Bill and Donna Bannister

By Lisa Donovan  
Senior Reporter

**Editor's note: The Shrine Circus performances begin tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the State Fair Park Coliseum.**

The circus is a family affair for the Bannisters. Donna Bannister, 41, has been in the business her whole life. Her husband Bill, 41, has played a role in the circus for 30 years and Tracey Bannister, 14, is in her fourth year. Keith Bannister, 3, is still a bit young. Donna and Bill said, but it is only a matter of about two years before he begins training.

Different combinations of the family will perform three aerial acts in each show Tuesday through Saturday, for the Sesotris Temple Shrine Circus in the State Fair Park Coliseum.

The first act of the set is The Kneisleys. Titled from Bill's middle name, The Kneisleys perform an aerial act which includes Donna and Bill. Bill hangs upside down by his knees from two parallel bars about 40 feet high. Meanwhile, Donna swings down to a trap bar which Bill is holding. After positioning herself on the swing, Bill twirls her around until she is horizontal.

"She swings so fast, she's just a blur," Bill said.

Tracey also contributes to the act by swinging down to her father and performing various gymnastic feats while her father holds her.

In the second act, Tracey, Donna and Bill call themselves the The Williams, named after Bill.

"Tracey is the star of this one," Bill said.

In this aerial act, Bill wears a shoulder support with a pole stemming from it. Tracey climbs to the top of the pole, and once positioned, Bill twirls her around, much like the act he and Donna perform.

Bill said in the final act, the group includes another family member no one talks much about: Daisy, the 6-year-old chimpanzee.

Donna, Bill and Daisy perform in the final act, named Daisy and Co.

Working with a combination of different circus animals, the threesome performs various gymnastic acts.

Although the Bannister's act came together in 1975, when Donna and Bill married, their ties to each other and the circus go way back.

Natives of Tampa, Fla., Donna's involvement in the circus stems from her grandparents.

"One set of my grandparents was involved in the circus," Donna said.

In addition, Donna's great-uncle owned a circus show. The Wilsons, Donna's parents, were involved with the circus and carried on the circus tradition. The Wilson sisters became famous for their trapeze art as well as aerial performances.

Donna said that currently, four of the six Wilson children are involved in the circus.

Bill hit the circus scene as a clown when he was 11.

"I worked with her (Donna's) mom and dad," Bill said. "Her father was a producing clown at the time."

Bill said he actually met and worked with Donna when he was 15. "We didn't get together until later," Bill said.

In the meantime, Bill and Donna performed individual flying trapeze acts, until, at the age of 27, they married.

Now, Donna and Bill said they teach their children all they've learned.

Donna said Tracey learns about the acts much the way she did -- by mimicking.

"When I was younger, I just learned by mimicking my older sisters," Donna said.

Bill and Donna added that Keith

See CIRCUS on 8

## 'Morality Tales' exhibit shouldn't offend, professor says

From Staff Reports

Although the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery's newest exhibit, "Morality Tales," depicts graphic content, one University of Nebraska-Lincoln art professor said no one should be shocked.

"I really wonder if content of this nature can shock anyone," Richard Trickey said.

The large-scale paintings in the exhibit portray scenes of domestic violence, a gang member urinating on a victim, and a trio of teen-agers' first sexual experience.

Trickey said most people have seen the same kind of material on television and other places. Although the graphic content may be commonplace, it isn't in an art museum.

"There's the shock," Trickey said. The art museum is a sanctuary that normally doesn't display this kind of subject matter.

Trickey said each of the pieces has historical precedents.

"There's nothing new except if (the current exhibit) hasn't been

mythologized," he said. In the past, art often smoothed over the controversial aspects, sometimes by depicting the subject as an ancient figure.

Daphne Deeds, curator and assis-

tant director at the Sheldon, said it is the gallery's responsibility to provide as many different kinds of art and expression as it can.

She said she wouldn't be surprised

if there was controversy over the exhibit, but she's not worried.

The show has stopped at six other museums nationwide, including the University Gallery at Ohio State

University. The show hasn't received adverse reaction, Deeds said.

