

### Daily Nebraskan

# Batman novelties become popular item

### **BATMAN** from Page 7

the movie, Schur said he is excited about it.

'It will be the definitive Batman. He is a nittier, grittier Batman, done for a more mature audience," he said. Schur added that the movie will not be a departure from the Batman tradition

That tradition involves a long history of a continually evolving Batman. He has survived the deaths of two different Robins and has become weathered and grim over the years.

Batman first appeared in "Detective," a DC comic, in 1939, DC also carries the "Batman" comic, which has seen 435 issues so far. Schur said DC Comics will launch a third Batman comic, "The Legend of the Dark Knight," this fall.

Schur said Batman was grim and nasty 50 years ago but became "silly and science fictionish in the 1950s. He was campy on the 1960s TV show. but turned grim in the '70s and grimmer still in the '80s.

Lorenz said the television show had nothing to do with the Batman tradition. That tradition has nothing to do with such silliness as donning 'Super-Thermalized Bat-Skivvies' to protect against an evil villain's freeze-ray.

Batman's original partner, Robin, eventually grew up and became his own superhero, "Knightwing," according to Schur. Batman later wider exposure will help his comic adopted a homeless youth who was shop, which carries hundreds of back trying to steal tires from the Batmo- issues bile. That boy, Jason Todd, became the second Robin, but was killed last year by the Joker.

But Batman lives on, more popular than ever

Nebraska Bookstore, 1300 Q St., will join Trade-A-Tape and Cosmic Comics in giving away free tickets to movie, the movie "Batman," which is ex- Sch pected to be one of the summer's

of Douglas Theater Company, said he said. "It is a serious treatment of a she thinks it will be a "very well-accepted movie." She said there has "Batman will alwa been a lot of word-of-mouth and pre-

liminary advertising. Mardoch said she hopes for a 'tremendous sellout' on opening day and said the movie has been booked for the entire summer and may stay in Lincoln through next fall.

Batman's popularity has paral-leled a shift to a more mainstream audience. Batman paraphernalia has appeared at J.C. Penney and the Nebraska Bookstore has carried Batman merchandise for two years.

Cindy Burger, gift buyer for Nebraska Bookstore, said Batman-related items are selling out across the United States.

The recent popularity and wide-spread merchandising of Batman does not threaten Lorenz. He said the

Lorenz has seen many new customers looking for Batman items in his store. He said the entire Batman phenomenon will get stronger with the release of the movie.

'I'm sure there will be a sequel," he said. "They left a setup for it in the

Schur said he is ecstatic over the new interest in Batman.

Thope it lasts forever. People are most successful movies. "Thope it lasts forever. People a Debbie Mardoch, vice president excited about Batman, the movie,

Batman will always be popular to his fans. He will get old ones back and get new fans with the movie," Schur said.

## Summer sounds of new releases **BEATBOX** from Page 7

with songs like "Mona Lisa, Mother Earth" and "God Damn the Sun." Lead vocalist Michael Gira, as always, sings like Bela Lagosi washing down a few valiums with a sip of battery acid. Vocalist Jarboe's remake of "Can't Find My Way Home" is a powerful, Easternized version of the 1969 Blind Faith classic. "The Burning World" is not as ornately apocalyptic as last year's gloom-and-doom masterpiece "Children of God," but it's nice that Swans are still refreshingly depressed. (Grade: B)

Concrete Blonde, "Free." (I.R.S.):

Following the critical and com-mercial success of its MTV hit "Still in Hollywood," this Southern California foursome experienced financial problems and record company red tape. But they are back with raw, driving energy on their second effort, 'Free.'' Lead vocalist Johnette Napolitano sounds a bit like a reprobate Martha Davis, but has the impetuous delivery and attitude of Chrissie On Side-One songs like Hynde. 'God Is a Bullet," Napolitano tears each lyric up with her megaphone of a larynx. On Side Two's slower numbers, she adds toned-down variety and softpedals her message on cuts like "Roses Grow." And James Andrew Mankey's guitar riffs are edgy without bartering melody for volume. (Grade: B + )

# Soul Asylum, "Clant Dip and Other Delights." (Twin Tone):

I guess I'm just not hip, but this Minneapolis band's latest effort makes me wonder what all the hype is about. I've tried to listen to the Asylum in the past. I've actually tried to like them, but I'm just not hip. After all, I've reasoned, Soul Asylum fans are always babbling about how "pro-gressive" the band is. I thought 1970s AOR rock was happily buried and relished only by a few hardcore old Boston fans. The cover, however, is a nice parody of Herb Alpert's classic LP "Whipped Cream and Other Delights," which featured a buxom woman smothered in Cool Whip. But clam dip, atonal guitar and bad Geddy Lee impersonations just don't do anything for me. Like I said, I guess I'm not hip. Your move, Soul Asylum fans. (Grade: D +)

## a weekly guide to entertainment Event in the midwest

Events for June 12 through 21.

## LINCOLN:

Flatwater Festival: Annual summer festival on University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, 13th and R streets, June 16, 17 and 18. Events include visual and per-forming artists, storytelling, children's fair, film festivals, food, arts, and crafts, and KFMQ Haymarket Street Dance. For more information, consult upcoming Daily Nebraskan Flatwater Festival issue.

Leonard vs. Hearns Closed Circuit Championship Fight June 12, p.m., Pershing Auditorium Arena

North Central Regional Rollerskating Championships June 17 to

Balls, Blues and Rock 'n' Roll, Zoo Bar, June 12

Bar, June 13

June 14

Bar, June 15

B and The Hot-Notes, Zoo Bar, June 17 June 16

Tablerockers, Zoo Bar, June 17 The Tablerockers, Zoo Bar,

Jazz Underground with The

Gulizia Brothers, Zoo Bar, June 20 Amethyst, Zoo Bar, June 20 'Steel Magnolias,'' Nebraska Repertory Theater, Howell Thea-ter, 8 p.m., June 16-17, 20-24, 27-20 and July 1

30, and July 1

Sweet Adelines, Antelope Park, 7:30 p.m., June 11 Scott Stewart, Antelope Park, 30 p.m., June 11

Antelope Park, 7:30 p.m., June 11

43rd Army Band, Foundation Gardens, noon to 1 p.m., June 12

Chris Sayre, Foundation Gardens, noon to 1 p.m., June 14 Roma, Foundation Gardens, noon to 1 p.m., June 21

Showstoppers, Gallery Thea-

ter, Lincoln Community Play-house, 8 p.m., June 15 to 17 ....

Herzog Recital, Orpheum,

Metallica and The Cult.

Dance Academy, Orpheum, 7 p.m., June 14

Rehl: Wolfe, Orpheum, 8 p.m.,

Wolfe Recital, Orpheum, 7:30

For ticket information, call 515-294-3347

Ray Charles, June 16. , and July 1 per Arena. Call 816-931-3330 Laurie and Sean Benjamin, for ticket information.

OMAHA: "Angel Face" and "FAT," Magic Theater, 7:30 p.m., June 16 and 17

Omaha Civic Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., June 14

Dance Company, Orpheum,

SURROUNDING AREA:

Ames, Iowa : Doobie Brothers.

## KANSAS CITY:

Neil Diamond, June 14. Kem-

7:30 p.m., June 12

25, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily

The Tablerockers, Blues, Zoo

Kenny Neal, Blues, Zoo Bar, 7:30 p.m., June 15

ne 14 The Winans Concert, Or-Eddy Clearwater, Blues, Zoo pheum, 7:30 p.m., June 16

The LeRoi Brothers and the p.m., June 18

June 19