"Ironically, the strongest reaction came from New York itself," she said.

## Sheldon's 'Morality Tales' portrays social concerns

By Michele Tilley  
Staff Reporter

"Morality Tales," the current exhibition at Sheldon Art Gallery, focuses on ethical issues of our time. Delving into issues such as AIDS, Central America and nuclear war, the show challenges viewers and forces them to look at an imperfect world.

### art REVIEW

On first glance, the images are shocking and disturbing. They are meant to be. The artists want their work to grab attention and shove

the problems of the world at the viewer. Each work blatantly depicts a pessimistic attitude toward society and reveals a wretched, tormented world filled with the inherent evil of mankind.

It's easy to find oneself pulling away from the artwork. Eric Fischl's "First Sex" painting is a perfect example.

His subject matter is intense, provocative and extremely disturbing, but as his work is studied, deeper meanings emerge. Daphne Deeds' typed explanations beside each work help to sort out some subtle meanings not easily observed by the viewer.

Jerome Witkin's "Division

Street" graphically depicts a family argument. Witkin's use of color and brush strokes heighten the tense emotions of the scene and put the viewer directly into the friction of the moment. The morality issue enters as Witkin shows the negative effect of the argument on the child.

Ida Applebroog's "Church of Saint Francis Xavier" deals directly with the AIDS issue. Applebroog uses different canvases, each with varied scenes depicting emotions of AIDS victims and that of society's reaction toward them.

Applebroog portrays society as afraid and ignorant and reiterates this with a somewhat sterile style.

In contrast, a vivid and emotional style is used when showing the emotions of the victims, bringing the viewer into the struggles that each victim lives.

Although the exhibition focuses on the negative aspects of society, it also brings attention to important issues that need to be addressed. The artists want viewers to re-examine the idea of morality and to question each individual's role within it.

The exhibit runs through May 26. The Sheldon is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 2 to 9 p.m. Evening hours Thursday through Saturday are 7 to 9 p.m.

## 'She's Out of Control' is respectable for a formula film

By Kelly Anders  
Staff Reporter

What lacks surprise isn't always a flop. Most formula films are so stupid and badly acted that one can't help but grimace from start to finish.

But then there are those exceptions that may not say anything new but at least light-hearted and more than bearable.

"She's Out of Control" is one such film. The plot is extremely predictable, but the acting is decent. The music isn't too snappy either.

Short and sweet, this is the story of a man who has trouble dealing with his daughter growing up and the many typically wacky mishaps that ensue.

Doug Simpson (Tony Danza) is a general manager of a rock station. He's the type of guy teen-agers want for a father: laid back, likes "good" music and is up with the times. Doug soon learns he can be as paranoid and Pop-like as Ward Cleaver. The times are a-changin' and so are his daughter's measurements.

Upon his return from a business trip, Doug's eyes almost pop out when he notices his daughter, Katie (Ami Dolenz) has evolved from a

tomboy to a boytoy seemingly overnight.

For those trivia buffs out there, Dolenz is the offspring of Monkee Mickey Dolenz.

Suddenly, Doug remembers what it was like to be a hormone-crazed teen-age boy. He does everything possible to protect his baby girl from her many admirers.

And she does have many. Poor Katie is so swamped with attention that she incorporates the assistance of her younger sister, Bonnie (Laura Mooney), to monitor her dating schedule.

As with most films of this sort, the boyfriends are as expectedly opposite as possible. Two of her main squeezees, Joey (Dana Ashbrook) and Timothy (Matthew L. Perry), are particularly different. Joey is an ear-ring-wearing biker, while Timothy is a wealthy smooth-talker.

Doug doesn't know how to handle his predicament. He enlists the aid of a "child expert," Dr. Fishbinder (Wallace Shawn), a quirky pop culturist who has no children. Needless to say his help proves questionable.

Although this is no "Rain Man," "She's Out of Control" is pretty good.



Wallace Shawn expounds on the perils of teen-age dating to fearful father Tony Danza.  
Courtesy Weintraub Entertainment Group